

The Times

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES CO. HUTCHESS BUILDING. NORTHWEST CORNER TENTH AND D STS. Telephone—Editorial Rooms, 451

Relenting a Little. The action of the President in sending a message to the Congress asking for an appropriation in aid of the food sufferers will be universally commended.

So will the prompt action of both Houses in passing a resolution appropriating \$200,000 for the purpose.

That the House of Representatives should consider the matter at all will create widespread surprise, as it must be regarded as a measure of general legislation. This breaking of a strong precedent may be accepted by the country as evidence that the Autocrat has relented, and the business interests demanding a hearing before the House will be likely to renew pressure with increased force.

They will say: "If you open the door for the relief of food sufferers, why not for the relief of Supreme Court decision sufferers, and such things?"

The Autocrat has tolerated the "little rift within the lute," that, by and by, may make his obstructive "musical note."

Gen. Rivera. It is quite possible that, out of consideration for American sentiment, Gen. Weyler may refrain from shooting his prisoner, Gen. Rivera, and content himself with killing him by poison.

Suspicious that exactly such a course is being pursued crop out coincidentally in reports from different sources. News from San Cristobal, where Gen. Rivera is confined in a close room without sanitary conveniences, is to the effect that his wounds have grown worse, that he is suffering from fever, and that the idea gains ground that he is being slowly poisoned. A cablegram, received at Jacksonville night before last, makes the direct charge, and the crime suggested is so entirely consonant with Weyler's principles and practices that there is grave reason for fearing that it is well founded.

It is too much to believe that the Spanish butcher would allow an enemy, once in his grasp, to escape alive. His only "military" successes in the war have been successful betrayals and assassinations. He is engineering a grand one now, under the pretense that he desires a meeting with Gen. Gomez, under a flag of truce. But the brave old patriot chieftain has been warned in advance of the well-laid trap to catch and murder him, and will have none of it.

There appears to be a chance that peaceful and even human conditions will be enforced in Cuba and America from this time on. That would release a great deal of American sympathy from the active necessity for exclusive application in those directions, and some of this national feeling might be utilized in promoting measures for the relief of a people suffering from wrong, outrage and fiendish butchery in Cuba.

President McKinley once was reported as stating that he wished to "do something for silver." Perhaps at this time he may be willing to take the country into his confidence and express a like willingness to "do something for Cuba."

The Trust Program. It would be merely trite to say that the political revolution in the great cities of the Central West Monday and Tuesday was a severe blow to the Republican party and its component gold ring, trusts and monopolies. To the majority of the party it may have been an unexpected reverse. We are not so sure that it was altogether so to the "business manager," or to a few other great magnates within the charmed circle. They are too wise and experienced not to know that they have not, and never have had, any hope from the unfeathered action of popular majorities.

They know only too well by what means they secured the victory for their party in 1896, and they are too shrewd not to understand that only by the application of the same methods they can hope to retain power. That understanding has been plainly in evidence in every feature of their policy and program since last November.

The policy and purposes of the Combination, as exemplified alike in its necessities and actions, are plainly before the people. It included the scheme to "jam through" the trust protective tariff before the country had a chance for reformation against its oppressors. That being done, the millions wrung out of the masses would be given to flow into the coffers of the trusts, and thence into those of the Republican national committee. Thus, after the sinews of war had been provided, the greater designs of the conspiracy would seem easy of accomplishment. While these are terrible conceptions, they are simple in detail, and in part have been shown feasible in the past. They amount to just this:

(1) To gain control of the Senate before the Presidential elections of 1900, by making successive fights in every Senatorial election and securing the election of Senatorial candidates openly or secretly pledged to the trust and monopoly interests, no matter at what cost in money. In this way they can hope to block legislation in matters of the tariff and the currency, should the House of Representatives at any time chance to become Democratic.

