

SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Discussion of Civil Service Reform.

The President of the Commission Fixes the Responsibility of its Failure.

Why Our Best Men do not get Office.

SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Civil Service Reform—The President of the Civil Service Commission Speaks his Piece.

DETROIT, May 14.—In the Social Science association this morning, Hon. D. B. Eaton, president of the late Civil Service Commission, read a paper on the experiment of civil service reform in the United States, which was extremely lengthy, but was listened to with marked attention by a large audience. He began by saying that the deliberate and needless abandonment of a plan by which a great nation had entered successfully upon reforming its greatest abuses, may well arrest the attention of all thoughtful persons. Never before in our history has there been such a surrender of the higher to the lower elements in our politics. Heretofore in every great struggle for reform we have fought it out to victory upon the line of our advance, and have planted our standard high up in the light of inspiration. After dwelling upon the disasters which must result from the total abandonment of this reform, the dismay of honest men and delight of partisans and office seekers at this national breach of pledges and disgrace; he proceeded to consider the justification and responsibility of parties and their future prospects. The inauguration of the spoils system, commenced with President Andrew Jackson, who removed nearly two thousand officials in a year for partisan reasons. Earlier presidents removed very few. The last report of the civil service commission showed that no officers had been removed for opinions sake that year; now, however we have returned to the old detestable system. The republican party in 1871 adopted civil service rules. Mr. Eaton believed it would add to their strength as a people if the reform were in operation. In the battle field of party there was nothing but disorganization. The evils of the old system and beauties of the new were enlarged on. He spoke of the adoption of reform measures and their execution of the system of rules, which was carefully matured and which congress approved heartily in two separate sessions.

The republican party fully pledged themselves to sustain the system in its congress, its conventions and in every possible way. The national democratic and labor reform conventions passed resolutions commending it to state conventions. Public speakers, editors and writers praised the president, and faith in him was in the heart of all. Public gratitude was part of the reward of Mr. Curtis and his fellow commissioners. The dominant party was strengthened by the popular vote, and everybody looked for a better order of government. These provided, first against political assessments, leaving every citizen to contribute as he wished towards the promotion of his political opinions; second, that only a few of the highest offices should be filled by the dominant party, the others to be filled by the best men irrespective of political opinions; third, these last were to be of good reputation, honest, and pass a fair competitive examination of applicants; fourth, appointments were to be made by a superior board of officers according to the reputation, at first, probationary, for six months, and subsequently, on good behavior; fifth, this power should not be executed arbitrarily, and that nobody should be removed without cause, to make place for another; sixth, that frequent competitions should take place, and examinations should be conducted by non partisan commissioners, and seventh, that promotions should be graded, admission being first to the lowest grade; eighth, records of each appointee during his service should be kept; ninth, that no person should hold at the same time a state and a federal office; tenth, rules were that intermediate class of collectors, surveyors and others, though not wholly exempt, but to whom competition was inexpedient. The first trial, at least, should have been granted, but here the difficulty point beset us, because of which Mr. Curtis, the first chairman of the commission, believed he could not retain his position and use

fulness, and also his self-respect, resigned.

Mr. Eaton then referred to the report of the cabinet meeting in April, 1874, which approved so highly of the operation of the rules, and declared that the good effects are cordially felt throughout the land, and therefore the rules should be enforced with some necessary modifications. Now, however, they had begun with the waning patriotism and morality of partisans whom the rules relied upon for support; the salary grab law, the credit mobilier, Pacific mail, and other measures, indicated their demoralization. The party organs declared reform useless. Contractors, demagogues and spoils-men denounced it and called for its abolition. Partisans gorged the present President and Cabinet with dolorous complaints of party losses by the reform of annulling the assessments on clerks and depriving party magnates of their appointment perquisites.

Republican orators and officials were listened to while they stultified themselves and paved the way for the defeat of their party by seriously insinuating that the rules were aristocratic in spirit and meant to undermine our institutions. But, said Mr. Eaton, I forbear presenting any further evidence of decay in the moral tone of a party dear to me, which I trust will yet be restored to its earlier achievements.

