



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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BRIBERY'S BUSIEST TROOPS!

The Graft of the Tough School Board Member Is the Matter of Books.

Many an "Itching Palm" Has Been Eased by the Men Who Represent Publishers.

Some Rich Developments Likely to Be Made in Chicago Before Many Weeks Elapse.

Publicity to Be Given the Names of Slaves and Work They Have Done.

Events have occurred since the publication of an article in the July Atlantic Monthly upon the corrupt action of some school-book publishers to show that their immoral proceedings have not been prevented. Nominally there has been a treaty of peace between those who were formerly in the stress of competition, but there have been occurrences recently which are conclusive proof that the corruption of school boards in widely different portions of the country is still a practice, and that the average citizen cannot be too particular about the moral character of his school committeeman. It was not long ago that one of the chief school-book firms in the country ruled over local politics and educational interests in the Ohio Valley and adjoining States so rigorously that it was all a politician's life was worth to oppose it, and school committees and teachers often felt the prescriptive power the concern could exercise against the person who dared to act upon the belief that some other publication was better than any from its presses. It is within this month that the city of Cleveland has had its evidence of attempted corruption, and not long ago another large Western city has suffered in the same way, but worse. A well-informed man, writing from this city, says in a private letter: "There is no shadow of doubt that it was a most disgraceful campaign. Money, whisky, and unmentionable carousals were the order of the day. It so disgusted the majority of the board and the citizens that the present board will probably be legislated out of office this winter. It is too sickening to think of and talk about."

In another Western State there was corruption of the school board to a shameful degree. The account of its discovery and of its successful execution is told as follows by the agent of the firm named in the story, the omitted portions being those which call the name of the offending firm. The letter was written as private, but permission has been obtained for the publication of the following:

The school board was in session to adopt a series of school-books for the county. A special committee of leading principals had been appointed to recommend books and had prepared a report unanimously naming the geographicals for adoption. We could not size up the board members as honest or otherwise until Providence supplied me with information. The clerk of the hotel moved me from an indifferently good room to one more desirable the night before the meeting, and my new room opened by folding doors, badly warped and shrunk, to another. Very early the next morning a visitor came to that room and engaged in conversation with its occupant. I knew the voices. I heard them discuss the situation. Their main conversation was as how they were to pay the members of the board. One said he had just come from a certain county which he had scouted clean and had left there all the cash he had. The other had none to spare. So they decided to pay the board members by personal checks, and they named parties freely. Incidentally they expressed their disgust with some who could not be fixed. Then they arranged for an early morning canvass of their cattle on the board to discuss certain developments and suggest certain proceedings in the meeting. Then they left the room, and those early calls were made. At the meeting on the afternoon of that day I asked the privilege of being called in first, and invited the whole agency force in to hear my speech, but nearly all declined. As nearly as I can remember, I spoke as follows:

"This whole business reeks and stinks of corruption. No respectable house-dog business by honest methods will have anything to do with your board. I am sorry I was inveigled by your advertisement into submitting a bid, and I hereby peremptorily withdraw the bid of —. I am satisfied that members of this board are bribed by the Book Trust emissaries, and that it is all fixed to give the whole patronage of the county to that concern or to its satellites."

One member here made a faint attempt at a bluff, and said that my remarks would be more entitled to attention if they were more specific. Then I made them specific by telling the story of the hotel. One of the members asked if I heard his name mentioned as implicated. I replied: "No, you are perfectly clear from stigma in this case." Then another member asked the same question and got the same reply. Then I named a third who was blameless, and then I asked if any other gentleman wanted to ask how his name was mentioned. No one had any curiosity on that point. They sat like statues, saying nothing until I requested my bid, which was handed to me unopened, and I withdrew. I stayed around till evening, for I felt that some of them might like to interview me personally, and then I left. The matter never got into the papers.

In regard to the Cleveland case, the following extract from an editorial in the Cleveland Plain Dealer of Sept. 9 shows what is the current impression regarding the morality of publishers and of school committees: "For many years the changing of text-books has, according to common rumor, afforded opportunities for the corruption of school officials, and it has been generally supposed that these opportunities were often taken advantage of by publishers."

