

THE HERALD

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RAILROAD STRIKER'S REMEDY

Assistant District Attorney Pugh has called attention to an act of congress passed in October, 1888 (Rev. Stat., Chap. 1363), providing for the settlement of railroad strikes by arbitration. The law provides that in case of any disagreement between railroad companies and their employees, "if upon the written proposition of either party to the controversy to submit their differences to arbitration the other party shall accept the proposition," then each side shall select one person, and they shall select a third, and these three persons shall constitute a board of arbitration. The decision of such board is to be absolute and final. The act further provides that the president may select two commissioners, who, together with the labor commissioner of the state in which the trouble has occurred, may constitute a temporary commission "for the purpose of examining the causes of the controversy, the conditions accompanying it, and the best means of adjusting it."

The weakness of this law lies in its optional character. One party must make written applications for the arbitration and the other party must voluntarily accept the proposition before such a board can act. In other words, if both sides chose to take the benefit of the law they could end the controversy; but of what avail is the law in the case of switchmen's strike, where one side has shown a disposition to arbitrate and commenced acts of violence at one, and the other side publicly refuses upon the ground that there is nothing to arbitrate? The time has now come to provide some legislative method which will absolutely prevent these quarrels between railroad companies and their employees which are imperiling the public interests by stopping the passage of mails, freight, and passengers. Further, the law would be so constructed that every person at fault, whether belongs to a wealthy railroad corporation or to the rank of its employees, shall be punished severely. These persons who control commerce between States as common carriers and who make such chances as they please under the law ought to be so regulated and restricted that their individual quarrels shall not involve other people who have no interest in their disagreements. As it is now contestants may or may not injure each other, but they do injure outsiders upon every occasion. They are like two rowdies who instead of firing at each other, only shoot the spectators and passers-by who have nothing to do with their quarrel. This interruption of railroad business by labor disputes must be made impossible, and some means must be devised to prevent any interference with commerce and travel and the mails. The operation of a railroad cannot be stopped for a single day without inflicting heavy damages upon the travelling and commercial public, and for this reason alone, without taking any account of the destruction of railroad property and the demoralization which grows out of such a lawlessness, here is pressing necessity for a law strong enough to absolutely prevent strikes of this kind. It must be an optional law. It must not say to the contestants, "You may arbitrate if you please," but must take them by the collar and say in a way they will understand, "You must arbitrate or suffer the penalty" of assaulting and injuring the public.

So much for the strikes affecting interstate commerce. When the strike affects a railroad within the state legislature should provide ates which will regulate strikes and lockouts and severely punish those who trespass upon the rights of the public, either in the safe transportation of individuals or property. Under the present system that protection to life and property which is guaranteed by every state constitution is not given, in the present miserable condition of affairs has gone far enough. The public has more interest in this business than either railroad corporations or their employees, and it is the principal sufferer. These lawless, violent outbreaks are

growing more and more frequent, and are involving the country in conditions which are tantamount to those of a civil war. It is less than civil war, but it is found necessary to call on the entire militia of four states—New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia—to protect the real property from those who are lawless strikers? Under present conditions in this country, well might it be possible to see the case of the strikers, who are King Kong, and upon the property to protect the people, and among the conditions of conditions of mobility, which is being principally wrought upon his innocent subjects, and to support their quarrels. Railroad strikes must stop. How do we intend to deal with a railway matter. It is now time to do something to have their say, for the sake of our subscribers.

WATER, BUT NOT TRUE.

Water, in Madison, Wis., cannot be decomposed and proved to be composed of oxygen and hydrogen, and that those two gases do not unite to form water. He has constructed an apparatus comprising two tubes, says the Chicago Tribune having in connection with each a battery. Putting water into each of them and connecting them with the battery he obtains hydrogen and that only in the tube into which the negative pole of the battery has been introduced, and only oxygen in the tube containing the positive pole. "The water is all made up into one kind of gas from each tube."

