

POLITICS OF THE DAY

A LOGICAL SITUATION.

Expecting the Republican party to take any decisive action against the monopolies and trusts is like expecting a cat to drown her own kittens, and those who still have a lingering belief that the Lexow investigation will amount to anything, or who hope that the McKinley administration will do something of consequence for the relief of the people, are sure to be disappointed and undecided.

Monopolies, trusts and combinations of all sorts, formed to enable the few to enrich themselves at the expense of the many, are the offspring of the Republican system of alleged protection, of which we are sure to have another example in the Tariff bill, for the passing of which Congress will be called in extra session after McKinley has been inaugurated. They are the result of government partnership with individuals and classes wherein the former are put in the possession of millions that make it possible for them to contribute liberally to campaign funds and to buy up Presidencies and Legislatures that may help and "protect" them in their raids on the pockets of the masses.

The Republican party to-day is the champion of those who have already made vast fortunes with the aid of the Government, and who want to add to them, as well as to put their friends and relatives into "good things." It could not do otherwise than favor the trusts, the monopolistic manufacturers, the favored national bankers or any of the other big fry who fatten on the masses. To think for a moment that its most conspicuous representative, McKinley, will try to cut loose from them and select anybody for his cabinet who is not entirely satisfactory to them is merely to blind oneself to the logic of the situation.

The money-making combinations will be entrenched in all governmental places of power so long as the Republican party remains triumphant. That much is certain, and the people now realize it.—New York News.

Alger.

A thick and thin Republican organ declares: "The selection of Gen. Alger is objected to, but the objections are based on stories and rumors which were exploded long ago. The critics know that, yet so unconquerable is their propensity for fault-finding that they cannot refrain from condemning a selection with which people are generally satisfied."

Does not this beg the question? What information has the organ that there is satisfaction with the appointment of Alger? As for the objections, is it true that they were based on stories and rumors which were exploded long ago? Let us see.

1. Gen. Custer and Gen. Sheridan recommended the dismissal of the army of Gen. Alger because he absented himself without leave, which was equivalent in an active campaign, as all old soldiers know, to desertion in the face of the enemy. Is the story exploded? The story is part of the military records of the United States.

2. Criticism of Alger as a business man is based upon a decision of the Supreme Court of Michigan. The report is published. It is part of the records of that tribunal. It cannot be exploded or effaced. It stands confronting Gen. Alger and condemns him.

3. John Sherman's condemnation of Alger as a man who improperly used money to further his ambition to be nominated President of the United States stands in his printed memoirs. It is not exploded.

The selection of Gen. Alger for the position of Secretary of War is not merely mistaken, unfortunate, undesirable. It is a moral calamity.—Chicago Chronicle.

Congressional Extravagance.

When Speaker Reed, a few years ago, warned his fellow-Republicans that it would prove a dangerous thing from a party standpoint for them to furnish the country with the spectacle of a "billion-dollar Congress" they paid but little attention to him, and what he foresaw did happen. There was a political overturning which completely staggered them and lost them control of the Government for four years.

The country has now had another Republican Congress for two straight years, and it is a billion-dollar one beyond question. When Mr. Reed gave his former warning there was only a possibility of a billion-dollar Congress. The most conservative estimate of the cost of the present one to the people is forty-five millions more than the billion, which the then Czar of the House himself considered the height of extravagance!

Despite the desperate condition of the treasury, as well as of the country at large, every appropriation bill reported to the House during the present session has been larger than the similar bill of the preceding session. Thus the pace set in extravagance for the next Congress, which will have a Republican President, who is sure not to set his face in favor of that economy which is contrary to the traditions of his party.

The Four Burden-Bearers.

Food, fuel, clothing and shelter are the four essentials of existence in our climate. The Dingley bill as drafted puts nearly the whole burden of taxation upon these prime necessities. The so-called farmers' schedule taxes every article of food for man or beast that may seek access to our market to supply local or temporary deficiencies.

Bounties for campaign contributors, protection for trusts and the whole burden of federal taxation put upon consumption—the food, fuel, clothing and shelter of the people—this is the program. The "advance agent of prosperity" proves to be the arrived agent of injustice.—New York World.