He traced the progress of several bills proposed in Congress for the quiet abolition of reform; of the efforts in Congress to befool measures in its support, and to counteract the efforts of the commission. These congressional efforts were puny and without substance, without debate, without calling, and without any announcement of any other policy or assignment of reasons; without one mainly protest even, the Congress of the United States, the party in power, adroitly attempted, by refusing a small appropriation, to stifle a measure of reform, thus far successfully carried forward under its own enactments, for which its President and Cabinet were appointed, and upon the faith of which the election had been carried. There are no more disgraceful pages in the records of Congress than those which record the consummation of this policy. The greater responsibility rests on Congress, but is the President faultless?

Mr. Eaton did not justify, indict nor accuse him, but affirms that he gave sad occasion for criticism, and that being hard pressed by partisans he yielded too much and did what he should have repudiated. Still he is entitled to praise for being the first President who had moral courage to attempt to overthrow the spoils system. There were Congressmen too, who denounced him, whom they were bound in honor to sustain.

After the refusal of Congress to appropriate anything to support the reform, the commissioners could do little at best. The President announced to Congress last year, "if Congress adjourns without positive legislation on the civil service reform, I will regard such action as a disapproval of the system and will abandon it." And civil service reform was for the present ended. Congress repealed the act, though having given a promise to make appropriations for its continuance, thus accomplishing a suicide for the Republican party and insult to the President. As to the future, the reform is defeated temporarily, but so also are its opposers. We cannot continue thus. The system of examination will make its power felt again, and the influence will last and permanently. This victory will not be immediate nor radical. The reform when it begins again must be more restricted; must not undertake too much. There is no discouragement. The people are with us; our principles are sound; we can say of them as President Lincoln said of those with whom he argued against slavery in 1856: "These principles of ours are quiescent now, but will eventually win and they will end in victory when you and I are gone."

Reading the paper was followed by an animated debate participated in by Gollich Bradford, Elisha Wright, and others, who took somewhat different views. High minded people will not submit to this, and without it an election is almost impossible, hence honest men cannot secure office. It is said that good citizens ought to take an interest in politics, and preachers should enforce this. Every citizen should belong to some political party, and endeavor to purify it by defeating dishonest men. A paper was discussed by Bradwell and Wells, of Detroit in which the former said that little difference exists between the platforms of the republicans and democrats. Both parties had men of power, who by individual force shape legislation. Paper of some length was then read

by Prof. Elliot on the treatment of the guilty. The paper considered that only those convicted should be treated as prisoners.

Prof. C. A. Kent read a paper on political parties and their organization, evils &c., in which he said political parties were a necessity of the age and through them comes reforms. Rarely can a man or a newspaper hold aloof from party and have much influence. He then made some very appropriate remarks in reference to government affairs in which he spoke of the growing difficulty of inducing competent men to become candidates for office. One reason for this difficulty is the small salaries paid for important offices, and also the service required of candidates during canvass, and the drain on his purse to obtain a place.

A paper by Prof. Watson, on the railroad question was read, in which it endeavored to prove the power of a State over corporations and to show that an exercise of this power has been on the increase in Western states. The interests of all parties demand that this power be exercised with wisdom and moderation, and not to fix arbitrary rates and otherwise interfere with the management of railroads, but rather by wise provisions, looking to honesty of administration, and acknowledging the rights of the people in these corporations. Prof. Watson dwelt at some length on river improvements. After debate the convention adjourned sine die.

The Union Pacific Railroad.

Judge Dillon Decides that the Eastern Terminus is in Iowa.

And Council Bluffs will Celebrate.

Grasshoppers Devastating Missouri.

THE OMAHA BRIDGE.

An Important Case Decided in Favor of Council Bluffs.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, May 14.—A large and enthusiastic meeting of the merchant's exchange club of this city was held to-night, and arrangements were made for an extensive celebration to-morrow evening in honor of Judge Dillon's decision declaring the bridge across the Missouri river at this place to be a constituent part of the Union Pacific R. R. This fixes Council Bluffs as the legal eastern terminus of that great thoroughfare. Much interest is felt in the matter and assurances of a full celebration are confidently felt.