That is, the gentleman says so, and writes down his allegation in a book, which is duly printed and for sale. But he does not say that either of the gaseous products of his operation have been tested by a competent chemist for the purpose of ascertaining if they are really oxygen and hydrogen or only a mixture of the two elements—though he denies that those gases are elementary forms of matter and insists upon it that water itself should be elevated to the dignity. The omission of the proof noted is a fatal one, as no scientific man will concede the validity of the claim till such proof is supplied and that beyond all possibility of cavil. But in its absence it may be of interest to state the pseudo philosophy which the experimenter deduces from a study of his alleged facts:

Water cannot be decomposed so as to convert it into two of the lightest substances found in nature without uniting with it something of a lighter character to increase its volume. That something is electricity, which is therefore material, or it is elementary matter, and the electricity at each pole creates a different kind of gas. The water is a base in each gas, not a compound of the two. Combustion is an active force of nature and not a condensing process. It decomposes the oxygen and hydrogen, restoring them to the elementary forms of matter. It is the imponderable matter they contain that renders them capable of being burned, and the same is true of every other combustible of being decomposed, is evident from the fact that it unites with other elementary matter so as to create new matter, while organic matter only mixes with other matter so as to make compounds. The ponderable elementary substances that are held in solution by water and carried up into growing vegetation, united with the imponderable matter furnished by light, heat and electricity, create new matter, and in this way all the different kinds of material that are found in vegetable matter are created.

This is much the same kind of reasoning that have been indulged in a century or more ago if the men of that time had had the advantage of an acquaintance with practical electricity but knew nothing of the science. In fact the talk about the supposed "phlogiston" before oxygen was isolated by the chemists were pretty closely parallel to this. It was all knocked on the head when chemists learned how to decompose different substances, and found that the sum of weights of the products was precisely equal to that of the substance before decomposition. They have analyzed water in this way, found that the resulting oxygen and hydrogen both together weigh just as much as did the water from which they were evolved, and that when made to combine subsequently those two volumes of gases produced the original weight of water. Both processes have been repeated so many thousands of times that there is not the shadow of a doubt as to the fact, except in the mind of some such man as the "discoverer" here referred to, who does not first take the trouble to learn what others have done in the field before starting out for himself on a tour of supposed investigation.

OUR FLAG ON THE SEA.

A few days since Postmaster General Wanamaker signed contracts which will create a fleet of such splendid ocean steamships as the City of Paris under the American flag. This is the direct result of President Harrison's earnest support of the policy which has brought this about.

A recent announcement from the London Globe thus sets forth another step in this line of restoring American shipping and American commerce. Under the title of "American Shipping Trade" the Globe says: "The American steamer Alliance, which has sailed from New York for Buenos Ayres and Montevideo with the United States mails is the first American vessel to carry these mails to Uruguay and the Argentina direct. This innovation is the result of the subsidy provision in the Dingley shipping bill. The Alliance also carries a quantity of agricultural implements, machinery and dry goods, of which trade Great Britain has hitherto possessed a monopoly."

CHARACTERISTICS OF MR. MACVEAGH.

There is one passage in the career of Mr. McVeagh which has been burned into the memory of every one who was in Washington in those dreadful days when the president of the United States was stricken down by an assassin's bullet, and when the republic itself seemed in peril. That passage occurs in a letter from Mr. McVeagh to Benjamin Bristow when Mr. Arthur was a presidential candidate. The public have not forgotten that it was Mr. Wayne McVeagh, this professional reformer, who said this: "At the threshold I ought to warn you that, while nobody envies Mr. Arthur the great prize, as far beyond his expectation as his deserts, which he drew in the lottery of assassination, yet nobody has forgotten the pregnant fact that Giteau was the original Arthur man, that he killed Mr. Garfield expressly to make Mr. Arthur president, and that he did make him president by the act for nearly four years."

This dastardly assertion was deliberately made by the man whom the democrats to-day will claim to be a convert to their party. Not only the friends of Mr. Arthur, but every true American, was outraged by the attempt even by the most indirect insinuation to attach the faintest responsibility to Mr. Arthur for Giteau's madness. The public has perhaps forgotten that Gen. Bristow said of this: "I must decline his (McVeagh's) invitation to go into the slums of personal defamation. I shall pass over without comment those slurs and insinuations so unworthy their author which Mr. McVeagh permitted himself to make. I know not who secret bitterness degrades my friend to use expressions which ordinarily his good taste and fine feeling would be the first to condemn. If Gen. Arthur had always been the unworthy person my friend describes, I have him to excuse or justify his own act in supporting him for the vice-presidency and taking the office of first legal advisor to an administration in which Gen. Arthur stood second by the people's choice."