A business man of Boston, whose interests require him to keep well informed upon this phase of controversy, says that there is no question that much improper influence is exerted by some school-book publishers upon school committees in order to persuade them to introduce particular books into the public schools. If there has been a reform from the former methods, which stopped not even at the corruption of legislatures, it is more because of the public obloquy which followed than from any increase of moral strength due to the purifying process of the business. There are said, on good authority, to be cities in Massachusetts—and one need not go far from Boston to find them—in which certain members of the committees which are in charge of the introduction of new text-books are reasonably open to suspicion regarding their action for the introduction of new books. There are places where a certain firm always seems to have an influence which is unaccountable on any theory of the merits of his books published. Only a few days ago it occurred in a Massachusetts city that a legal representative of a school-book firm visited a member of a school board and put his inducements in such a light that the man who was approached had no doubt that the way was opened straight for him to secure some substantial return for his vote for the books published by the firm thus represented, provided that vote had been forthcoming. Of course the negotiations are conducted with caution, but there is no doubt in the minds of those who are familiar with the trade that many improper considerations vitiate the selection of books for thousands of children who are entitled to the best which brain can produce.



HON. T. N. JAMIESON, The Popular and Hard Working Republican National Committeeman for Illinois.

It is not long since, in a city in the eastern part of the State, a member of the textbook committee, who was under suspicion of prostituting his official position in the interests of a particular firm of publishers, endeavored to persuade one of his colleagues to vote with him for the introduction of a manifestly inferior book against a decidedly better one. The argument used was a bald one, that if he would do so there was in it for him a fishing trip to Vermont and as good a vacation as he wished. But this effort was exposed and failed.

In certain large New England cities, not in Massachusetts, there is an apparent arrangement between school committees and publishers for the introduction of inferior textbooks. In these cities many complaints have been made by teachers in the public schools that the books are not what they should be to keep up with the times and to give the children the instruction which is accurate and suited to them. But their murmurings have been in vain. There is some influence which keeps the inferior books in the hands of the scholars, even though the best professional judgment upon the topics taught is against them.

In this State, within a very short time, an event occurred in which the temptation came to the publisher from a school committeeman who wanted to use his office as a means of adding to the emoluments of the position. At least, the man approached could find no other plausible explanation of the remarks which were made by the committeeman, whose virtue seemed to be of the sort which solicited temptation, with an apparent readiness to surrender if the reward were sufficient.

Certain firms there are which have always stoutly resisted the temptation to engage in dishonest or corrupt means for the introduction of their books into the public schools, but they have to fight the unscrupulous firms at every step, while it is almost impossible to secure the evidence that will enable them to expose the real nature of the competition to which they are subjected. The tactics of the corrupt firms, which leak out sometimes, reveal an utter disregard of moral quality. An interview which occurred in the office of a principal offender became known in which the gray haired corruptionist, giving instructions to a young man in his employ, who evidently had some qualms of conscience about the means which would be necessary to carry his books published. Only a few days ago it occurred in a Massachusetts city that a legal representative of a school-book firm visited a member of a school board and put his inducements in such a light that the man who was approached had no doubt that the way was opened straight for him to secure some substantial return for his vote for the books published by the firm thus represented, provided that vote had been forthcoming. Of course the negotiations are conducted with caution, but there is no doubt in the minds of those who are familiar with the trade that many improper considerations vitiate the selection of books for thousands of children who are entitled to the best which brain can produce.

scandal occurred by which the enacting clause of a bill for the use of uniform books was stricken out, yet it was not a firm of that State, but of one further north which committed the offense. Some of this corruption comes very near home to the North.

The next Senator from the Second District will be the Hon. Selon H. Case, who is so popular and well known that a biographical sketch of him is hardly necessary. Mr. Case was born in the Twelfth Ward, and for fourteen years was engaged very successfully in the iron business. He served with credit in the Union army during the war, and for several years past has been engaged in the loan and real estate business. Mr. Case is a hale and hearty man of 49 years of age, and has a wife and three children, all of whom he is very proud. His domestic relations, as every one knows, are of the happiest and the



HON. S. H. CASE.

good public opinion of Mr. Case is shared by the hundreds of stockholders in the Citizens' Building and Loan Association, of which fine organization Mr. Case is now serving his thirteenth term as President.

