

trust made a demand that they, by a new construction of the law, should be made to pay a heavy tariff. It was done, for the officers of the government have learned by long experience that what a trust wants it must have. The shoe manufacturers and other trades that use sheep skins raised a big howl. They didn't believe that the foreigner paid the tax. But so far, the new interpretation stands, for the trusts must always have what they ask for. The meat trust will make a few millions more this year on account of this tariff on pickled sheep skins.

The tobacco trust had a little scheme. It wanted a very conspicuous label in different color from the ordinary revenue stamp put on every imported box of cigars. It gathered in all the tobacco plantations in Cuba before the treaty was ratified, the senate putting off the ratification until the trust had things fixed, so as to absolutely control the tobacco industry in that island. The American manufacturers went to the custom house authorities and put up the argument that their infant industry ought to be protected and said that if that revenue stamp was of the same color as the domestic stamp, and put on the bottom of the box instead of the top, the American tobacco grower and manufacturer would be benefited. That was done. Then the trust descended on Washington in its might and this time Teddy was able to make a compromise. He ordered the stamp on imported goods to be of a different color, but it should be put on the bottom of the box. The trust is not satisfied and it will not be long until that stamp will be back on the top of the box.

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN."

Those who have apologized for Mr. Bryan's support of Parker have repeatedly said that had he boited the St. Louis convention he would have stood alone. That is a debatable question. So far as the leaders of his party are concerned he might have stood alone or nearly so. But so far as the great body of his party are concerned, the campaign is proving every day that he would have rallied about his standard an army of reformers that would have proved a terror to plutocracy. The evidence of this fact is the tremendous following that even the Watson and Tibbles ticket has gathered. What that following might have been with Bryan's assistance who can tell? The people's party itself would have been glad to welcome Bryan and his tremendous following. It would have thereby organized a movement of tremendous force, and though it might not have been successful this year, its momentum would have proved so great as to sweep all before it in 1905.

Even on the "low ground of expediency," that Mr. Bryan so frequently mentioned, the advantage to him would have been great. It is a safe guess to say that the subscription list to The Commoner would have doubled. Everybody would have been anxious to read what he had to say. People who never did and do not now read it, would have waited breathlessly for every issue. In addition to this the state of Nebraska would have been swept clean by the Watson and Tibbles ticket, and no man in the state under those circumstances could have stepped before Mr. Bryan in achieving the toga of the United States senatorship. His power and influence would have increased a hundredfold. His old following would have seen new cause for their enthusiastic support of him, and those who formerly scoffed (by such a demonstration of loyalty to principle above party on his part), would have been shamed into silence.

As it is his old following have lost heart, and he has gained no recruits from the other side. The immense crowds that formerly flocked to hear him are this year conspicuous by their absence. His splendid eloquence in former campaigns, when he pleaded for justice and appealed to the moral nature of his hearers, is now chilled with the blight of Parkeritis. His eloquent tongue is paralyzed with Clevelandism, and his magnetic control of the multitudes has disappeared. In the face of these facts he stands before the country today in the most embarrassing position of any man in public life.

No one who knows Mr. Bryan will ever say that he has either been bribed by or that he has compromised in any way with plutocracy. There is just one reason why he stands where he does today. That is that he still hopes to secure control of the democratic party and swing it again into the path of reform. He will fail utterly. Should Parker be elected what hope may Bryan and his friends have for control of that organization? They will repudi-

ate him absolutely. They know that he is honest and incorruptible and that is not the kind of a man they want. If Parker should be defeated the blame will rest upon Bryan. If Parker is successful Bryan will get nothing, not even a chance to "re-organize" his party. If Parker is defeated Bryan will be cursed with it.

There are many things in this campaign that indicate much the same condition of things that existed in 1892. In that year there was comparatively a good degree of prosperity. Nobody doubted Harrison's re-election. Everything went on smoothly, and when the votes were counted—well, Harrison was swept off the political map.

