

The most magnificent thing Jay Gould ever did was to become the father of Helen.

Has it occurred to you that that \$40,000,000 is just about half a dollar apiece for each of us?

If popular songs are a remedy for insanity, the theory that "like cures like" may be considered established.

It is not true that Mr. Kipling is now writing another poem about Adam-Zad, the bear that runs like a deer.

Brazil is so pleased with the sample battles put up by Peru that it is sending out troops to fight a few more of them.

No word has been heard from the perfect wife in Pennsylvania as to whether or not she has that kind of a husband.

The New Jersey judge who has decided that boys are worth twice as much as girls ought to see some of the girls we know.

Boston reads that the Russians at Mukden are living entirely on beans, and believes that war is not so bad as it has been painted.

"Smoke," says the Scientific American, "means simply wasted fuel," but the man enjoying the luxury of a good cigar knows better.

It would be like the beef trust to explain that the worry and expense of being investigated will necessitate another increase of prices.

London has a hospital where women are trained as nurses for dogs. This is throwing physic to the dogs literally as well as figuratively.

The supreme court has decided that a man has the right to keep his mother-in-law out of his house. But how many men will dare to exercise their right?

If some enterprising man could get the monopoly of furnishing chewing gum to baseball players, it seems as if he would be right on the road to wealth.

It looks as though the discovery and publication of Herbert Spencer's letters were going to become quite as flourishing as the printing of letters of Carlyle.

The noble marquis who recently became a father at the age of 81 is dead. He was probably unable to stand the strain put upon him by his heir at night.

A farmer in Oregon township, Lucas county, returned for taxation every cent's worth of property he had. He got enormous headlines in the Toledo papers.

Miss Lottie Dodd is now woman golf champion of England. From Rhona Adair to Lottie Dod is quite a slump, euphonically; but here's luck to Lottie, anyway!

Clara Morris is talking a good deal now about the joys of old age as she finds them in her experience—a good deal more, we fancy, than she will when she is really old.

Wedded sixty-seven years, an aged husband and wife of Bennington, Vt., died on the same day and were buried together. Not even Robert G. Ingersoll could see a mistake there.

A crank journeyed to Miss Helen M. Gould's home to marry her. He was arrested, not for his commendable intentions, but for not realizing the obstacles that were to be overcome.

King Peter of Servia is preparing to have himself crowned June 15. He will do well to have a high fence built around the place where the crowning is done, with a trusty man at the gate.

The government experts say that the number of radio-active minerals is much larger than is generally supposed. There's the silver dollar, for instance. It displays great activity in getting away.

That Pennsylvania man who hunted two years before finding a woman who came up to his ideals might have hard work to show that he came up to the ideals of all the ladies whom he failed to approve.

Susan B. Anthony recently testified in a will case that married women know nothing about handling money. Miss Anthony evidently doesn't believe all these stories about women and the trousers pockets.

A London doctor has figured it out that tall homes, such as apartment houses, have caused a reduction in the size of the heads of children and made them less intelligent. This does not strike one as a ground-floor opinion.

Probably the young woman of Brad-dock, Pa., who dislocated her elbow trying to button her shirtwaists, suffers more from the notoriety than from the accident itself. The accounts agree that she was going to wear a shirtwaist to a reception.

THAT COAL TRUST

INQUIRY OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

THOMAS FIXES PRICE OF COAL

Says He Would Make Cost More Than it is if He Could—What Fixes the Price and How Far the Public Are Willing to Pay the Same.

NEW YORK—President Thomas of the Lehigh Valley road, in his testimony before the interstate commerce commission, which is conducting an inquiry into the alleged coal trust, said that he fixed the price of the coal of the Lehigh Valley Coal company that is sold at tidewater. Asked if it was not a fact that according to his answers it was quite possible the public had to pay what all the railroads demanded and not what any one railroad demanded, Mr. Thomas said: "You don't believe that any more than I do; nobody believes that in a country of free men a necessary commodity would be kept from them by unfair prices."

Mr. Thomas said that he conferred with President Baer of the Reading and other railroad officials before issuing the circular of prices to prevail beginning April 1, but denied that any agreement was made regarding prices. "I made no concealment of what I was going to do," he said. "Nor did they conceal anything."

"Would you raise the Lehigh Valley's price if you thought you could get the increase?" he was asked.

"Yes, sir; I would."

"Do you think you could maintain an advanced price if your competitors did not follow suit?"

"No, sir; I do not."

In reply to questions by Commissioner Prouty, Mr. Thomas said it would be impossible arbitrarily to fix the price of coal.