The Eagle congratulates Hon. Jacob J. Kern upon the sturdy fight which he has made to preserve his political existence. If Boes Altgeld and his servile gang had their way Kern would have been dragged off the so-called Democratic ticket to make way for one Strong, an individual who came to this city about eighteen months ago and who has been a lifelong Republican. Kern could not forget that he was a Chicagoan, and that he was fighting the battles of the Democracy in this city before Strong ever dreamt of pitching his tent here. He had too much respect for himself to allow any boss to use him as a sort of political pawn, to be moved about or killed off at will, and so, though confined to a sick bed, he put up such a fight against the dictation of Altgeld that the boss had to give in, though with a bad grace and reluctance that was apparent to all.

The municipal officials and the members of the City Council should go slow before plunging the city into the expense of constructing a costly extension of the present water system of Chicago. The water supply may not be all that could be desired, but it is not any

worse now than it has been for the past five years. The proposed extension will not bring the desired relief for a couple of years, and by that time the drainage canal will be either completed or very nearly so.

If the city has two or three million dollars to spare, why not use it in putting the wretched street paving into repair. There never was such a scandalous condition of our street paving as that which now exists. In fact, in most of the thoroughfares there is no paving, the streets being nothing better than a succession of ruts and pitfalls. In damp weather the street crossings are nothing better than channels of mud and mire. In heaven's name let the Mayor and Commissioner of Public Works let the Chicago water supply alone—it will do for the present—and turn their attention to the streets. They need it.

Insurance men of the Northwest celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their association and the end of a most successful meeting with a banquet at the Auditorium Wednesday.

An injunction on the part of "No Politics" was disregarded, and when J. M. De Camp, of Cincinnati, predicted that "the silver clouds of adversity will soon be replaced with the golden rainbow of prosperity" the 300 underwriters at the tables cheered for sound money until they were hoarse. Every similar sentiment by the other speakers was received with great applause.

The banquet hall of the Auditorium was decorated with American Beauty roses for the occasion. The various courses on the menu were named in insurance terms, while the menu cards were in the form of small insurance policies. A large part of the evening was devoted to reminiscences of insurance in the early days as recalled by the veterans of the association.

R. J. Smith, of Chicago, secretary of the Traders' Insurance Company, was toastmaster. He eulogized the charter members of the association for their foresight and fidelity, and called upon J. M. De Camp, of Cincinnati, to tell of "Fire Insurance in the Old Days."

Mr. De Camp said the old-time insurance men prided themselves on earning dollars worth 100 cents the world over, and then made the prediction of sound money's success, which was indorsed by vigorous cheers.

He read the names of the active workers in the association during the early days of its existence, and recounted many unique experiences they encountered in the insurance business.

C. C. Hine sang a song to the tune of "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home," and Charles A. Hewitt, editor of the Insurance Post, responded to the toast, "The Girls, Old and New." Mrs. J. S. Blackwell acknowledged the compliment to her sex.

Other speakers were J. C. Griffiths, Eugene Cary, John C. French, New Hampshire; C. S. Hollingshead, Philadelphia; F. B. Mason, secretary of the Chicago Life Underwriters' Association; W. D. Wyman of the same body; John H. Davis, Racine, Wis.; John H. Lonahan, Chicago; C. D. Moody, Indiana.

JAMIESON SHOUTS VICTORY!

The Popular National Republican Committeeman Sizes Up the Situation and Finds McKinley Ahead.

As He Is a Pretty Shrewd Observer Considerable Weight Attaches to His Opinions.

The Poll of the State of Illinois Shows that Bryan's Fight Is Hopeless.

It Also Looks as If the Populistic Alliance Would Not Elect an Illinois Congressman.

The popular and well-posted Republican National Committeeman from Illinois, Dr. T. N. Jamieson, goes at the political situation in his own straightforward manner.

"Outside of lying, claiming and a few speeches," says Dr. Jamieson, "there has been no Democratic campaign in this State. The managers have been relying on the old, worn-out method of figuring out from former years, without going out and finding the exact situation. Now they have discovered there is nothing to base any claims on."

"The Democrats of Illinois claim they will get the entire Populist vote and base much on that. In 1892 there were about 22,000 Populist votes cast in the State. In 1894 there were some 50,000, but what were the facts regarding them? Our poll accounts for every vote and it shows that in 1894 the Democrats either did not vote or else voted the Populist ticket. In our poll we give the Democrats everything except those who say they will vote for McKinley. For or against McKinley is the only matter we have questioned the voters on."

