

The Democratic Advocate



WESTMINSTER, MD.

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THE PRESIDENT'S TROUBLES.

President Taft is fully realizing the truth of the old saying "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown."

He is surrounded by all sorts of perplexities. His party is broken to pieces, as it has not been since the war. The Protective Tariff System, which has furnished the sinews of war for the Republican campaign fund, and with which that party has fooled the people for years, is now being understood by many Republicans, as the Democrats have always understood it, as a system of legalized robbery.

So that everything points to the overthrow of the Republican party in the coming election for members of the House of Representatives, and the passing of the High Protective Tariff System.

The President made a prodigious mistake in trying to bolster up the Payne-Aldrich Tariff law, which has been practically, discredited by the country, and which has served to de-throne Mr. Aldrich as the Boss of the Senate. His espousal of Aldrich and his work, depreciated the President in the eyes of the American people.

And he is now endeavoring to father another job that is giving him all sorts of trouble. That is, standing for Mr. Ballinger, one of his Cabinet Officials, who is under charges which are being investigated by a congressional committee. Mr. Taft as President of the United States ought absolutely to have held his hands off this case. If Mr. Ballinger is guilty of the charges which are confronting him, he ought to be punished. If he is innocent the committee ought to say so in the most emphatic way, and the country will accept the verdict.

But the President ought not to have identified himself with the case, in one way or the other. Mr. Taft is a man of amiable disposition, and he has not been able to rise to the point of courage that would see one of his official family in trouble, without trying to help him.

But the President ought to remember that his high office and his duty to the American people, should prevent him from doing anything that would possibly thwart justice in the trial of a public official.

STILL ANXIOUS TO STEAL.

Theft, like wearing one's hat on the side of one's head, or beginning the day with an eye-opener, grows to be a habit. It becomes difficult to give it up. There is no cause for surprise in the recommendation of the Senate committee in charge of the publicity bill, that it be passed sans the provision to compel campaign fund collectors to exhibit their collections before the elections. It is before the election, and not afterward, that it is interesting to know whether the candidate's campaign is being financed by interests backing certain legislation, or concerned in killing certain legislation. That is why the esteemed Republican machine objects to passing the bill in its original form.

The House proposes. The Senate disposes. Knowing that the Senate will dispose of the bills it proposes, the House often passes a bill that it would not like to see become a law. It will suit many of the Republicans who were forced to espouse the publicity bill in the House, to have it amended so far as possible in the direction of inefficiency. A good deal is done when the pre-election publicity feature is removed from it. Whether it has other loop holes for boodle politicians we cannot tell at this time. The application of a law is often prerequisite to the discovery of its defects. But that there was no excuse for chopping out the provision that the Senate proposes to eliminate is plain from the excuse offered by the committee which performed the surgical operation.

It would be pleasing to hear Mr. Burrows explain why the publication of contributions before an election would give ground for any more scandal than their publication after election, save that after election the heat of the conflict has died, and the public has gone about its business, and given up talking politics. The short memory of the voter is proverbial. His political fervor is also brief. Let the man with the barrel get himself elected and his lardy explanation of the virtuous uses to which he put funds arising from questionable sources will not create much of a stir.

The anxiety of the Republican machine to stave off, so long as possible, a law to prevent corruption, has been plain for a half dozen years. It has not appreciably abated.

BOOKMAKERS AND BOODLE POLITICIANS.

The publicity bill passed by the House of Representatives with but one dissenting vote seemed to be a good one. Until a law has been put to the

test it is difficult to measure its usefulness. But there is at least no room for doubt that the bill was better calculated for effectiveness when it left the House than it will be if it becomes a law amended as the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections recommends.

The opposition of the Republican machine to a publicity bill of any sort has been a party policy for a number of years. Driven at last seriously to consider such a law as a choice of evils, the managers seem anxious to make it as weak as possible. Like the bookmakers at the racetracks, the politicians who are in the habit of depending upon corruption funds for victory, wish to see the old regime continue as long as possible. An ineffective publicity law, to placate public opinion, would be more pleasing to them than a measure drafted to get results. The publication of campaign contributions after the election, and when the public has lost interest in a contest that has been settled is, of course, more desirable from the boodle statesman's point of view than the publication of collections in advance of the election, and when the attention of voters would be attracted.

