

CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

Republican Corruption In Pennsylvania.

Turns State's Evidence.

The Philadelphia North American Belabors Quay Gang.

PAPER AND WOOD PULP TRUSTS.

Editors Are Kicking Hard Against Them—Investigation of Lyman J. Gage For Favoritism in the Matter of Spoils—A Gigantic Piece of Republican Rascality—National Platform.

The average Republican, like Ephraim of old, is joined to his idols. He is "not in his ways" to a degree that disheartens reformers. He would not believe a Democrat though he arose from the dead to testify or though he descended from heaven to go upon the witness stand. But Republicans ought surely to believe each other, and I propose to quote from a rampant Republican paper, the Philadelphia North American, pious John Wanamaker's organ. It "turns state's evidence" and belabors the Quay gang of Republican buccanniers in the most ferocious style. No doubt it would be refreshing to have the opinion of the Quay contingent as to the honesty and patriotism of the Wanamaker outfit. However that may be, The North American, blatant Republican, has this self explanatory editorial:

The New York Press is anxious to have the Montana legislature, which disposed of the high priced seat in the senate now occupied by Mr. Clark, transported to Washington for exhibition purposes. It thinks the spectacle would be cheap if it cost \$500,000 instead of the estimated figure of \$1,000,000. "The sight of our lawmakers and senatorial makers," it remarks, "charged with selling their votes at \$10,000 apiece, with the confirmation of the charge in the sight of the actual \$40,000 offered and refused for four other votes, would be the most convincing evidence obtainable in perhaps a generation of the pass which election by legislature has reached. The reckless impetuosity of trusting the choice of so important an official as the United States senator has come to be the class of men which in most states now constitute the legislature would appear to the whole country with final penetration. The climax of bribery scandals and corrupt dealmaking would be capped."

Corruption in the second state in the Union, with one-twelfth of the entire population of the republic, the commonwealth of William Penn and Benjamin Franklin, the cradle of American independence and the nursery of the constitution of the United States, is a thing of national concern. Providence can be held responsible for anything if you only have enough brass and ingenuity, as is shown by the following delightful poem by Howard S. Taylor:

A CASE OF PROVIDENCE. Oh, squire! Lard, don't be so quick! I claim my rights, I've gwine to kick! I tells you plain right to yo' face De s'nt's no common chicken case; Jes' stop an use yo' common sense! Dis is er case ob Providence!

The meanest thing the imperialists have done is their labored effort to make Providence responsible for their mania for grabbing other people's lands. These American imperialists cut a sorry figure when placed alongside of that mighty imperialist Frederick the Great. He was honest in his land grabbing—that is, honest in assuming the responsibility. After he had gobbled up Silesia from Maria Theresa as a result of the Seven Years' war, one of his ministers undertook to demonstrate that that act of expansion was the will of God to further the ends of civilization. But when the name of God had been written Frederick roared: "Strike it out! Leave God out of that! Say I did it!" Frederick was one of the greatest soldiers that ever lived. He was much of a cynic. His enemies charged that he was an atheist, but the foregoing incident proves that the grim old fighter had more reverence for God than have the elegant hypocrites who try to unload their own sins upon their Creator.

That utterance contributed largely to his defeat. But, after all, was not Hancock correct? Is it not a local issue? In congress do not representatives and senators voice, or undertake to voice, the sentiments of their constituents on the tariff? True, there are great universal principles, philosophic and moral, underlying the question, ensly chief of which is this: "Has the government any right to take one man's money and give it to another, thereby impoverishing the one pro tanto and enriching the other?" That is the whole protective tariff problem in one sentence.