"I am not ready to make public opinion poll in detail by counties. But I will say this much: Outside of Cook County the Republican gain over 1892 averages over twenty-five to a precinct. There are 2,224 precincts outside of Cook County and the average is, in fact, considerably more than twenty-five, but that will do to say. We carried the State outside of Cook County in 1892."

"The conditions in Cook County are too good to tell about just yet. I will say, however, that we shall not lose a single Congressional District in the county, and that means the majority in the county will have to reach 50,000. Some figure that 40,000 might carry all the districts, but I am more conservative in my figuring. You see the Republican majority is lamed. The first district alone has a Republican majority of 21,000. The strong Democratic districts are the second, with a normal majority of 7,500, and the third, with a normal majority of 6,500. But without these districts not more than 20,000 majority would be needed."

Dr. Jamieson's figures for the State foot up considerably over 100,000. In 1892 Harrison had a plurality in the State outside of Cook County of 63,557. Adding to this the net Republican gain of twenty-five to the precinct shown by the poll—which is rather a less gain than the poll really shows—and a majority of 61,357 outside the Cook County line is obtained. This, added to the 50,000 claimed in Cook County, would give a majority in the State of 111,357. This, however, it must be remembered, is less than the Republican politicians actually figure on.

"You may remember," said Mr. Jamieson, "that at the first meeting of the present State central committee I was jacked pretty severely for saying that the State was not Republican at that time. I, however, am not one of those politicians who believe in the old-fashioned policy of not speaking the truth about conditions."

"I told the truth at that time, and the result was that the old-time politicians got a hustle on themselves and brought us out of that situation."

"When a person is known to tell the truth when matters do not look right he is more likely to be known as telling the truth when he speaks encouragingly. Now, I never was more positive about anything than I am of the situation in the State of Illinois. I don't expect to beat Pennsylvania or New York, but we shall come third in the list of McKinley States. We shall be

ahead of Ohio in the size of our majority. I received a telegram to-day from the editor of a New York newspaper asking me how many gold and how many silver Congressmen Illinois will send to the Fifty-fifth Congress. I replied: 'Not one silver Congressman from this State. We shall send a solid delegation for sound money from Illinois to the Fifty-fifth Congress.' Yes, I will stake my reputation on carrying every congressional district in the State."

"Now, see here"—as he glanced at the figures on the poll sheets, "The Sixteenth district—Buck Hinrichsen's district—is the worst one in the State. Out of the 162 precincts in that district the Republicans will carry ninety-three beyond all question, with an average majority equal to the average Democratic majority for the sixty-nine remaining precincts. This leaves us twenty-four precincts where our majority will be met."

"The Eighteenth district we are fully advised on, and we shall carry it by from 800 to 900 majority. The Twenty-first district we shall carry by over 1,200. These are the three weakest districts in the State, from our standpoint. We have no fears whatever of any of the rest."

At Republican national headquarters the question of McKinley's victory is no longer considered in figuring on the result of the election. The Republican managers say they are sure of enough States to more than elect McKinley, and their figuring now is based on additional States that will make the victory complete.

The Eagle will find time one of these days to publish Mr. R. Bruce Watson's record to date.

Conductors and gripmen on the North Chicago street railway laugh at the story in circulation that they are compelled to wear McKinley buttons on penalty of losing their jobs. While nearly all of those who wear buttons are on the side of sound money, they all say they would not hesitate to wear free silver buttons if they marched with that procession.

"Somebody sent a box of McKinley buttons to the barn for free distribution," said one of the North Clark street conductors, "and many of the men made the best of a chance to get what they wanted for nothing. But there was no advice or even hint that wearing these buttons would give any pleasure to the bosses, and if any of us wanted to wear Bryan buttons you can bet your life we would do it."

"Why, it would not be policy to make a man adopt colors he did not like, for it would surely make him vote against the candidate thus forced upon him when it came to a secret ballot. Everybody understands that, and nobody would force employees to wear buttons against their will."

Bets are freely made without takers that Samuel H. Chase will run ahead of his ticket for Recorder of Deeds.

Joel M. Longenecker and the rain are still keeping people away from political meetings.

A number of aldermen are trying to find out what Job R. Bruce Watson fills, anyhow.

A cablegram announces that Spain is now in a mood to sell Cuba for a fair consideration. But it is doubtful whether Spain could deliver the goods afterward.