(2) To use as many millions, and to apply as much coercion to the working classes, in the campaign of 1898 as may be necessary to maintain a Republican trust majority in the House of Representatives. This policy to be applied with all the force and expendi-

ture requisite, in case the Senate is not already safe; otherwise most of the power and ammunition to be saved for the grand effort in 1900.

(3) Adjectively to suppress the House of Representatives; fixing upon it a system under which legislation, not ordered by the recognized agent of the trusts and monopolies, will become impossible.

(4) Finally, in 1900, if necessary, to spend a hundred or a hundred and fifty million dollars, realized from trust profits under the Dingley bill, to carry the Presidential election, and at the same time to use the experience of 1896 in a perfected scheme of coercion applied to all wage-earners in the United States.

We do not believe that the Democratic successes of the present week will have the effect of changing or modifying this program. On the contrary we are satisfied that they will be accepted as imperative reasons why it should be carried out persistently and remorselessly to the bitter end. The combination only needs to buy one more Presidential election, in order to firmly fasten upon the country the collar of a system which would render any further pretense of popular suffrage unnecessary.

The combination of Republican Gold, Trust and Monopoly magnates believes that its sole chance to carry out this program, to accomplish these designs and to replace the institutions of the United States with its own unbridled, oligarchical power, rests in its ability to pass the Dingley tariff bill. It will continue to organize, influence, spend money and fight to gain that strategic victory which, from its standpoint, involves all else.

Who Is the Obstructor? On the basis of present conditions it is quite impossible to estimate the net amount of concord, or discord, that may be existent between the President of the United States and the statesman who has swallowed, digested, and assimilated into himself all the rights and functions of the body formerly known as the House of Representatives. If we know that it would be easy to find a solution for the question: "What is to be done about the suppression of that House by illegal usurpation?"

The Autocrat has intrenched himself in a strong position, offering but one practicable opening for attack. That opening is Rule X, which declares: "Unless specially ordered by the House, the Speaker shall appoint, at the commencement of each Congress, the following standing committees, viz:—"

The mandatory character of that rule speaks for itself. There is a Republican majority in the House, intent, cringing and strapped down at present, we will admit, but still potentially able to enforce that rule if it had the wish and the courage. The country will recognize this fact in a day or two, and unpleasant questions will be asked, and still more unpleasant things said.

One of the questions will be: "Who is it that says to the people of the United States, 'there shall be no general legislation in the House of Representatives?'" What answer can be given? We ask for information. Is it the Speaker alone, and against the views and desires of the members and of the Administration? Is it the Speaker, reinforced by the Administration? Is it the Speaker and the Republican majority, against the Executive, or are all three high parties in secret agreement?

Something speedily will be done to find this out, because great public and private interests are clamoring to be heard in the Congress. Because, heretofore, they have been eaten up by a wide open King Stark, they will not, therefore, remain stupid and silent under the wooden oppression of Autocrat Log. Their agents and exponents will quickly reach certain obvious conclusions, which are: (1) That, if the Speaker is the only obstruction, and the Administration wants the door unbarred, it can be done by the majority, under Rule X.

(2) That, if the Administration does want it, and the majority fails to attend to it, their masters, the "business interests," will make themselves felt at home in short order. (3) That, if the Administration is in accord with the Speaker, in suppressing the House of Representatives, and blocking the business of the Nation, the sooner that becomes apparent, the better.

"It is a condition that confronts us, and not a theory!"

The Senate Mystery. For various reasons we have not felt particularly sanguine as to what Congress would do during this extra session, in the line of redempting past national dishonor in connection with Cuba. We have entertained some hope that the instinctive American sentiment favorable to liberty and humanity might become aroused and exert an irresistible pressure upon our legislators, and that something effective might result in consequence; but hopes like these have been greatly depressed by indications of the dominant power of adverse influences, and by the fact of the forcible suppression of the House of Representatives.

It is satisfactory, therefore, to reflect that the "spark" which Mr. Hanna predicted "might fall," has, in fact, fallen in the Senate, with such accompanying phenomena as must satisfy the country that one body at least of our legislative branch is not dead to the agonized cry of helpless prisoners, women and children dying under the cruel knives of Spain's hired torturers.