"What determines the price if the railroads do not fix it?" Commissioner Prouty asked.

"The willingness of the public to pay the price and the ability of the railroad to produce it at that price?"

President Thomas said there could be no reduction from present prices because of commercial conditions, and when Commissioner Prouty asked him to define those conditions he said that interference of politicians caused the big strike; the arbitration commission immediately imposed obligations upon producing interests; the mines were growing deeper and more expensive to operate and maintain; all grades of labor were at higher wages. These were but a few of the general conditions.

Local conditions, he said, in the aggregate seem to have increased the expense of operating. To Commissioner Clements, Mr. Thomas said there had been no change by any railroad from the circular prices because the conditions of trade had not warranted it. He said that reduction in tidewater prices would mean a reduction in miners' wages, according to the terms of the decision of the arbitration commission.

OVER A QUARTER OF MILLION.

Number of Persons in the Employ of the Government.

WASHINGTON.—A bulletin was issued by the census bureau Wednesday which gives the total number of employes in the executive and civil service of the United States as 150,383. These figures include only those employes who are required to take an examination. About 85,000 postmasters are excluded, as are about 15,000 employes at small salaries in the field branches of the war department, about 16,000 employes at navy yards, who are classified, but appointed under navy yard regulations, and a few thousand in other parts of the service.

Of the 150,383 given, 25,675 are employed in the District of Columbia; 137,016 are males, 135,575 are native born, and 102,431 are engaged in clerical work.

RUSSIANS MASSING TROOPS.

Armies Are Being Concentrated Around Liao Yang.

LONDON—The New Chwang correspondent of the Daily Mail, in a dispatch dated May 23, says that coincident with the Japanese advance in the direction of Liao Yang there has been a concentration of all the available Russian troops between Liao Yang and Mo Tien pass, and that the fortifications of Liao Yang are being feverishly hurried. The railway between Tatschitsia and Liao Yang is still intact, but every preparation has been made for its immediate destruction in the event of the necessity for a retreat to Mukden.

The correspondent says that under cover of a continuous naval patrol, secret landings are in progress on the coast of the Liao Tung peninsula.

UPON CONCLUSION OF THE WAR.

PARIS—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says: "I am able to affirm that Russia is preparing to mobilize 2,000,000 soldiers in Europe on conclusion of the war with Japan. Foreign Minister Lamsdorf has informed several members of the diplomatic corps that he was uneasy on the subject of China. Russia, he said, had adhered unreservedly to the terms of Secretary Hay's note, but if China should violate, or permit the violation of, neutrality, Russia would act."

JAPS CAPTURE KIN CHOU.

Said to Have Stormed the Place to Get Possession.

LONDON—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio says the Japanese have stormed and captured the town of Kin Chou, about thirty-two miles north of Port Arthur.

In an earlier message the Tokio correspondent of the Central News cabled that Japanese spies had ascertained that the Russians had thirty guns at Kin Chou and numerous mines and wire entanglements at all points where a Japanese attack was expected.

The correspondent of the Central News at Tokio cables that the Japanese attacked Nan Qwan Ling on the narrowest path of the Kwan Tung peninsula yesterday and drove back the Russians by main force.

The attack on Kin Chou, the dispatch adds, was begun at dawn today, and by noon Kin Chou was in the hands of the Japanese, who occupied the castle.

The fighting continued during the afternoon and was of the most desperate character.

BRYAN SAYS NO COMPROMISE.

Emphasizes the Fact that There is No Middle Ground.

DALLAS, Tex.—In an interview given aboard the train between Parsons, Kan. and Dennison, Tex., William J. Bryan stated to a staff correspondent of the News that there was no middle ground on which the opposing factions of the democratic party could compromise. He emphasized the statement: "They cannot go together," saying: "You might as well start two men out from the same point in opposite directions and expect them to go together."

Asked as to whether he would abide the result at St. Louis he said: "Things have not developed far enough to tell. No one can answer such a question intelligently until a platform and a candidate are known."

He also criticized Judge Parker's silence.

COME WEST FOR CHANCELLOR.

Takes President of Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PITTSBURG, Pa.—Dr. Samuel Black McCormick, president of Coe college, Cedar Rapids, Ia., has been elected chancellor of the Western university of Pennsylvania. Dr. McCormick is a trustee of Bellevue college, Omaha, and president of the board of trustees of the Theological Seminary of Nebraska, at Omaha. He was born at Irving, Pa., in 1858, and received his education in western Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the bar in Allegheny county and practiced law here. Later he studied theology. It is believed he will accept the position here, as he had been advised by the trustees that he would be elected.