But I did not start out to write a thesis on the tariff, but to affirm a proposition which the giddy and unthinking will scout even more superciliously than they did General Hancock's theory, and it is this: "In its application the high protective issue is an individual question." It all depends on whose ox is gored whether a man favors it. Some persons are in a situation to make their opinions known, while others are not. For example, editors are most favorably situated of all our citizens for publicly expressing their private opinions and airing their individual grievances, and they generally take full advantage of their situation. I am not complaining of this; far from it. Au contraire, I congratulate them on their superior position and on having the courage to howl when anybody steps on their corns. I wish most fervently that all Americans had as good facilities as our editorial friends for making themselves heard. If that were the case, even the present Republican congress would be compelled to remodel and revise downward the Dingley bill of abominations, and, what's more, President McKinley, chief priest in the temple of high protection, would not dare to veto a tariff bill for revenue only or a free trade bill. Just now our editorial brethren are ululating about the paper trust, which is a daughter of the Dingley bill. They have abundant cause for kicking, and it must be said to their credit that they are kicking vigorously. They can give cards and spades to the most lusty mule in the land at his favorite game and beat him. Wherefore? Simply because their ox is gored.

Tax on Intelligence. Dr. W. N. Graham, business manager of the Sedalia (Mo.) Evening Democrat, says to me in a private letter: "Early in September, 1899, we bought a cartload of news print at \$1.85, f. o. b., Sedalia. Since that time paper has steadily advanced, till the best price the traveling salesman can offer us is now \$2.65 at the mill, and this price is subject to the approval of wholesale house or the mill, as all traveling men say prices are advancing every day. Freight rates from mills to this part of the world are 25 to 30 per hundred in cartload lots."

W. D. Thomas, editor of the Fulton (Mo.) Sun, after editorially reviewing the splendid fight his paper has made for a year against trusts in general, comes down to business handsomely and says:

While our fight one year ago was disinterested and unselfish, it is today a battle for our very life. When we began the fight, we saw no danger to our business, but today the great paper trust threatens to gobble up all the little printing plants, and our fight is now a fight for life, a battle in self defense. In 1899 the white paper The Sun was printed on cost us \$1,300. In 1900 the same paper (same ink and same amount) will cost us, at present prices, \$2,180, a difference of \$880 in the cost of one item, white paper. Type and inks have also advanced in price, and the wages to employees cannot be made any lower. The Sun is between the paper trust, the type trust and the machinery trust on one side and our subscribers on the other side. The Sun is between two trusts and the mill is grinding. If we charge only \$1 a year for The Sun in 1900 and the trusts hold the price of paper and type up, The Sun will be ground to powder. If our subscribers will give us a little fighting ground and one more year, we believe we can whip the trusts. The tariff of 50 per cent on paper has enabled the International Paper company, a trust, to advance the price of paper 30 per cent. This trust is incorporated for \$10,000,000 and controls 35 of the 38 paper mills in the United States.

Mr. Thomas truthfully adds: "A tax on paper is a tax on intelligence. The papers are the schools and libraries for the great masses of the people."

The two Missouri editors above named are Democrats. "There are others," and lots of them, kicking, among whom are divers and sundry Republican editors, for "their ox is gored" even unto death. The average editor must raise his subscription price or go to the wall. But to increase his subscription rate is merely to transfer the blackmail levied by the trust from the shoulders of the editor to the shoulders of his readers, which is the old and condemned performance of "robbing Peter to pay Paul." The remedy is to "bust the trust," thus at one blow liberating both editor and subscriber from the hands of highway robbers. Consequently I have prepared and will introduce Jan. 3, 1900, a bill to place white print paper, wood pulp and all the materials used in manufacturing the same upon the free list.

This paper and wood pulp trust is not a particle worse than hundreds of other trusts, such as the tobacco trust, the wire and nail trust, the glass trust, etc., ad nauseam et ad infinitum. Why, then, do I begin on the paper and wood pulp trust? Simply and frankly because the chances are that the editorial fraternity of America may be able to persuade enough Republican representatives to vote for my bill to carry it through. It's a good place to begin. Self preservation is the first law of nature, and a Republican editor has no more relish for being ruined and driven out of business for the benefit of a trust than has his Democratic brother.

