

tian church have been at war with each other, for Hungary has been the eastern outpost of Protestantism as well as a champion of Christianity; and more recently Hungary has been fighting for her political independence. Hers has been a long, drawn-out struggle in which her people, time and again, have almost been exterminated, but she emerges from it all a strong, vigorous and militant nation. She is now a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and her people form the largest homogeneous group in the empire. When we consider the numerous wars between Austria and Hungary, the difference in race history and language, and the dissimilarity in political training, it is not strange that there should be a lack of harmony between the empire as a whole and its largest single member.

When Hungary turned to Austria for help against the Turks and came under the Hapsburg line, she insisted upon a recognition of her national rights and secured a promise that her people should have control of their own affairs. While this alliance did not save her from the Mohammedans, it united her destiny to that of Austria, but she has never surrendered her independence. The crown of Hungary has always been distinct from that of Austria, and the emperor of Austro-Hungary must visit Budapest and receive with the crown of St. Stephen the title of king of Hungary. Joseph II., son of the beloved Maria Theresa, was the first king to refuse to receive the crown and swear fidelity to the Hungarian constitution, and the Hungarians would never call him their "crowned king" until on his deathbed he retracted his arbitrary measures and permitted the restoration of the constitution.

In her struggle for liberty Hungary has developed many patriots, among whom Louis Kossuth is the best known. He and Francis Deak were the leaders of the revolution of 1848 which resulted in the constitution of that year. The constitution of 1867 was not quite so liberal, and these two constitutions form the basis of the present political division in Hungary; all Hungarians are jealous of the rights of their nation but the majority of the members of parliament insist upon the recognition of the constitution of 1848, while the minority are content to adhere to the constitution of 1867, which gives the emperor a larger control over the army.

The elder Kossuth lived in exile after the revolution of 1867 and was, during his exile, enthusiastically received in the United States by congress and by the people in general. Kossuth's son is now a member of the coalition ministry, and at a banquet to which I had the good fortune to be invited, spoke feelingly of the treatment which his father received in the United States and of the high regard felt by Hungarians for America and Americans. Count Apponyi, the foremost orator of Hungary also paid his respects to the United States and likened our country to the forwarding station in wireless telegraphy, saying that the political current was so strong in our country that its messages were carried to all the world.

I happened to be in Budapest at the opening of parliament and heard the speech of the new premier, Dr. Wekerle. The independence party has a large majority in the parliament, having shown increasing strength at each successive election. The emperor, Francis Joseph, is resisting one of the demands made by the Hungarians, viz., that the army shall use the Hungarian language instead of the German language. Some years ago the fight was made and won for the use of the Hungarian language in schools, in the courts and in parliament, and the Hungarians feel that their nationality is endangered by the fact that their army is taught only the German words of command. The emperor takes the position that the use of the Hungarian language would destroy the unity of the imperial army. To prevent a rupture he proposed the formation of a coalition cabinet to hold until the suffrage could be extended and the question again submitted to the people. There is no doubt that the people are practically unanimous in favor of their own language and that an extension of the suffrage will not change the complexion of parliament. The relations between the emperor and Hungary have become very much strained, and the aversion to the German language is so pronounced that Hungarians who can speak the German language will often refuse to answer a question addressed to them in German. For Francis Joseph himself the Hungarians have a strong affection, and they would be glad to contribute to the happiness of his closing days, but they feel that the interests of their nation are vitally concerned and they are anxious to have the point at issue settled before a new sovereign ascends the throne. If the emperor were left to himself,

he would probably conclude that a Hungarian fighting force attached to the empire and grateful for consideration shown their country would form a more effective part of the joint army, even though the Hungarians spoke their own language, than troops compelled to learn a language hateful to them. History furnishes many examples of successful armies made of corps, divisions and regiments speaking different languages, but less numerous are the instances of nations successfully held together by force when one part of the empire was made subservient to the interests of another part. Hungary is being alienated by insistence upon requirements which do not in reality strengthen the empire while she might be drawn closer to the throne by a more liberal policy. The end is not yet.

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THE SHALLENBERGER BILL

A. C. Shallenberger, democratic and populist nominee for governor of Nebraska, while a member of congress introduced one measure bearing upon the great issues now before the people which measure at the time attracted widespread attention. This measure provided for the appointment of a commission to be known as the foreign and internal commerce commission. The bill further provided that corporations proposing to engage in interstate commerce should file a statement showing stock, liabilities, indebtedness, etc., and applying for authority to engage in interstate commerce, and the commission was not to be allowed to grant such authority if the statement shows any watered stock or if the corporation is attempting to monopolize or control the manufacture, product, sale or transportation of any article of trade or merchandise. The president was authorized, upon the recommendation of this commission, to suspend wholly or partially for such time as he may direct, the collection of import dues on such articles as compete with articles produced by any corporation which is attempting to monopolize an industry. If any official of a corporation or member of an association of individuals is guilty of perjury in making the statements provided for in the bill he was to be subject to the penalties provided for perjury. All corporations attempting to engage in interstate commerce without first complying with the conditions of the act and obtaining a license from the commission were to be required to pay a tax of ten per cent on the capital stock issued and outstanding, and the same annual tax was to be levied upon all stock issued in excess of the actual money invested in the enterprise.