Aside from that consideration, the current debate of the Cuban question in the Senate already has proven of valuable service, in bringing to the surface the elements of opposition to a policy of justice and mercy which, although long suspected and more or less generally identified, have been able to exert their influence under the cloak of Senatorial circumspection, or have masked their real purpose with the hypocritical pretense of devotion to assumed treaty obligations, or a horror of giving offense to a friendly nation.

One of these elements has been exposed to scorn and contempt by Senator Gallagher, in his statement that the only native interests opposed to justice in the Cuban matter were certain "business interests," an exponent of which had denounced him for daring to plead for outraged women and children who are being backed to death with Spanish machetes.

A REMARKABLE CHANGE.

Comparison of Elections Just Held and Those of Last Year. Here are twelve sample cities, and what they did in the way of changing their political status at the elections this week:

Table with 2 columns: City and Change. Includes Chicago (18,897), Cincinnati (20,000 R), St. Louis (15,000 R), Cleveland (6,000 R), Detroit (13,000 R), Grand Rapids (4,000 R), Columbus (3,100 R), Dayton (2,800 R), Evansville (500 R), Springfield (1,300 R), Zanesville (600 R), Canton (850 R).

Total... 122,150 R 102,360 D. A dozen cities and a change of a quarter of a million! In a hundred other cities from which returns have been received the change was proportionately moderate. Greater New York City has had a very small part of what any of these cities have done, relatively, to give another overwhelming Democratic victory this fall.

That big Democratic victory in Chicago furnished food for discussion at the Capital all day yesterday, and its effect on the minds of the nation will continue to be talked about for many days. Even Republican Congressmen readily admitted that one of the ultimate results would presumably be the loss of the Fifty-sixth Congress to the Republicans. A nearer result is the effect upon the United States Senate.

In the present close political state of that body the election of a Democrat to succeed Hanna would place the Senate safely in control of the opposition. The election of a Republican Senator in Kentucky is no longer feared by Democratic leaders. They regard the defeat of Hunter as scarcely beyond question, and the legislature will be filled by the legislature to be chosen this fall. It is confidently expected that another appeal to the people of the Blue Grass State will result in an easy victory for Senator Joe Blackburn.

In the neighboring State of Maryland there are also signs of a great Democratic revival. Senator Gorman's only opponent on the Chicago election yesterday was the Leonie "Oh, he promised to march that he had no hope of holding their vote." He did not discuss the effect of the spring elections on the people in Maryland. But Maryland Democrats who were about the Capitol were confident that the reaction would be as strong in the East as in the West. Ex-Congressman Talbot, of the Eastern Shore, said the news gave the Maryland people great confidence in the result, and ex-Senator Gorman will be re-elected Senator as easily as any time in his life!

At stake in the elections of this fall are the following Senatorships: Kentucky... (Vacancy), Maryland... Gorman, Dem., Ohio... Hanna, Rep., Virginia... (Vacancy). Democratic Senators confidently assert that all these seats will be carried by the Democrats. If Kentucky and Ohio Democrats, then, as soon as the legislatures can elect Senators next January, the Senate will stand, Republicans 41, opposition 48; in other words, the Democrats will have a majority of seven.

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Indications accumulate that the Treasury retroactive "hoax" circular will fall flat. There is nothing in existing law which would compel importers to submit to its blackmailing and garrotting tendencies, and influential Eastern papers are advising them to organize and resist.

In view of the gravity of the case, the Supreme Court has advanced the joint traffic test case on the calendar, but that only means that it will reach a hearing in October. In the meantime the railway interest is in a bad way. The Senate may be willing to do something, but the House of Representatives is under arrest and deprived of its constitutional functions. Anything done in behalf of the railways might open the door to general legislation, and the Autocrat will not permit that until he has finished punishing the influences that failed to flock to his standard at St. Louis. That may take a long time, and involve many important interests and people, public and private.