The awakened public interest in cleaner elections is not likely to die out. A reasonably good publicity law will be passed sooner or later. If the present Congress emasculates the bill that is now pending some other Congress will do the work that this one leaves undone. In the meantime a Congressional election may be held with a half-way measure to the credit of the party which has been forced by a Democratic crusade to consider it. It may be more fortunate for a few politicians not to have the sources of their campaign barrels made public before the votes are cast.

No sound argument has been or can be, put forward by the advocates of the Senate Committee's course. In advance of giving it a trial it is impossible to say how successful the law would be if passed as it came from the House, but it would certainly be less so amended as proposed.—Courier-Journal.

FARMERS WHO FARM.

A good deal has been said and written recently about the number of abandoned farms in New York State and the number of farmers who are moving to the cities. Statistics recently compiled, however, show that 76 per cent. of the farms in that state are worked by their owners. This would indicate that there has been some needless alarm, as New York stands at the head of the fourteen leading agricultural States in the percentage of farms that are tilled by their owners.

Other states that approach rather closely to New York's record are: Pennsylvania, 74 per cent.; Ohio, 72 per cent.; Indiana, 71 per cent. The percentage in Kentucky is placed at 67; in Illinois, 69; in Missouri, 69; in Tennessee, 59; in North Carolina, 58; in Texas, 50. The lowest percentages are in the States of Alabama, 42; Georgia, 40, and Mississippi, 37.

It will be observed that in the wealthiest States of the Union the farmers are sticking more closely to their farms. There may be a large number of deserted farms in New York, but so long as 76 per cent. of the farm owners are working their fields it is safe to say there will be no decline in production and no material deterioration on the large majority of farms. If the figures ran the other way there would be serious cause of apprehension, because of the well-known fact that tenant farmers do not generally take any pains to conserve the soil. They are merely interested in getting the best available crops—in working the land to the limit of its productivity. Sometimes there is a new tenant every year. It is certain that there must be deterioration in fertility under such circumstances.

The figures for New York do not indicate that farm owners are turning over their farms by wholesale to tenants. Maybe, after all, the situation in the Empire State is not so bad as it has been pictured in newspaper and magazine articles.—Courier-Journal.

HELPING THE FARMER.

The city of Fort Smith, Ark., has a Commercial League which has been doing a lot of valuable work in the "boosting" line. Recently the league decided that if it could do something to develop the agricultural resources of the surrounding country it would be a good thing for the permanent prosperity of Fort Smith. It was agreed that about the best way to bring this about was to establish demonstration farms.

The farms have been established. There are 100 of them, ranging in size from two to twenty acres. The Commercial League is paying \$2,500 a year to an expert from the United States Department of Agriculture, to superintend these farms and to deliver lectures to farmers and show them how they can raise bigger crops and make more money by getting out of the beaten paths they and their ancestors have trod for a century or so. The expert is telling them of new methods; he is giving them ocular proof of the results that may be secured by following these methods; he is demonstrating these things in such a way that "the wayfarer, though a fool, cannot err therein"—and the farmers are sitting up and taking notice.

Some of these farmers didn't take much stock in the expert's new fangled plans at the beginning, but they had to confess that he made good on his claims. He told them things about fertilizers and seed selection and schemes of culture that they hadn't

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heard of, and they looked, and pondered and profited. They went back to the farm and tried it and "it's working fine 'gosh." The results are showing and already it is estimated that the increased yields in one county alone will approximate half a million dollars in value.

The experiment has cost the Fort Smith Commercial League a considerable amount of money, but it is bringing a better class of products to the Fort Smith markets. The farmers and truck growers are getting better returns for their work and the business of Fort Smith is increasing because the farmers have more money to spend. The investment has been a good one for all parties concerned and its good effects are only beginning to be felt. All of which goes to prove that what ever helps the farmer is mighty apt to help everybody else, and that an enterprising city makes no mistake when it "looks a little out" for the benefit of the surrounding country.—Courier-Journal.

Instead of saving any portion of the \$300,000,000 which Senator Aldrich asserts is being wasted by the government annually through "obsolete business methods," the Taft administration threatens to break all records in the history of the government in the enormous expenditure of money. It looks now as if the appropriations for this session of Congress would exceed the appropriations of the last regular session to the extent of \$20,000,000. This will be a billion dollar session and then some.