Striking illustrations of the advantage which the American farmer gains by the tariff may be found right here in Omaha. One of the largest pickle concerns in the country is located in this city and a considerable portion of its supply of materials from the market gardeners of Nebraska. It uses great quantities of cauliflower and onions for which it pays the producer good prices, but as these articles are not grown in sufficient quantities here it is necessary to make up the deficiency by importing from Holland. The tariff upon these products is 45 per cent, and yet they are laid down in Omaha at the same prices that are paid to the Nebraska farmer. Without the tariff the foreign dealer could deliver them here at a trifle more than one-half what is now paid and the American producer would be compelled to accept the reduced prices or quit the business. He never could stand such competition and soon go to the wall. This is only one example among many of the practical benefits derived by the farmer from the protective policy now in force in this country.—Bee.

ROBERT GRANT, professor of astronomy in the University of Glasgow, who died recently at the age of 78 years, studied in Paris under Arago and Leverrier. His "History of Physical Astronomy," written at an early stage in his career, no doubt had much to do with securing his engagement at Glasgow in 1820. He is credited with being the first person to announce the existence of a continuous envelope about the sun he having observed its scarlet waves from the Himalayas in 1820.

GOOD AND BAD MONEY.

Ex-Senator Everts states the position of the democrats on the currency question in a very apt and striking way when he says that "they hold it to be unconstitutional to have good money for the whole country, constitutional to have bad money for every State in the Union." As the case now stands, our money is the best in the world says the Globe Democrat. The man who has a paper dollar in his pocket does not care what bank issues it. He knows that it is worth its face everywhere, and that in no contingency can he lose a cent upon it. The credit of the government is pledged for its redemption. There is not the least danger that it will forfeit its value, or be refused in any business transaction. Most of the nations have devised paper currency systems from time to time, but ours is acknowledged to be the superior one. Mr. Gladstone says it is better than that of England, which is the highest praise that it could receive. It has been tested by practical experience, under all kinds of circumstances, and has been proved equal to every emergency. The fact that it had its origin in a military necessity does not detract from its surpassing advantages for the uses of peace. When we estimate the victories and benefits of the war, this admirable plan of providing the country with the sound money counts for little less than the abolition of slavery. It is one of the greatest achievements of modern statesmanship in point of practical and continuous service to all classes of people.

The democrats have never been satisfied with the national currency, because it took the place of the local currency which their party had so long maintained. They said it was unconstitutional to start with, and they did everything in their power to discredit it and to prevent it from gaining popular respect and confidence. It succeeded in spite of their opposition, as so many other good things done; but they have never really reconciled themselves to it. They are now openly proposing to destroy it, and to restore the old state banking system, which was a source of infinite trouble and damage before the war. The platform of their party demands the repeal of the prohibitory tax, which is the only protection that the country has against such a misfortune. They claim, as Mr. Everts says, that it is constitutional to flood the land with a form of money that could not possibly be made good in any locality. This is a question which equals the tariff issue in general importance. It comes directly home to every business and industrial interest. Good money is indispensable to the safety and prosperity of all the elements of society. People of small means and those who work for a living are particularly concerned in the preservation of a system that gives them a currency which is secure against failure or fluctuation. Bad money would bring them constant hazard and inevitable loss. The inflation of the circulating medium by means of innumerable state banks authorized to issue notes would reduce their wages and diminish the value of their savings. They would have to pay more for everything, and sharpers would impose upon them in all relations. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that they will not give their consent to the scheme by which the democratic party thus aims to deprive them of the blessing of first-class money.

DRAW TO THEM.

One might well imagine that Polk was again local editor of THE HERALD.—Peterson in last night's Journal.

Take Petersen and Polk, put them both in a box, shake them up good and it would be hard to tell which would get out first. They are a good pair to draw to.

SECRETARY NOBLE made an impromptu remark in his Brooklyn speech which every laboring man in the land should think about. Some one suggested that the workmen of this country had much more money in savings banks than those abroad. "Yes," replied the secretary, "I believe the workmen in America have more money in their pockets than laborers abroad have in the banks."

SPRINGER ELUCIDATES FINANCE.