And so Mayor Carter Harrison had a clear majority over the combined vote for his seven opponents of 2,222! If this shows anything, it is evidence that silver democracy can claim a visible majority of all the citizens of Chicago. So much for Mr. Hanna's educational results!

Ex-Senator Ingalls is quoted as authority for the statement that the blow which "knocked out" Prof. Corbett was accidental, and that Prof. Fitzsimmons confined this to him after the fight. This news is alarming, if true, and may create a suspicion that the Kansas statesman-reporter is preparing to "star" with the defeated contestant.

If it be true, as alleged, that the Carnegie, and generally the trust, influence was exerted to keep Mr. Roosevelt out of the Navy Department, we desire to know what can be done. The idea that the trusts have demanded anything and been turned down by a Republican Administration! We should almost as soon credit a report that Secretary Gage had concluded to pay bonds in silver.

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GLEANED IN HOTEL LOBBIES.

Mr. J. Earl Wagner is frequently seen in the lobby of the Regent. Hanna Garland is also there. Ex-Congressman Josiah Patterson is at the John E. Hobbs.

Mr. John F. Rixey, of Virginia, is registered at the Metropolitan. E. W. Timberlake, a prominent politician from North Carolina, is now at the National.

Mr. John Jarrett, of Pittsburg, and W. C. Cronmeyer, of McKeesport, Pa., are at the Regent. They are two of the most prominent steel men in Pennsylvania, and are here to appear before the Senate Committee on Finance.

Count Vandevelde Mensky is at the Arlington. This gentleman during the recent campaign, stumped a half dozen States, making speeches in as many different languages, in the interest of the Republican party.

The hotels are now feeling the full effects of the various "personally conducted" tours. The lobbies of the uptown houses are crowded with the evening, and the itinerant musician is reaping a rich harvest from the visitors.

Mr. W. N. Burchard, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, is in charge of a party of 160 excursionists, who are now sightseeing in Washington. At the Regent last night he said:

"I can now appreciate the fact that the average New Englander means it when he says, 'I want to know.' This party is from Boston and vicinity. We left Boston on Monday night, and I have been handled with questions ever since. Few of these people have any sense in Washington before, and they are keenly enjoying their visit."

"The 'personally conducted' tour of excursion is doing much for persons who have traveled little, and also for the more experienced travelers, who do not wish to be troubled with the many annoyances that attend traveling alone is subjected to. On these excursions we look to the checking of baggage, arrange for hotel accommodations, map out a routine for the systematic seeing of the city, and, in fact, do everything for our people. The 'personally conducted' tour is a result of the advanced ideas of this end-of-the-century age!"

Hon. Webster, Davis, ex-mayor of Kansas City, and a personal friend of the President, is at the Regent. Mr. Davis is a Republican who has a strong Democratic personal following. He was elected mayor of Democratic Kansas City with a plurality of 8,000 votes, 22,000 being the total number cast. In a conversation with a Times reporter yesterday he said:

"While times might be better with us, all signs point to renewed prosperity, and our State. In Kansas City today there is hardly a desirable home vacant; whereas, a few years ago, row after row displayed 'For rent' cards. Building is also going right along. For 200 miles around Kansas City we have the richest country in the world. I say this principally timber land and rich prairie, on which wheat and corn are raised. While our corn is not so tall as to require one to take a lantern with him to light his way in the daytime, we frequently encounter fields of corn, and still be hidden from view."

Mr. William Ripley is a venerable and well-known citizen of Chicago. He is a retired lumberman, and has a goodly fortune. He is a member of the globe and has a keen sense of humor and has at all times a profuse fund of experiences and incidents to relate. Mr. Ripley is now at the Arlington, going West by easy stages, and yesterday said:

"Although I have called Chicago my home for thirty years, I have two jobs at the expense of that city, which are too good to be suppressed. I was in Jerusalem in 1859, and wished to send a telegram to my son, in Chicago. I addressed my message Chicago, U. S. A., and was nearly taken off my feet when the operator informed me that he could not deliver it unless it was addressed Chicago, near St. Louis, U. S. A."