Attempted Parricide.

MILWAUKEE, May 14.—An Inter Ocean special says Albert Young, son of ex-Senator Young, of Wisconsin, shot his father at a hotel to-day. He then committed suicide. The father will recover it is thought. The son had committed forgery, and resorted to this plan of escaping the consequences.

The Jaws of Death Rushed the Sand Hillers.

ST. PAUL, May 14.—Gen. Terry today received a dispatch from Fort Randall announcing that Lieut. Armstrong had just brought in the Anderson-Warnton party en route to the Black Hills, consisting of 50 men, 6 wagons and 22 horses. The party had reached to within 60 miles of Harney Peak, and were on the Yankton route when captured.

The Blue and the Gray.—And the Colored Man.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., May 14.—Final arrangements have been made by confederate and federal soldiers for conjointly decorating the graves of deceased soldiers of both armies May 21st. Colored people are included in the arrangements.

Crops here are more favorable than at any time since '65.

A Swindler Foiled.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 14.—The Postmaster General to-day issued orders forbidding payment, by the postmaster at Cincinnati, of postal money orders drawn to order of L. D. Siner, who was conducting a gift enterprise. All registered letters addressed to Siner are to be returned to the office from which they are mailed.

Sudden Death.

NEW YORK, May 14.—The Daily Bulletin says Charles G. Shaw, formerly of the firm of Shaw, Harder & Co., prominent citizen and dry goods merchant, died suddenly last night at a window of the hotel of heart disease.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

The Grand Re-Union at Chicago.

CHICAGO, May 14.—The last day of the soldiers' and sailors' re-union was spent pleasantly by the veterans and visitors, notwithstanding the weather was very unfavorable. Complimentary speeches were made. Gen. Selby made some very interesting and appropriate remarks, in which he paid Chicago a first-rate compliment, and said the military organizations tendered thanks to Chicago for their kind reception. At noon the representatives of the Army of the Potomac met at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Col. Bass presiding. Gen. P. T. Barnum, of New York, was invited and addressed the meeting at some length. He alluded to the "congratulatory soldiers," advising their admission to membership of the society. Altogether the re-union was a grand success.

The event of the day, if not of the whole reunion, was the competitive drill and parade. Only two companies competed for the prize. The drill ground was on the lake shore. About ten thousand people witnessed the procession. It formed at the Sherman House and was led by the Nevins band, followed by Gen. Sheridan, Gen. Nichols, Gen. Pryor and others. Details of about fifty men followed, and Myer's cadets brought up the rear. After arriving at the ground, they commenced the drill and the prizes were awarded with great applause.

The judges decided in favor of the Springfield Grays. At the close of the exercises the procession with the prize banner returned, and Gen. Kilpatrick made an eloquent oration in which he complimented the victors and consoled the defeated. Gov. Beveridge replied in their behalf and made a pointed and touching address. This concluded the celebration. Most of the visitors left the city last night. Everyone says the reunion was a grand success.

THE PACIFIC COAST.

A Bath of Interesting Items.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 14.—From Sydney, New South Wales, the first of British line steamers to London leaves to-day on its return voyage. Great interest is manifested regarding her passage here. Every effort will be made to beat the time made by mails via South Australia.

Wheat reports show that there will be two hundred and four thousand tons surplus. South Australia wheat about four or five thousand tons already exported and ready for shipment.

Bark St. Marguerite, Capt. Estabrook, from Adelaide, for Brobone, entered Moreton Bay and took place on board. Wind then chopped around, giving her lee shore. Bark then stood out to sea and was discovered next day bottom upwards. Active search has been made, but unavailingly, for survivors of the wreck. The bark was owned by Capt. Estabrook, of Boston, many years a resident of Adelaide. His wife and family perished with him.