Congressman Springer, democratic leader in congress, is the Flora Finch of politics. There are no full stops nor dashes nor even commas in the voluble stream of inaccuracy with which Mr. Springer entertains his hearers. In a single speech at Alton, Ill., he made the following surprising assertions, which require no other relation than their statement to intelligent men. Of the wild cat bank plank he said:

"If congress can rightfully and constitutionally exercise such a

power, it could also impose such a tax upon the rents of land as to make lands worth less as investments, and thus compel the occupancy and cultivation of land as the only condition of ownership. However desirable such a policy might be regarded by some people it would be a most dangerous and unwarrantable exercise of the taxing power of the general government."

And yet the democratic committee has spread broadcast, as a campaign document, the official utterance of the party's opinions, Henry George's book, which advocates exactly this method of taxing land values as a means of indirectly confiscating and nationalizing land. Again he says:

"The prohibitory tax upon the circulating notes of States banks is without any warrant in the constitution, and the courts would undoubtedly so hold if a test case was brought before them."

Yet the decision of the supreme court of the United States has affirmed the constitutionality of this tax.

Finally, he emits this astounding exhibition on the subject of treasury notes, or greenbacks: "When such (state bank) notes were common in this country before the war, the government of the United States had not assumed the function of furnishing a circulating medium of sufficient quantity to meet the demand of trade; but since the government had issued the greenback, or treasury note, and made it a legal tender for all debts, public and private, it is universally accepted as money, not only in this country, but in Europe, and the value of such notes does not depend upon the deposit of bonds or security of any kind for their redemption. * * * The national treasury notes will always be preferred, and congress has enough of such notes to be issued from time to time to meet the demand of trade."

The democratic leader in congress here declares in unmistakable terms for an irredeemable paper currency and slides in blissful ignorance over fact of a reserve of gold coin in the treasury to secure the notes issued, ready to apply on their redemption when it is demanded.

Anything that Springer says can hardly be said to commit himself or any one else to anything, as he is as likely as not to assert the contrary of what he has said here in the next speech he makes. Yet it is commentary to the people in the democratic party that it makes such man its leader, and lets him spread such positive misstatements as these among the people in its behalf.

A Sensitive Non-Combatant.

President Elliot of Harvard university has issued a bull against the good army tune "Marching through Georgia" within the precincts of his college. He says it is not dignified enough for Harvard, and it grates harshly upon him. One would think that a man who could stand Mormonism, and publicly declare for it in its contest with the government could endure a tune which as much as any other has become the national air of the soldiers who saved the nation. But President Elliot is given to peculiar outbursts. Witness the occasion when, in the presence of the most prominent editors of Philadelphia who were entertaining him, he denounced the press in terms that amazed these gentlemen and made it necessary for them to conceal the extent of his fault to save him from the severest criticism. But in truth there seems to be no special reason why President Elliot should admire the tunes of war times. He was 27 years old when the war broke out. Instead of entering the army he went to Europe about the time when the need of the country for men began to be felt and remained until the war was over. Such a record is not conducive to pleasant war memories provided a man has even latent sparks of patriotism in his nature.

But, to be just to President Elliott the fact that the most of the professors of Harvard are democrats or free traders, or both, probably accounts for the greater part of the dissatisfaction over the formation of republican clubs at the university. But if Harvard is under the management of men who cannot bear to hear patriotic tunes the sooner a large class of its patrons find it out and act upon their knowledge the better for the youth of the land. President Elliott is too sensitive by far. Even ex-confederate soldiers who happen to attend veteran re-unions often join in the song which he prescribes, just as union veterans frequently have their hands play "Dixie." President Elliott is a great scholar, but his patriotism was not developed during the war, and he does not seem to have had time to cultivate it since.

The Pronunciation of a Name.

Now that John Philip Sousa has located in Chicago we think it proper to correct a growing misapprehension as to the correct pronunciation of his name. A certain wealthy and cultured and influential society faction on the South Side call him Souz-er, and at the Chicago club it is seriously argued that the eminent musician was called to this city not only in recognition of his genius and talents, but also and especially because it was fancied that his name, identified with music development here, would stand as an enduring tribute to one of the greatest industries in the packing house quarter of our civilization. About the only joke that Phil Armour ever cracked was when he put this conundrum to a group of friends the other evening, "Why am I like the leader of our famous band?"