Writing in *The Commoner* of February 6, 1903, Mr. Bryan referred to the Shallenberger measure as "a bill which more nearly than any other measure that has been brought to the editor's attention carries out the Kansas City platform plan." Mr. Bryan added: "The Shallenberger bill places the entire matter of interstate commerce under the control of the commission to be created. Corporations organized for the purpose of engaging in a purely state industry are not at all interfered with or embarrassed, but a corporation organized to engage in interstate commerce must secure a license before going outside of the state of its origin. The attempt to engage in interstate commerce might be more accurately defined as the use, or attempted use, of railroads, telegraph lines or the mails for any business outside of the state in which the corporation is created. This bill does not interfere with the right of the state to create any corporation it needs for its own use, but it makes it impossible for a state to convert itself into a den of thieves and organize great industrial combinations to prey upon the rest of the country. The bill ought to provide that the license issued by the commission is not to interfere with the right of every state to regulate foreign corporations doing business in the state. The license contemplated is simply a license that permits the state corporation to engage in interstate commerce—it can not leave the state of its origin without obtaining this license—but when the license is obtained it does not protect the corporation, or should not, from the laws deemed necessary by any state for the protection of its own people. In other words, the federal remedy should be added to the state remedy, not substituted for it. The bill ought to go a little farther in the way of penalties. The tax to be collected is all right, but there should be a criminal penalty imposed upon any corporation official who attempts to engage in interstate commerce before the license is obtained, or who in any way takes part in the issue of watered stock. The bill should also provide for the revocation of the license by the commission whenever the corpora-

tion violates the conditions upon which the license was granted, and when the license is revoked the interstate business of the corporation must be suspended until a new license is issued. The Shallenberger bill is sound in principle and would be effective in practice. Instead of compelling the government to search the country for violations of the law it would compel the corporations to seek the government and obtain a license before engaging in business. The system proposed by the bill is similar to the license system now in operation, but much more easily enforced. If the government attempted to collect a tax from each liquor dealer after he had sold liquor, or attempted to enforce provisions against persons who sold without first requiring a license, it would find its task a very difficult one. But when it requires the payment of the license fee in advance the work becomes much easier. In the case of a corporation it could not do much interstate business without being detected. Under such a law it would be impossible for a corporation to do any real harm without the fact coming to the knowledge of the government."

A SPLENDID PLAN

One plank of the Texas democratic platform demands the establishment of a state department of agriculture, and adequate agricultural equipment for the various institutions of learning in order that industrial thought in the schools may be encouraged by teaching the elements of agriculture and the industrial arts. The plank is a good one. The establishment of agricultural schools should be encouraged in every possible way. Minnesota and Nebraska are two splendid examples of what may be done for the development of agriculture and kindred pursuits by the maintenance of good state agricultural colleges. Nebraska is just beginning to realize upon her investment in a great state agricultural college. The number of students increases each year, and the result is an awakening of interest in farm pursuits, the interesting of boys and girls in agriculture, better methods of farming and consequent increase in the returns from the soil. If a state agricultural experiment station can produce seed corn that will withstand early spring conditions one week longer than the average, and cure one week earlier in the fall than the average, that one result alone will more than repay all the money spent in experimental work in a decade. If the expenditure of \$1,000,000 will breed a new species of wheat averaging one more kernel to the head, the investment will be immensely profitable. And if a well conducted agricultural school induces the rising generation to stick to the farms instead of flocking to the already over-crowded cities, its cost will be a mere bagatelle compared with resultant benefits. Texans are to be congratulated upon their determination to establish agricultural schools. The Minnesota agricultural school has made Minnesota the greatest dairying state in the union. The Iowa agricultural college has caused Iowa to run Minnesota a close second, if not to a "tie." Nebraska, the youngest of the three, is coming along third with prospects of getting into the bunch at the wire. And every dollar expended by these three great states in the conduct of agricultural colleges has already been returned an hundred fold.

FAVOR TO AMERICAN INDUSTRY

The republican administration bought for the Panama canal two American ships of 5,700 tons each for \$1,300,000 when it was offered two foreign ships of 6,000 tons each for \$750,000.

The republican administration awarded to the American Steel company the contract for two dredges at \$362,000 each when a foreign concern had offered to build these two dredges for \$70,000 less.

We are told that this was done by way of showing favor to American industry.

But when the government finds it necessary to purchase an amount of silver for small coin, the republican secretary of the treasury adopts unheard of methods in order to prevent silver, a great American commodity, from obtaining common advantages resulting from an increased demand.

THE FACT

The Minneapolis Journal says The Commoner wants to bet that the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased since 1896. The Journal seems to take a delight in being consistently wrong. The Commoner does not want to bet, will not bet, does not countenance betting and advises against betting. But the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased since 1896.