The Postal Bank bill, promised in the National Republican platform as a substitute for the guarantee of bank deposits, is hovering between life and death in the House Committee on Postoffice and Postroads.

"Immediate statehood for Arizona and New Mexico," another Republican promise, lies neglected and alone in the Senate Committee on Territories. And Congress is about ready to close up shop!

Congressman Charles F. Boreby, of Pennsylvania, a Cannon Republican, has allowed it to become known that the state of his health will not permit him to continue as a candidate for reelection. This is the ninth "stand-patter" whose ill health, due largely to voting for the Payne-Aldrich tariff revision upward, has necessitated withdrawal from the approaching congressional elections.

The report that Roosevelt had written letters to President Taft, Son-in-law Longworth and others, endorsing the Taft administration, was given wide publicity by the Republican press. Careful inquiry brings out the fact that all of the persons mentioned in the story emphatically deny having received such a letter. And Roosevelt declares that he did not write anything that could have with reason been so construed.

During the first three days of May the government spent \$2,602,063.51 more than it took in. This would indicate that the new tariff law is a failure inasmuch as it is not producing sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the government.

Attorney General Wickersham has given out two more of his famous opinions. One holds that the Secretary of War cannot lawfully refuse to award a contract for Panama Canal supplies to the lowest responsible bidder simply because such bidder has been adjudged in court to be a party to an unlawful trust and monopoly. The other opinion holds that Public Printer Donnelly has no right to abolish certain branches of the government printing office simply because he thinks they are unnecessary and that he wishes to economize.

Two Noteworthy Numbers of Youth's Companion.

The lions encountered by Theodore Roosevelt "failed to do their duty," but their failures were not due to disinclination for the job, as one may learn from a story told in the May 19th issue of the Youth's Companion by J. Alden Loring, who was field naturalist and photographer with the Roosevelt safari. His tale recites a fight with five lions, which did their duty as far as they were able, and earned more glorious rewards than fell to them. This May 19th issue of the Companion might well be called an African number, for it also contains an account by Sir Harry Johnston of "Caravan Life in Africa" twenty years ago. It is a fascinating picture which this veteran traveler and administrator draws, and one almost regrets that civilization is so rapidly changing the last foothold of the savage in a region of white men's government customs.

The Memorial Day Number of the Youth's Companion is an American number, through and through. "The Rose-Colored Aecia," by Elsie Singmaster, a story of reconciliation over the graves of the Blue and the Gray. The story of "A Man's Work," by Garland P. Farrell, is convincing proof that a story of cowboy life can keep one's interest aroused to the keenest pitch, without the introduction of a single bad man. James B. Connolly's article on "The American Boy and the Navy" shows what opportunities lie open to the young enlisted man in the American naval service. And the beautiful cover of this issue symbolizes a custom which is growing in our seacoast towns of scattering flowers on the graves of the Blue and the Gray. The story of the navy who sleep beneath the waves.

Hopeful Outlook.

You are too pessimistic, Horatio. Only a few things stand between us Democrats and a glorious victory. If Bryan would get lost; if Bailey would fall into a Standard Oil well; if Stone would stay in Europe; if Folk would forget to run; if Reed would stick to his law practice; if Dave Ball would realize that he was dead; if Dave Francis would stick to grain gambling; if we should contend for principle instead of men and entice voters into the ranks instead of driving them out, we would wipe these Republican interlopers from Missouri's political platter and give the High priests of protection a run for their money in the Nation. If the brethren mentioned act along the line suggested all will be forgiven and the offices will be our'n again.—Paris (Mo.) Appeal.

Two Yorkshiremen were making a tour of the British Museum, and in due course reached the mummy chamber. One, who had never seen a mummy in his life, said to his pal: "What's yon John?" "Yon's a mummy." "A mummy? What's a mummy?" "Why, a died man!" "Well, I'm fair capped! Never saw like of yon afore! But, John, what's that 'ere card behind 'im—B. C. 48?" "Er, tha's an ignorant beggar, Bill. That's number o' motor car 'at killed 'im!"—Tit-Bits.

Health Officers' Bulletin for March, 1910.