Marshall Field (who is a sly wag)—Because you blow your own horn—ha, ha, ha!

Mr. Armour—No. George M. Pullman (somewhat of a humorist himself)—Because he lives by a baton and you live by a battoir.

Mr. Armour (wearily)—No, not N. K. Fairbank (always subtle)—Because he tries hard to please and you try hard to please.

Mr. Armour—You are all wrong. Omnes—We give it up.

Mr. Armour—Then I will tell you why I am like the leader of our famous band. It's because I am a souz-er too!

Marshall Field—But you ain't; you're an Armour.

George M. Pullman—That's so; Marshall's right; you're an Armour—you ain't a Sousa!

Mr. Armour—But don't you see? He is a Sousa and I am a souz-er too! I make some I'm a souz-er—see? So we are both Souzas!

Marshall Field—Oh, oh, y-a-a-s; by George, that's a good one! Has Higginbotham heard it?

In spite of Mr. Armour's pretty wit and in spite of South Side usages, Mr. Sousa's name is not correctly pronounced Souz-er; the correct pronunciation of the name is as if the name were spelled S-o-o-s-a-h, with the accent upon the penult.—Chicago News-Record.

Brokers Have Fun with a Governor.

It is a barren subject out of which Wall street fails to get some fun. Governor Flower's opinion that Friday, Oct. 21, was not a legal holiday had in it too much serious meaning not to invite burlesque. Railery came thick and fast after it had fairly started, especially when it seemed to be settled that the governor had put his foot in it. By Wednesday night the fun lovers decided that the governor deserved sympathy on the ground that he was the only man in the land who would work Friday. Telegrams in this strain multiplied Thursday, and when business ended that day messages enough were put on the wire to make the day certainly one of labor for the governor's secretary.

Besides telegrams purely sympathetic, some of the senders demanded that the governor stand firm for state sovereignty against the national decree; others offered recruits to the "corporal's guard of Friday laborers." One of the senders expressed the hope that the close of Friday would not find the governor "a drooping flower."—New York Times.

A Holiday Triumph.

I heard today of an original wager made by a number of Harvard students. One of them was willing to back himself to any amount that he could eat forty griddle cakes within three hours. The others took him up to the amount of forty dollars, and went to a certain restaurant on Newspaper row on Columbus Day to do the feat. Eighteen cakes were disposed of at the first sitting, then the man went for a walk of thirty minutes. Upon returning he ate fifteen more. His stomach then rebelled, but seven cakes remained to be eaten.

A large crowd had collected by this time, vastly interested in so unnatural an experiment. But the Harvard man, although receiving much good humored advice, followed his own line of experimentation. The chairs were cleared for a rush to the street at intervals, and he finished the seven, two at a time, then three, having eaten the forty in 2 1/2 hours. He was living and well when last heard from.—Boston Record.

A Delayed Photograph.

The most surprised man at the late Grand Army encampment at Washington was Postmaster John B. Emery, of Williamsport. When Mr. Emery was at the front in 1862 he had a photograph taken of himself and mailed to his mother. She never received it, and the picture was long since forgotten. During the encampment the postmaster was naturally interested in the dead letter office. There is there a collection of several thousand photographs that have failed to reach their owners, and while looking over them Mr. Emery was astonished to find his own among them. By unwinding the necessary amount of red tape the postmaster established his claim to the photograph, and it was sent to him a few days ago.—Washington Letter.

A Race of Giants in Old Gaul.

In the year 1890 some human bones of enormous size, double the ordinary in fact, were found in the tumulus of Castelnaud (Eranlt), and have since been carefully examined by Professor Kiener, who, while admitting that the bones are those of a very tall race, nevertheless finds them abnormal in dimensions and apparently of morbid growth. They undoubtedly reopen the question of the "giants" of antiquity, but do not furnish sufficient evidence to decide it.—London Globe.

Canada's Muskington.

The muskmelon season has just closed in Canada. The Montreal market shows some of the finest cantaloupes raised anywhere. The wagons of the inhabitants stand about the Nelson monument, piled high with splendid fruit. The warm lands along the St. Lawrence produce them beautifully. They beat Hackensack.—New York Recorder.