Lyman to Be Investigated. It is awful to think of Lyman J. Gage to be investigated by congress—that is, if the Philadelphia North American (Republican) is to be believed and if the proceedings do not hang fire. Inter alia that paper says: Representative Gaines of Tennessee will ask for information, and Representative De Graffenreid of Texas will offer a resolution providing for the

appointment of a committee for the purpose of investigating the subject and reporting to congress the relationship that exists between the City National bank of New York and the treasury department at Washington and whether any of the officers of the federal government are interested in the City National bank, either as stockholders or otherwise. The assertion that Secretary Gage will immediately after the expiration of his term of office identify himself with the national banking interests of Washington and whether any of the officers of the federal government are interested in the City National bank, either as stockholders or otherwise, has aroused the interest of politicians in Washington. Now, if Lyman cannot be permitted to give the free use of \$300,000,000 per annum of government money to his pet bank and cannot subsequently become president of that bank, varying the immortal question of Web Flannagan of Texas on a celebrated question to suit the exigencies of Lyman's case, "What in the deuce is he here for?"

Rash Seekers After Truth. I date on Gaines of Tennessee and De Graffenreid of Texas, but they are innocent as "the babes in the wood." First thing they know they will be pilloried as pestiferous traitors by all the administration organ grinders who believe that "a public office is a private snap" and will find themselves in lock on a charge of leze majesty. They had better let up, haul in their horns, crawlish, retreat, cut and run, skeddadle, or they are liable to become persons non grata to the powers that be. If they persist in their patriotic purpose of standing up for the rights of the plain people and are so rash as to ask for information touching Lyman's astounding caper, especially of finding out "whether any of the officers of the federal government are interested in the City National bank, either as stockholders or otherwise," they need not be surprised if they are kidnaped and placed in durance vile during their natural lives, as were "The Man in the Iron Mask" and "The Prisoner of Chillon." If they do not desist from this inconveniently and impertinently meddling with Lyman's stupendous plans, among future generations the old question, "Who struck William Patterson?" will be superseded by the more puzzling and enigmatical query, "What became of John Wesley Gaines of Tennessee and R. C. De Graffenreid of Texas after they came into juxtaposition with Lyman's buzzsaw?" Gaines and De Graffenreid are young, able, courageous, patriotic and faithful to their country and their kind, but they should be warned by the untoward fate of the late Mrs. Bluebird and be cured of the disease of overinquisitiveness. They are inviting annihilation and oblivion by trying to uncover this latest and most gigantic piece of Republican deviltry. That New York bank which is to enjoy the usufruct of Uncle Sam's \$300,000,000 will probably make over \$1,500,000 annually out of Lyman's favoritism, and it is liable to expend a quantum sufficient of that amount to kill off such obnoxious congressional agitators and rash seekers after truth as Gaines and De Graffenreid.

Being their sworn friend, entertaining the highest regard for their shining talents and splendid personalities, I have studied their case carefully and prayerfully, and I see only one faint ray of hope for their safety, and it is this: The North American says that the news of Lyman's unprecedented largess to that New York bank "has aroused the interest of politicians in Washington." Now, it is possible—barely possible—that that amazing bit of news may also "arouse the interest of" somebody else—to wit, the numerous national banks who do not get any of Lyman's swag. Mark Twain once sagely remarked that "we all have a heap of human nature in us." National banks who are not in on the ground floor of Lyman's scheme may exhibit a modicum of this same human nature, may get on their ears and may also clamor for "information," don't you know? In which case Gaines of Tennessee and De Graffenreid of Texas may survive the wrath of Lyman. In the multiplicity of victims they may escape the destroyer—a consummation devoutly to be wished—but if Lyman can furnish all the national banks their portion of swag Gaines and De Graffenreid are gone fawnskins. Nons verons.

Dry Conventions. Philadelphia has captured the Republican national convention, and Kansas City will bag the Democratic. In all human probability they will be the two driest and dullest conventions ever held by the great parties. The presidential candidates, Bryan and McKinley, are already selected, unless death intervenes. The platforms are practically settled in advance. Nothing remains, therefore, except a small contention as to vice presidential candidates. National conventions usually are productive of some splendid oratory, but even this will be wanting, for an orator might as well undertake to thrill his audience with a thesis on the uses of the grindstone as on who shall be the tailpiece on either ticket. As to the Democratic V. P., I hope he will be sufficiently eminent as not to compel us to go on a voyage of discovery to ascertain who and what he is, as we did in 1896. New York is the mother of vice presidents. This load of poles she has three Republican candidates—Root, Bliss and Woodruff. On dit that Mark Hanna (Warwick) has picked Root (christened Ellihu) and that Woodruff of the gorgeous and multifarious waistcoat is in the dumps. Bliss is playing a waiting game. If the Democrats should go east for a candidate, perhaps Hon. William Sulzer of New York would cobbler the plum. He is a genuine, able, simple pure Democrat who has the courage of his convictions. He thinks New York can be carried for Bryan and Democracy. His faith is strong. I hope it is not misplaced.