Dr. J. O. Bullock, H. O., reports an outbreak (10 cases) of typhoid fever in Louisa county, Allegany county. Dr. Bullock traced these cases to an infected water and milk supply. The State Board of Health again calls attention to the importance of protecting wells from surface drainage, and of prohibiting the sale of milk by families having in them one or more members ill with typhoid fever. The latter also applies to scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Whooping cough is epidemic in Cumberland, Allegany county, in Elkton, Third and Fifth Districts, Cecil county, and in Easton, Talbot county. Measles is epidemic in Westminster and in Myers District, Carroll county, and in Trappe, Talbot county. German measles is epidemic in Elkton, Third and Fifth Districts, Cecil county, and in Kensington, Montgomery county.

Total deaths, all causes, March, 1910—828, as follows:—Infectious and communicable diseases, 378 (plus 26 culled from belated returns, making a total of 205); general and noncommunicable diseases and accidents, 649. Of the 205 diseases caused by infectious and communicable diseases, 99 resulted from tuberculosis, 15 from typhoid fever, 6 from measles, 10 from diphtheria, 2 from scarlet fever, 11 from whooping cough, 8 from meningitis, 1 from malaria, 4 from erysipelas, 6 from septicaemia and 43 from influenza. One hundred and forty were white and 65 colored; 103 were males and 102 females. Of the 649 deaths due to general and noncommunicable diseases and accidents, 483 were white, 166 colored, and in five instances the color is not stated; 358 were males and 292 were females.

Tuberculosis. Number of deaths reported 99, as compared with 112 in February.

Influenza. Deaths reported 43, as compared with 23 in February.

Mumps. No deaths, and 7 cases of sickness reported, as against no deaths and 8 cases of sickness in January.

Chickenpox. No deaths and 18 cases of sickness reported, as compared with no deaths and 15 cases of sickness reported in February.

Whooping Cough. Deaths reported 11, additional cases reported 41, as compared with 14 deaths and 74 cases reported in February.

Measles. Number of deaths reported 6, as compared with 7 in February. Additional cases reported 168, as compared with 102 in February. Cases at Westminster, Carroll county (15 cases); Myers District, Carroll county (20 cases).

Scarlet Fever. Two deaths reported, both white females, as against no deaths in February.

Diphtheria. Number of deaths reported 10, as compared with 8 in February. Additional cases reported 27 as compared with 48 in February.

Erysipelas. Deaths reported 4, as against 5 in February.

Meningitis. Eight deaths and no cases of sickness reported, as against 4 deaths and no cases of sickness reported in February.

Malaria. One death and no cases of sickness reported, as against an equivalent number in February.

Septicemia. Six deaths and no cases of sickness reported, as against 3 deaths and no cases of sickness reported in February.

German Measles. No deaths, and 40 cases of sickness reported (names not given), as against no deaths and 1 case of sickness reported in February.

Typhoid Fever. Deaths reported 15, as compared with 13 in February. On the Patuxent River Watershed, Carroll county: Taneytown, 5 cases; New Windsor and Union Bridge, each 1 case.

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Ribbons of Potatoes.
There is the fashion now of serving potatoes in long ribbons. These are left separate or crossed to form lattice work. They look much daintier for luncheon than the whole vegetable.

Fine, wash and peel half a dozen large potatoes; and let them lie in cold water for a few minutes. Cut them up into ribbons, round and round like an apple, and keep the strips of one width.

Don't make them too thin or they will break. Fry them in plenty of hot water for a few minutes. Drain them in a wire sieve and sprinkle a little pepper and salt over them.

They should be fried for about eight minutes and served on a very hot dish.

The Dahlia's Origin.
[From the Dundee Advertiser.]
By a curious horticultural irony the dahlia, which is the popular idol of all our early autumn flower shows, has a dreadfully prosaic parentage. It has been developed from the Mexican tubers introduced about one hundred and twenty years ago by the Swedish naturalist, Dr. Dahl, for the purely commercial purpose of supplanting the potato.

It did not "catch on," and the dahlia dish soon disappeared from British tables, but our gardeners at once perceived the great possibilities of the flower and proceeded to produce the double dahlia and other delightful floral fantasies. The tubers of the dahlia, too acrid for our insular taste, are still eaten in some parts of France.