Now there was a reason for all of this. The protective tariff nonsense had been carried to the point where it was about to precipitate a condition of depression and hard times. Those who were in favor of the protective tariff graft, saw what was coming. They knew that if their graft was to continue much longer they must change their tactics. So they made a very adroit feint that took the people off their feet. It was to allow Cleveland to be elected—in fact to contribute to his election—and then when the hard times should come, they could say to the people "We told you so," and thereby easily secure a re-enactment of tariff grafting. Everybody of intelligence knows that the panic of 1893 was not caused by "free trade" nor even by a reduction of the tariff, because the McKinley bill of 1890 was then in effect, and was not even interfered with until the panic was about over. That is to say that during nearly the entire time of the panic the McKinley law was in full swing.

Now this is just exactly what is threatening in this campaign. This ridiculous tariff policy of the republican party has been in operation sufficiently long. It is reaching the point where it is about to prove the absurd economic principles upon which it is based. Its beneficiaries know this, and they also now that if the republican party should at that time be in control of the government, they will not then be able to say "I told you so." They know that their tariff policy will be held responsible. So the chances are that those in control, being sure that Parker is right for them on the money question (so that they need not fear on that score) and that there can be no interference with the tariff, will probably allow his election in order to again load upon the back of this poor democratic donkey the blame of hard times on account of the treated "free trade." They will then secure a new lease on the tariff graft. And the poor donkey seems disposed to trot along and bite at the bait. The result will be that it will bear the blame of the catastrophe of hard times that are bound to come, and then the republicans will again sweep the country in order to "restore prosperity and the tariff" as was the case in 1893. Under those circumstances we may again see the campaign of 1896 fought over again with the same humiliating defeat of Mr. Bryan. When that time comes he will discover the mistake he made in 1904, and reflect upon the word, "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"—Q.

HEART-BREAKING TOIL.

It is strange how a plutocratic environment will blind the eyes, distort the soul and destroy the reason of the well-educated and the cultured. Recently there appeared in a review an article deploring the sad condition of college educated women who married poor men and had to wash and sew and do housework. The Springfield Republican in commenting on the article says:

"In England the burden is simply shifted. The poor clergyman's wife dives dismally and pays starvation wages to the servants demanded by standards of gentility. The American woman has a better house and better food and pays for them by a heart-breaking toil that destroys vitality and often ruins health. Both are the victims of false social standards."

Is there nothing false and wrong about this condition besides "social standards?" Is it not rather false theories of government? There is enough wealth in this land and England too, to give comfort, freedom and happiness to every woman without a necessity of driving her to a toil "that destroys vitality and ruins health."

These women are not victims of social standards but of government, which, through the granting of special privileges enables a few to accumulate all the proceeds of education, science and invention, leaving

the noblest of the race to be crushed with conditions that make it impossible to escape "heart-breaking" toil during any portion of their lives, while another portion of the race become degenerates because they never work at all.

THAT GREAT SCOUNDREL.

The greater the scoundrel the more the republican dailies will press him upon the people as a statesman, a patriot and a philanthropist. No greater scoundrel ever held a seat in the United States senate than Aldrich of Rhode Island. He is as much a boss of the United States senate as Murphy is of Tammany. Not a word is ever allowed to appear in any of the great papers truly descriptive of him, but he is always depicted as a statesman. The people of Rhode Island assembled in a convention the other day and presented in a resolution the following photograph of him:

"This is senatorial year and the senior senator awakes to the fact that there is a state of Rhode Island, drops his duty as 'general manager of the United States' for a time and comes back to this state in order to insure his re-election to the senate and to be able more strongly to fasten the hold of the trusts upon the people of this country. Every known corrupt and coercive agency is to be set to work for his return, and it is the imperative duty of every right-minded citizen in this state by his vote and by his influence to prevent it. His tolerance of the existence of the present conditions which, if he cared anything for the state, it were easily possible for him to change, proves that the best interests of the state will not be subserved by his re-election. He has simply used his power as a senator of the United States and the citizens of the republican party in this state for the enactment of laws in favor of the quasi-public corporations for his own emolument and aggrandizement."

DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANTS.

If it had not been for the effective assistance given at critical moments to the democratic party by the republican party, the democratic party would long since have been numbered among the things of the dead past. It was such assistance that enabled Grover Cleveland to secure the presidency. The republicans rendered the same sort of aid to the democrats that gold democrats did to the republicans and the parties engaged in it received the same rewards. These republicans were known as "mugwumps."