FOUR MEN KILLED IN STORM.

SPALDING, Neb.—Four deaths have resulted from a storm in this vicinity Tuesday. John Pollard, 20 years of age, and Edward Benhamton, aged 20, lost their lives by driving into a wash-out in Freeman creek. The body of the latter has been recovered, but search continues for the former. Pollard was a married man and came here from Schuyler two years ago, having purchased the Charles Meehan place. His companion was attending school in Spaulding. Benhamton have a mother living in Omaha.

LOOKS INTO CATTLE RATES.

DENVER, Colo.—The cattle growers' interstate executive committee received word that the interstate commerce commission had issued an order to proceed of its own motion to investigate the freight rate situation and the service of railroads in live stock shipments in the west and northwest. The hearing will be held in Denver, but the exact date has not been fixed.

NUNCIO READY TO GO.

PARIS—According to reliable information, the vatican authorities have instructed Monsignor Lorenzelli, the nuncio at Paris, to leave Paris if he is able to foresee from the discussion in the chamber of deputies of the difficulties between the vatican and France that it is the intention of the government to give him his passports.

CAME NEAR BEING SERIOUS.

BEATRICE—While rowing on the Blue river three boys went over the dam south of Court street. The boat became unmanageable when within a few feet of the dam and turned, spilling the boys into the water about nine feet below. No injuries resulted.

RACING NEWS IS BARRED.

At some of the public libraries in London the racing news is carefully blacked out of the newspapers before they are put upon the files for reading.

SUN WORSHIP FAST IS FATAL.

CHICAGO—Miss Eloise Reusse of St. Paul, Minn., who became insane here while undergoing the ordeal of the so-called "sun worship fast," is dead in the State Hospital for the Insane at Elgin. Dr. Frank S. Whitman, superintendent of the hospital, says death was due to acute mania, induced by starvation. During the fast, which is said to have lasted forty-one days, deceased is said by the hospital authorities to have been subjected to torture by means of needles and the application of lotus oil.

IMPORTANT MOVE

SAID TO ABOUT TO BE MADE BY GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

THE RUSSIANS ARE EXCITED

After Engagement with Korean Troops They Burn the Shrines—Telegraphic Communication with New Chwang Interrupted.

ST. PETERSBURG—There are indications that General Kuropatkin is preparing to make a very important move against the enemy.

One of the reasons for this belief is the suddenly increased restrictions upon the war correspondents at the front.

The prevailing belief here is that General Kurof's army is in difficulties.

SEOUL, Korea—A telegram has been received here from Gen San, on the east coast of Korea, saying that the Russians, after the engagement with Korean troops at Ham Heung, on May 19, burned the shrines and the royal mausoleum which were erected there by the founder of the present Korean dynasty in the year 1365, and which were regarded by the Koreans as sacred.

This apparent wanton desecration of tombs in a land imbued with the spirit of ancestor worship has caused excited denunciation of the Russians on the part of the Seoul officials. (Ham Heung is on the coast of Korea and about fifty miles north of Gen San.)

The Cossacks which are believed to be at Kyong Song have, according to Korean reports, about twenty guns with them. If this is true this artillery probably is composed of trans-Baikal horse batteries, several of which were attached to the first corps at Vladivostok before the war.

A Japanese who has returned here from Yongampho reports that there are only a few Japanese troops there. The people are quiet, but they do not welcome the Japanese occupation because of the severity of the military authorities. The Russians left many thousand feet of useful timber at Yongampho.

There are not more than 8,000 soldiers in the garrison at Seoul. Barracks which heretofore were filled are now vacant, the troops having gone north to Anju. The local gendarmes are being transferred to Yongampho, Wiju and An Tung.

ST. PETERSBURG — Telegraphic communication with New Chwang is interrupted, and private messages for points south of Liao Yang are refused here at the telegraph office.

The nature of the interruption with New Chwang is not known, but the cause for refusing messages south of Liao Yang is the complete absorption of the lines for military purposes.

SLAUGHTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Fifty-three Men, Women and Children Are Massacred.

MANILA—A report has been received here from Camp Overton, on the island of Mindanao, dated May 15, stating that a massacre had taken place on the 12th inst., near Malabang on the southern coast of Mindanao.

Fifty-three Filipino men, women and children, employes of the United States military government at Malabang, and their families, were surprised at midnight while asleep by the Datto Alis and a band of Moros from the Rio Grande valley, and slaughtered.

The chief and his followers escaped before the alarm could be given.