"On another occasion, I was on the Columbia River, about forty miles from The Dalles. Our boat made a landing, and a conversation with him, and he informed me that he lived at the landing. After being cross-questioned for a few minutes, he started in to pump me: 'Where do you live?' said he, 'Chicago.' I answered, 'My friend looked at me, scratched his head, and said: 'Chicago? Be that beyond The Dalles.'"

Hon. Abner McKinley, of New York, was registered at the Elbath House yesterday, and expected to leave the city last night. A Times reporter met him in the lobby and was invited to his room. In answer to a question as to the nature of his visit he said:

"My trip is purely a business one. I am not in politics, nor am I keeping tabs on politics. I have no interests to promote and have not even called on the Cabinet. I make frequent visits to Washington, and as a matter of fact have been away more since the inauguration than I have for some years back."

MR. ROOSEVELT'S SUCCESSOR.

He is Certain to Be a Strong Anti-Platt Man. New York, April 7.—Police Commissioner Roosevelt's friends say that he will accept the Assistant Secretaryship of the Navy, tendered to him by President McKinley. As there is little doubt of his confirmation, it is regarded as good as settled that Mr. Roosevelt will go to Washington.

The question that is now puzzling the politicians and the police is, who will succeed Mr. Roosevelt as a member of the police board?

Those who probably could have the job if they wished it are Fire Commissioner James K. Sturgis, Jr.; School Commissioner James G. Agaz, or former United States District Attorney Edward Mitchell.

Subway Commissioner Thomas L. Hamilton is spoken of, and William Brookfield, too. The latest gossip is about John E. Mitchell.

Mayor Strong would rather have William Brookfield take the place than any of the others. All of them, with the exception of Edward Mitchell, are anti-Platt men, and would carry out any orders the mayor might give.

There will in any event be a nice row when the board attempts to organize, for the law is that when a vacancy occurs in the board "the board shall reorganize." With Commissioners Grant and Parker preserving their lines, the question is, how will the new commissioner vote? If he joins with Andrews a deadlock will result, reorganization being an impossibility, and work, so far as the board is concerned, will be at a stand.

An understanding between the new commissioner and Grant and Parker would straighten matters at once, but as Mayor Strong has practically made up his mind to appoint a strong anti-Platt man, his opinion is doubtful.

Mayor Strong's guarded utterances regarding Mr. Roosevelt may have greater significance than was at first attached to them. He said: "Mr. Roosevelt is not confirmed yet." And when questioned regarding Mr. Roosevelt's resignation, he said: "I have not Mr. Roosevelt's resignation yet, and I don't expect it for some time to come."

This may mean that he expects Senator Platt to fight Mr. Roosevelt's confirmation.

SENATIONAL DISCLOSURES MADE. A Legislative Committee Investigating Bank Failures. St. Paul, Minn., April 7.—The joint-legislative committee investigating insolvent banks in this city and Minneapolis has made public the testimony secured during the past two weeks. A review of the disclosures are highly sensational.

As to the Bank of Minnesota, of which William Dawson, sr., was the president, and William Dawson, jr., cashier, W. H. Lightner, one of the receivers, stated that on October 7, 1895, \$96,000 was due to the bank from the Fort Leavenworth National Bank of Chicago. The balance, he said, was incorrect, accounts between these two banks being falsified to the extent of \$100,000. At the time of the failure of the bank there was owing to it by the officials the following sums:

William Dawson, sr., about \$90,000; William Dawson, jr., about \$29,000; E. A. Smith, \$20,000, of which he has since paid \$35,000. In addition to that, William Dawson, jr., was guarantor of \$53,000, of which \$30,000 was overdrawn. As to the cause of the failure of the bank, it was testified that William Dawson, sr., owed it \$281,000.