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CLIPPINGS

GOT ITS CHOICE.

The Nebraska Independent took time by the forelock last week and secured over 1,000 letters from the fusion people over the state endorsing Senator Allen for the senatorial vacancy which was filled by the appointment of the man of its choice.—Nebraska Homestead.

BRIBED THE COURTS.

No man will pretend that the millions of the Goulds and Vanderbilts were honest labor products. They were obtained by "watering stocks" of railroad and telegraph lines, and making the multitude pay interest on capital that never existed. To enforce these robberies they bribed the courts and bought up legislatures, and to tried public opinion through the bir-line newspaper, and demoralized the whole country, until they have brought the republic to the verge of destruction.—The Representative.

JUST TAXATION.

Men should be taxed, not according to their ability to pay, but in proportion to the benefits which they derive from the government which is maintained by the taxes they pay. Surely the man who has \$100,000 worth of property to protect, whether it be land or bonds or money, should pay more taxes than the man who has but \$1,000 worth; and he, in turn, should pay more than the man who has nothing.

The rich are the principal beneficiaries of government. If it was abolished the poor would have little to steal, and their strong arms would be fully able to protect what they had. But the rich would have to hire an army to defend their possessions from the hungry multitude; in other words, to take the place of the police officers, courts, juries, and troops which now protect them.

Therefore a proposition to relieve accumulated wealth, not invested in land, of all taxation and pile it on the owners of real estate, and then tell the masses to make their homes on the land and pay the taxes taken off the shoulders of the money lenders, the usurers, the bondholders, the railroads, the merchants, the speculators, etc., etc., is a proposition too gross and horrible to be considered for an instant.

The wealth of the country is pushing this single tax crusade. They have been encouraged, by past political events, to believe that the mass of the people are irredeemable fools, and that they can be deceived into shouldering the burdens of plutocracy, under the pretense that they can obtain homes.

And are they not justified when they remember that a few years ago the intelligent foreigners of Minnesota voted for an amendment to the constitution to deprive themselves of citizenship? All Wall street need not own as much land as one poor sheep raiser in Montana, with his ranch mortgaged to the eyeballs.—The Representative.

\$500 Reward.

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S. B. Hams, Attorney.

NOTICE TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS. State of Nebraska, Lancaster County—ss. In district court, Lancaster county, Nebraska, Albert L. Smith, Jr., vs. Gladys Smith. The defendant will take notice that on Tuesday January 3rd, 1900, between the hours of ten a. m. and six p. m., at the office of W. Scott Neal room 4, Pioneer building, in the city of Boise, county of Ada, state of Idaho, the plaintiff above named will take the deposition of G. H. Sinsel, a witness in this action to be used in evidence on the trial of the above entitled cause, with authority to adjourn from day to day until all such depositions have been taken. ALBERT L. SMITH, Jr., Plaintiff.

NOTICE.

Samuel B. Hams, Attorney. Charles P. Larsen non-resident defendant will take notice that on the 9th day of December, 1899, E. S. Spencer, a Justice of the Peace of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, issued an order of attachment for the sum of \$200.00 in an action pending before him, wherein Thomas McCallin is plaintiff and Charles P. Larsen defendant, that the property of the defendant consisting of one lot of horse collars, one lot of leather, one lot of patterns and one lot of machines for manufacturing horse collars, has been attached under said order. Said cause was continued to January 26, 1900 at 9 o'clock a. m. THOMAS H. McCALLIN, Plaintiff. Dated December 16, 1899. Jan 4th.

The Rock Island Wall Map of the United States.

is the best offered to the public. It is very large and especially adapted to school purposes. Every teacher of geography and every business office should have one. It will be sent postpaid to any address on receipt of fifteen cents in postage stamps or coin. Address, John Sebastian, G. P. A. Chicago, Ill.

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