Details of the massacre are meager. Major General Wood has been in the interior of Mindanao since May 12. Cable communication between Manila and Mindanao is interrupted and the wires are down in the interior of the island. The report of the massacre was received by mail from a correspondent at Camp Overton.

WHEN FRANCE MAY MIX IN.

If China Gets Aggressive There Will Be Trouble.

PARIS—The Soir claims that it has learned from a trustworthy source that Lieutenant General Baron Fredericks had another member of the Russian court, who recently visited Paris, came on a secret mission which had for its purpose the seeking of the intervention and effective support of the French government in the event of China adopting an aggressive attitude toward the Russians in Manchuria. The paper alleges that the government gave formal promise of compliance with Russia's request.

RUSSIAN STORY IS NOT CONFIRMED.

ST. PETERSBURG—The report cabled to the Associated Press that the foreign office had received a telegram from the Russian consul at Che Foo reporting that the Japanese had made a land attack on Port Arthur and had lost 15,000 men killed and wounded, and that the Russians had lost 3,000 men, is true, but as nothing confirmatory has been received from any other source the report is not given credence. The consul in his telegram said his information was obtained from Chinese sources.

AS AFFECTING LABOR

REPUBLICAN LEGISLATION ALWAYS FOR WAGE-EARNERS.

IT BEGAN BY FREEDING FOUR MILLION SLAVES AND HAS CONSTANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE WELFARE OF MANY MORE MILLIONS OF AMERICAN WHITE TOILERS.

In the "History of the Republican Party," just issued by G. P. Putnam's Sons, the author, Francis Curtis, confines himself to a purely historical review of legislation in the different congresses, and the nominating conventions of the party and their proceedings. He concludes this historical narrative, however, with a chapter which we believe will be found to be one of the most interesting portions of the work. In this chapter he enumerates the various defections from the party, with their causes and results, analyzing very emphatically but most respectfully the Liberals of 1872, the Mugwumps of 1884 and the antis of the present day. While Mr. Curtis concedes that many of these men who have left the party, and who endeavored to thwart its success, have been men of character who may have been actuated by the purest motives, yet later events have proven that they have been entirely unwarranted in their actions, and that every defection of the party has been unwise, uncalculated for and unjust.

Mr. Curtis claims that in only one instance, if indeed in any, have the Mugwumps had any influence upon the action of the Republican party or upon the history of the country. Concluding this point, he says:

"It may or may not be that the Mugwumps elected Grover Cleveland in 1884. If they did, then they precipitated the tariff fight which ended in the Wilson-German tariff, and which, according to the Republican contention, brought untold misery to our people. If they crave credit for that they are certainly welcome to it."

In discussing the negro question the author says:

"The coming generation of South-erners must in time acknowledge the mistake their fathers are making, just as the present generation are free to acknowledge the errors of the ancestors of a generation or two ago. Calhoun, Hayne and McDuffie were mistaken in believing that the South would be always an agricultural section of the country, and that a low tariff would be necessary to their prosperity in order that they might sell in the dearest and buy in the cheapest markets. The Democratic leaders of to-day in the South are mistaken in believing that they must constantly vote the Democratic ticket at all times against their own commercial interests, simply for fear of being outvoted by the negro, to whom they are not ready to grant the advantages guaranteed by the Fifteenth amendment."

Speaking of the effect of Republican legislation in connection with our laboring classes, the author says:

"Nowhere is the beneficent result of Republican legislation more conspicuously seen than in its relation to the so-called laboring classes of our country. It began at the outset by freeing four million slaves and giving them the opportunity to labor, to acquire and to enjoy the rewards of their own exertions. Coming down through the decades after the war, from 1870 to 1880, from 1880 to 1890, and from 1890 to the present time, it has, through its various tariff laws, given opportunity to the workmen of the United States such as is enjoyed by the laboring classes of no other country on the face of the globe. It has by its legislation concerning immigration given to millions from foreign lands an equal opportunity for advancement in their standard of living, through high wages and constant employment, increasing our home market, which is the envy of the entire commercial world. This home market has awakened and maintained competition to such an extent in all lines of industry that our people in large measure have done their own work and reaped the consequent fruits of their toil. There need be no proofs given of the assertion that the workmen of the United States are far better off than the laborers of any other country. The statement is unquestioned and universally accepted both at home and abroad. The whole situation can be briefly put in the words of the eminent French scientist, Prof. Emile Levasseur in his work on L'Ouvrier Americain. In summing up the conditions of the American workmen as compared with those of Europe, he says:

"Wages in the United States are about double the wages in Europe; objects of ordinary consumption by working people (excepting dwelling houses) cost less in the cities of the United States than in those of Europe; the American workman lives better than the European; he eats more substantially, dresses better, is more comfortably housed and more often owns his dwelling, spends more for life insurance and various social and beneficial associations, and, in short, has a much higher standard of life than the European workman."