The Honolulu Advertiser says "we learn that the recent treaty with Hawaii was ratified by his Majesty on the seventh inst. It will be sent forward to Washington for exchange of ratifications by the next steamer, expected here the fourth or fifth proximo."

Sixty thousand ounces of gold were melted in the mint yesterday.

A dispatch from Sacramento says Gov. Grover will call a special election October 25th, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Congressman Ludgon.

John V. Smith, engineer on the steamer Senator, blown up at Portland, Stielacoom, is under bonds, charged with manslaughter.

Cincinnati's Musical Jubilee.

CINCINNATI, May 14, there was the same number of people at the concert this afternoon and evening that has characterized those of previous days. The closing portion of the festival was under the direction of Otto Singer who had been leading for months in drilling. The chorus was most enthusiastically received by the audience. Mr. Singer closed the festival with a few remarks, principally addressed to the choristers. This festival has proved that Americans appreciate music of the highest order when artistically rendered.

Grasshoppers Devastating Missouri.

CHICAGO, May 14.—An Inter-Ocean special from Kansas City, Missouri, says: The grasshoppers in Claiborne Co., and in many other portions of the state, are making a clean sweep of corn, oats and wheat, as well as meadows and gardens. Some localities are black with them. They are moving in a northerly direction. One peculiarity about these grasshoppers is they cannot fly.

FOREIGN.

The Schiller Wreck.

LONDON, May 14.—The divers sent to examine the Schiller worked for four hours to-day. They found her broken up; a confused mass of iron and timber. Her lower deck rests on rocks, and her bottom is torn off. None of the specie recovered, and little of the cargo visible.

ROME, May 14.—The Senate has made a national donation to Garibaldi.

LONDON, May 14.—The Carlists are shelling Guetaria and have done great damage. Their fire is returned from forts and from five men-of-war in the harbor.

LONDON, May 14.—Boynton will make a second attempt to swim across the Channel on the 28th inst.

WHISKY FRAUDS.

Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati Implicated.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Whisky frauds are still receiving attention from the treasury department, and Col. Wilson has unearthed a number of frauds. Further records of evidence were received to-day against the copper distillery in Chicago, and 150 barrels of whisky and 150 barrels of spirits were seized at the works. Three hundred barrels were seized in St. Louis, belonging to Bemis & Co. Damaging evidence has been obtained against the company. Copies of the internal revenue returns are being made at the treasury department and forwarded to the offices in the different cities to aid them in the discharge of their duties.

Among the charges made to-day was one from Cincinnati that a great number of barrels shipped had been emptied, and upon further search several lots of spirits were found in Chicago in original packages, thus conclusively showing a collusion of gauger with distillers.

The Weather To-Day.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Probabilities for upper Mississippi and lower Missouri valleys, rising, followed by falling, barometer, northeast winds, cooler and partly cloudy and clear weather followed in lower Missouri valley by southwest winds, warmer, and cloudy weather attending a storm center.

ST. LOUIS, May 14.—The Millers National Convention changed itself to-day from a mass convention to a delegated association, and appointed committees to frame a constitution and by laws and report at the next annual meeting. The following officers of the new association were elected: President, Geo. B. Lane, St. Louis; Vice Presidents, F. L. Carter and D. B. Morrill, both of Michigan. It was resolved that congress be petitioned to establish a special patent court at Washington, with full jurisdiction to decide and establish rights of patents wherein questions of such patents shall be considered. The question of time and place of holding the next annual meeting was left to the president, and after passing various resolutions of thanks convention adjourned.

LEXINGTON, May 14.—The races to-day were largely attended. First race two mile dash. Seven entries. Chesapeake won, beating the field by a hard run. Time, 3.37. Second race, mile dash, was a walk over the track. Third race, 1/4 mile dash, California beat the field in 1.16.

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We will also sell for cash at low prices, two car loads of Studebaker and Schuttler Wagons; 500 Breaking and Sowing Plows; 500 Hollingworth's Sulky Plows; 50 Wood Reapers and Harvesters; 50 McCormick Reapers and Harvesters.

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