

DARK DAYS IN THE TEPEE

These are cheerless days for the statesmen of Fourteenth street. Whichever way the Sachems turn the outlook is dreary. The results of 1919 and 1920 have taken much of the "pep" out of the old-time leaders. They are plainly unhappy.

In the old days Tammany's strength rested on the corner saloon. Every saloon was a financial and political recruiting station for the Wigwam. Most of the corner saloons are gone now. The few that remain are more interested in the fortunes of a revenue inspector than in those of a district captain. The last two elections furnished cumulative evidence that Tammany had not created anything to take the place of the corner saloon. But it was not until after the votes were counted last November that any of the Tammany leaders seemed to recognize what had happened.

One district leader confesses to the Evening Post that the Democrats have been unable to organize the women as the Republicans have done. Another leader is planning to organize move shows for his constituents, overlooking with consistent Tammany stupidity the obvious fact that his constituents would probably prefer a film of their own or Mr. Selznick's selection to one "passed by the board" on Fourteenth street. A third leader found by the Evening Post reporter laments the fact that the young men of his age no longer seemed eager to serve around headquarters in the hope of future political preferment. A fourth leader is back at the old task of hunting jobs for the unemployed of his district—a service which Tammany has employed with much advantage to itself and others in the past.

These public expressions of Tammany leaders enable one to visualize the blind groping of these men who see power slipping away from them and do not just understand what is going on. It is noticeable that but few of them, even when taking privately, are hopeful that Murphy may yet conjure something is fast waning. Many of his lieutenants have cold-bloodedly—even disloyally—scanned his record and find it lacking in actual accomplishment. They point out that Murphy failed signally to annex a lot of Federal patronage which has been floating around in the last eight years; that he was even unable to keep at Albany—a friend who could take care of some of the most deserving. Murphy's incursion into business—and incidentally into the courts—did not help the Tammany prestige.

There are immediate problems at Tammany Hall, pressing problems which are likely to be solved soon. There's the question of what to do with Enright, who won't quit; and what to do with Hylan, who won't make him quit. There's the question of who is going to get caught finally in the mesh of investigations now in progress or threatened. There's the question of who is to be called upon to act the part of the Sacrificial Goat, if one is finally needed. Over them all hovers the cloud of next fall's municipal election, already threatening to be more disastrous than those of 1919 and 1920.—New York Evening Post.

MR. BRYAN AND HIS FRIENDS

A venerable lady in Illinois—a cousin, it is mentioned, of William J. Bryan—has just passed the century mark.

The politicians would do well to note this. There is longevity in the stock. Mr. Bryan, who has turned sixty, is quite a boy in years by comparison with this relative.

And not only a boy, but a very active boy, and, as some maintain, a

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very mischievous boy. He has a way of appearing and disappearing; of upsetting the calculations of others and insisting on calculations of his own, quite disconcerting.

And time does not cure him of the habit. He upsets calculations as joyously today as a quarter century ago, when he took the platform at the Democratic national convention and disarranged everything the Cleveland wing of the party had in hand there.

Another opportunity for the display of his talent and disposition approaches. The men most urgent for the reorganization of the Democratic party are anti-Bryan. Their calculation is that he will appear at the next national convention with a platform, and maybe a boom, and essay to control the proceedings. So they want to get into action early, and if possible forestall him.

Will Mr. Bryan upset this calculation? His friends are closely following all developments. They are announcing no plan of their own. They have put forward no candidate for the succession when Chairman White of the Democratic national committee retires.—Washington Star.

COAL MEN ROBBED PUBLIC OF BILLION, SAYS N. Y. SENATOR

The opinion that the American people were "mulcted" of a billion and a half dollars last year "by the men in the coal trade," was expressed today by Senator Calder, Republican, of New York, who was a witness before the Senate committee considering his bill for federal regulation of the coal industry.

"Very well, how about the flour men, the shoe men and some of the rest?" asked Senator Reed, Democrat, of Missouri.

"Yes, yes," replied the New York senator, "but this trade is the one we are starting with. Coal is a necessity."

Senator Calder is chairman of the Senate reconstruction committee, which has investigated the coal trade, and which, it was announced today, will begin an inquiry next week into the lumber industry.

Senator Calder appeared before the committee to reply to the statements yesterday of former Gov. Curtis of Maine, that coal men favored the measure. He read several letters from coal men complaining about terms of the measure and others from consumers urging its enactment.

Senator Calder said: "The taxation provisions of the bill, upon which Gov. Curtis based his assertion, were drawn to drive coal direct from the coal mines to the retail dealers."

"We have found in investigating this subject," he said, "that coal has moved back and forth between dealers, accumulating in price by the profits and commission involved, and these tax provisions, which would take for the government ninety per cent of the commissions on resales, when they get above 5 cents a ton, are intended to tax this kind of business out of existence."

Senator Reed questioned the right of congress to use the taxation powers for such a purpose, and a long constitutional argument resulted.—Washington Star.

LATIN AMERICA HONORS MEMORY OF GEN. GORGAS

A Washington, D. C., dispatch, dated Jan. 16, says: Representatives from many nations gathered tonight in the hall of the Pan-American union to pay tribute to the late Maj. Gen. William C. Gorgas, former surgeon general of the United States army. Diplomats, prominent army and navy officers, members of congress, and other officials attended the exercises, held under the auspices of the Southern society of Washington, of which Gen. Gorgas was once president.

The ambassador of France; Maj.

Gen. H. K. Bethell, military attache of the British embassy; the ambassador of Peru, the ministers of Cuba and Ecuador; the charge d'affaires of Panama; the secretaries of war and navy; Dr. L. S. Rowe, director general of the Pan-American union; Maj. Gen. Peter C. Harris, and Dr. Clarence J. Owen, past president of the Southern society were the speakers.

Cablegrams of tribute were read from the presidents of Uruguay and Costa Rica and from the government of Colombia.

Congress will be asked to make appropriation for a suitable memorial to Gen. Gorgas, it was announced. Further honors will be paid to his memory by the presentation of a painting of him by the Southern society, to be placed in the library of

the surgeon general's office.

"Gorgas honored the United States, but his fame and his work now belong to the world," declared the minister of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Manuel de Cespedes.

"It was in Cuba where his brilliant career, so full of notable and useful achievements, reached that high point at which he ceased to be merely a distinguished servant of his own beloved country, to become a benefactor of all the human race."

After speaking of the sanitary work done by Gen. Gorgas in Ecuador, the minister from the country, Senor Rafael H. Elizalde, said:

"He came among us with outstretched hand and purity of purpose, winning our hearts. We are proud to owe a great national debt to him."

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