When Grover Cleveland reached the white house, he received the most active assistance from every leading republican United States senator and scores of the republicans in the house. But the most vital assistance the republicans have ever rendered the democrats has been given within the last year or two, through the republican daily press. Over a year ago, the republican dailies began to give more space to the interest of the democratic party than it did to its own organization. The democratic candidate for the presidency, as every one knows who reads the daily papers, was given more prominence and more eulogies were printed concerning him than appeared in the support of the republican candidate. For weeks at a time, Parker was constantly kept before the people through eulogistic articles and Roosevelt was hardly mentioned. That sort of assistance is continued even now in the middle of the campaign and Parker is given as much prominence in the republican papers as Roosevelt.

About a year ago there was a necessity on the part of the democratic party to develop some sort of a leader. The orders from Wall street were that this time it must have both candidates and that meant the renunciation of the leadership of Bryan. Gorman was chosen as the leader of this reorganized democracy. Immediately the republican press began to tell what a great man Gorman was. Gorman was the genuine statesman, the astute political manager, the heroic, the gallant, the wise man. He was to get the fragments of the democratic party together and direct them as a general did an army. For months the republican dailies kept Gorman before the people. The republicans did their best to build up a leadership for the reorganized democracy. They gave all the assistance to the democratic party that was in their power.

Here is another funny thing. During all that time the republicans have been denouncing the populists as democratic assistants, while they have been the ones that have been in the "assistant" business. The fact is, the republican and democratic parties are assistants to each other, and like a

AK-SAR-BEN.

The symbolic word and the meaning of it brings forth our tenderest and at the same time most aggressive feelings. The enterprise, daring and dash that are behind the name applies with equal force to the

Bankers Reserve Life Company of Omaha, a financial enterprise which has grown from infancy to a young giant during the period that Ak-Sar-Ben has made famous this fair city and state. The able, aggressive managers of the company with pride remind Nebraskans that the present business of the company amounts to \$100,000 preferred insurance written every week. The premium receipts exceed \$1,000 daily.

The company has the finest insurance offices in the city—now occupies the entire second floor of the Ware block, 15th and Farnam streets, having entirely outgrown its former quarters. The company is operating in fifteen states and territories and has about \$10,000,000 of old line insurance in force.

The new policies are meeting with universal favor with agents and the insuring public.

The Twentieth Century Policy, a guaranteed dividend contract, is the most liberal, attractive and yet conservative policy that has ever been devised by any company.

A cordial invitation is extended by the president to the citizens of Omaha, as well as those residing elsewhere in the state, also to strangers and policy holders, to visit the home offices and get acquainted with the management.

The Bee is informed that many first-class insurance men are joining the able field staff of the company, being attracted by the aggressive management, also the liberal policies and plans offered by the company.

man and his wife quarreling, they both get into a great rage if any one else even indirectly assists either one of them.

DISREGARD OF LAW.

An Omaha correspondent calls timely attention to the disregard of law upon the point of railroads and other powerful interests. The incident calling forth these comments was the laying of tracks by a railroad company in Omaha upon streets to which it had no title. The work was done on Sunday and unexpectedly in order to prevent any court injunction or other interference. The strong point well set forth by the correspondent is that powerful business concerns will set their employes directly to violate law, so long as other interests alone must suffer. They do not see that they are teaching their employes a system that may and sometimes does rebound to their own injury. An employer who imagines that an employe will be true to him, if he teaches that employe to be untrue to others, is a shortsighted employer. "The villainy you teach me I will execute and it shall go hard, but I will better the instruction."

A bookkeeper, who is directed by the corporation to make false entries to deceive public inspectors, will eventually make false entries to protect himself. A salesman who is instructed to misrepresent goods over the counter will finally misrepresent things to his instructor. It is a deserved retribution. When we teach one the rules of lying and deception, trickery and fraud, what assurance have we that they may not practice these on us? A clerk for a Chicago concern had stolen some few hundred dollars, and covered up the theft by false entries. His employers upon the discovery hounded him to the penitentiary. It was proven that this clerk had been in their employ from childhood, and that he had been taught just such tricks when it came to dealing with the public. Governor Altgeld gallantly pardoned the young man upon the ground that it was his instructors who should have been condemned. It is vain to suppose that any employe will in the long run be true to his employer, if that employer teaches him the art of deceiving others.