The schedules of assets and liabilities of William Dawson, jr., have been filed in the district court. The assets are placed at \$239,168.75, and the liabilities, \$865,452.47. The face value of the assets is much higher.

By far the largest portion of Mr. Dawson's assets consists of individual notes, but most of them only by the indorsement of William Dawson, sr.

As to the Scandia Bank, of Minneapolis, the committee states that its failure, according to the evidence, was honest, and it may yet pay in full.

WOODWARD and LOTHROP,

10th, 11th and F Sts. N. W. Shirt Waists, Wrappers. 100 Dozen Shirt Waists of fine soft-finished percales in pink, blue, green, red and yellow stripes, laundered collar and cuffs, perfect fitting.

50c each. Value \$1.00. 40 dozen Wrappers of fine Irish lawn, in light, medium, and dark colors. All sizes. No more when this lot is sold.

50c each. Value \$1.25. 3d floor. Tourists' Trappings. Bags, Trunks, Suit Cases, Hat Boxes and other paraphernalia.

We are showing all of the staple sorts and all the season's latest novelties in Traveling Goods, and name as specially good values the following:

Canvas Covered Trunks, iron bound, from bottom, best brass lock—a strong, well-made trunk. 25-inch, each \$1.95; 30-inch, each \$2.50; 32-inch, each \$2.95; 34-inch, each \$3.50; 36-inch, each \$3.95.

Canvas Covered Trunks, steel clamps, sheet iron bottom, hardwood slats, strap hinges, chain work top and bottom, corner clamps, riveted, best brass Excelsior lock and lock bolts, deep tray, with hat box. 25-inch, each \$3.95; 30-inch, each \$4.50; 32-inch, each \$5.00; 34-inch, each \$5.50; 36-inch, each \$6.00; 40-inch, each \$7.50.

Canvas Telescope Cases, leather corners, heavy-leather straps. Each \$1.00 to \$1.50. Dress Suit Cases. The Dress Suit Case is now considered an indispensable part of a man's outfit.

Everything new can be seen in our Basket Department, and we call attention to the following lots of Easter Baskets to be offered today at especially low prices:

Lot 1—A vast assortment of Colored German Straw Baskets, various sizes, blue red and green effects. 5c each. Lot 2—Larger sized Baskets, in colored effects, several shapes and colorings. 10c each.

New Cocoa Door Mats. Apropos of spring rains, we offer a large shipment of new Cocoa Mats, the product of a factory noted for making the best wearing mats. Especial attention is called to the finish of these goods.

21x14-inch, plain, each...35c; 28x16-inch, plain, each...45c; 29x17-inch, plain, each...50c; 29x17-inch, extra, each...50c; 27x16-inch, mottled effect, each...50c; 28x16-inch, extra quality, each...\$1.00; 30x18-inch, extra quality, each...\$1.25; 32x19-inch, extra quality, each...\$1.50; 47x27-inch, Wire Door Mats, each...\$2.95; other styles and quantities and extra sizes.

Manahan's Moth Paper and Bags. Our new stock of moth preventives has just been received, and we direct to them the special attention of those who have never used them—they require no recommendation to those who have used them. Manahan's are conceded to be the best.

Manahan's Moth Paper (small sheets), per 100...25c; Manahan's Moth Paper (large sheets), per dozen...50c; Manahan's Moth Bags (2 1/2 lbs. size), each...40c; Manahan's Moth Bags (larger size), each...50c; Manahan's Moth Bags (largest size), each...60c.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Electric Cloth for Cleansing Bicycles, etc. We are now demonstrating the most perfect cloth for cleansing and polishing bicycles, etc., and invite bicyclists to witness the cleansing qualities of this chemically prepared cloth. Price, 10c; 3 for 25c.

Woodward & Lothrop. There is not room for Death. Not also that his might could render void. Thou—Thou art Being and Breath. And what Thou art may never be destroyed. —Emily Bronte.