"Not only has the Republican party given the workman the chance to work; not only has it given him the highest wages paid on earth for that work, but it has seen to it that this wage money is paid in dollars of full value, equal in every case to one hundred cents."

While the author announces in his preface that "for the most part facts only have been related in the plainest of language, it is hoped clearly and without ambiguity," yet there are passages in the book which we

believe will be widely quoted, not only for their style, but the thoughts therein advanced, such a passage, for example, as the following:

"The Republican party has been a consistent party throughout its career, and it stands to-day for the three great policies for which it stood at its birth, and during its every year of existence since. Those three policies are Liberty, Honor and Progress. Equal liberty for every man, woman and child under the shelter of our flag; liberty to live, liberty to toil and liberty to acquire. Honor—in a standard of value, and money of redemption, equal to the highest known among nations; honor—to pay in full every obligation; honor—to redeem every promise, implied, spoken or written. Progress—not only of our own people, as has been shown in an elevation of the masses to the highest standard of living attained by any people of the human race; as shown in the development of our public school system, of our literature and its distribution, of our labor laws and of our industrial and financial undertakings throughout the length and breadth of the land; progress—not alone in the elevation of the people of the United States, but in the advancement of every people and every country where our influence is felt; progress—not only in material up-building, but in a mental and moral elevation as well.

The Democrats and the Trusts. "The tariff is the mother of trusts," will undoubtedly be the Democratic war cry in the national campaign. And, with any conservative Democrat as presidential candidate, the party will not lack a campaign fund. The trusts which it professes to attack will see to that.

Such is the seemingly impossible paradox which the political situation now presents. Organizations of capital are preparing, if it will give them the man they want, to support a party professing to be filled with zeal to destroy them. Yet when a few facts are remembered it is seen that the trusts will be taking only the line of self-preservation and self-aggrandizement.

The men at the head of the great typical combinations, such as the United States Steel and Standard Oil companies, feel that they no longer need the tariff in their business. They believe that they have reached such a position that they need not fear foreign competition. They are confident of their ability to deal with that in other ways.

What they do dread is domestic competition, meeting them in the home market and keeping up wages, and able to do these things because it is protected from foreign competition by the tariff. And, furthermore, they dislike the president because he has insisted that no man or body of men can be or become so great as to be above the laws of the American people.

The heads of the great trusts realize that political platforms count for nothing, and that laws count for very little, unless the men elected to office on those platforms are resolved to enforce those laws. What they want is not different laws, but a different man in the White House—a man who is not merely rigidly fair to them, but is complacently friendly to them.

That is why the Democratic party, if it will give the trusts the man they want, no matter what its platform, will not lack for campaign funds. It remains to be seen, however, whether the American people can be fooled by the Democratic trust alliance now visibly forming.

THE "PIVOTAL" STATES.

Judge Parker now has instructed delegations from New York, Indiana, and Connecticut, and the New Jersey delegation, though uninstructed, is adverse to Hearst. Taking the four states that we have named together, it would seem that their action must be definite as regards Hearst, since they are the old pivotal states. Without them no Democrat can possibly win. This is so well understood that their course will exert an enormous influence in the South, and it has the sympathy of the Democrats of the Republican states of the East. The Massachusetts delegation, which is instructed for Olney, will not go to Hearst under any circumstances. His support must come principally from Mr. Bryan's old populist following in the West. Its convention strength is thus very clearly limited, and its influence will be lessened because of the fact that the West is overwhelmingly Republican.

EFFECTIVE BREVITY.

The last word has not been spoken regarding the benefits and advantages of the protection policy. Representative Campbell of Kansas, proved that something new and strong in the way of condensed fact might be said when, in his recent speech, he declared:

"The policy of protection has preserved the American market for the products of American manufacturers, and American manufacturers have made markets for the products of American farmers, and together they have established the high standard of living and made possible a high scale of American wages."

The case has seldom been so effectively stated in so few words. It tells a great story in a very short space.

WHAT INTERESTS THE PEOPLE.

The last Democratic national administration added \$32,000,000 to the interest bearing debt, and none of the money went into any great public work. Mr. Cleveland has been telling how it was done, but the people are more interested in preventing a repetition of the feat.