Effect of Free Wool.

Some months ago the wool growers of this country were at great pains to show the enormous increase of the imports of raw wool since it had been put on the free list under the Wilson bill. Perhaps it did not occur to everybody that if the imports of wool had increased there must be a corresponding decrease in the amount of imports of woolen goods. The Wool Manufacturers' Association has recently furnished the following figures on this point. The imports were:

	Eleven months, 1895.	Eleven months, 1896.
Cloth	\$23,511,581	\$13,677,657
Dress goods . . .	20,634,855	12,302,270

This shows that the manufacturers of this country have been able with free wool to sell in this country some \$18,000,000 worth of woolen goods in one year, which, under the McKinley tariff bill, would have been imported.—Edwin Brainard, in Chicago Chronicle.

Highly Paid Labor the Best.

Americans can manufacture iron more cheaply than Englishmen, while paying much higher wages to labor, but it has been conclusively demonstrated that the best paid labor is the cheapest. England pays better wages than are paid on the continent of Europe, but in spite of that she has been able to maintain her supremacy, because she gets more service for a given amount of money. The same is true of labor in the United States. It is better paid than that of England, but in return it renders better service and is more efficient.—Pittsburg Times.

Protection Another Name for Robbery.

The present tariff law has been the best protector of American industries ever devised in this country, for it has enabled Americans to sell more goods and product abroad than ever before, but this is not what the millionaire manufacturers want. What they actually mean by protection is a measure that will so choke off foreign competition that they can sell their goods to their own people at two or three times their value.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Asking for Too Much.

If Chairman Dingley can devise a bill that will collect \$50,000,000 a year from the taxpayers without their knowledge or consent he will meet a long-felt want. Another way which is received with jeers by politicians and cheers by the people would be to reduce expenses \$50,000,000 a year, but of course this is asking too much, and we hope the politicians will pardon us for ever hinting at such a revolutionary idea.—Louisville Post.

Fresh Burdens for the Farmer.

The Republicans are doing their best, as far as can be judged, to evade the responsibility they sued for. Instead of trying to remedy the constant and growing losses of the farmers the Republicans are actually engaged in preparing to legislate higher prices on the goods which the farmer has to buy and which, for lack of money, he cannot buy even at present prices.—Atlanta Constitution.

Bosses of New York State.

Republican rule in New York stands to-day for Platt and Payne, two men whose theories of political purpose and political methods are utterly corrupt, two men who represent what is worst and lowest in modern political life; two men neither of whom would dare submit his cause to the people, knowing that it would be buried under an overwhelming adverse vote.—St. Paul Globe.

Insist on Robbing the People.

To-day, when you could count on the fingers of one hand all the industries of the United States that could not compete on equal terms with the products of like industries in any other country in the world, we find that, so far from gradually diminished duties, a special session of Congress is to be called to restore them to the highest point ever known.—St. Paul Globe.

Political Pointers.

In the meantime nobody has recently mentioned Benjamin Harrison, formerly well known in the American republic, for a place in the cabinet.

In Mexico, if an advance agent misrepresent his show he is sent to jail. If Hanna lived in Mexico he would have to serve a pardon before running for Senator.

You are our kind of people. Madmen, and we are sorry you lost, but we'll do a whole lot of the kind of work you were expected to do.—T. C. Platt and M. Slippery Quay.

The Ohio wolves want the government to prohibit the entrance of foreign wool into this country. Perhaps one of the vultures will explain how this will increase our revenues.

The old McKinley tariff has been put back upon lumber, so far as the recommendation of the ways and means committee is concerned. The consumer of lumber, the house-builder, will soon find out how much more expensive it is to rear a dwelling under high protection than it has been under a moderate tariff.

EDUCATIONAL COLUMN

NOTES ABOUT SCHOOLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

Much Depends on the Arrangement of the Routine Work of the Schoolroom—Singing in Primary Classes—How to Read for Profit.

Hints on School Discipline.

The routine work of the schoolroom should be so arranged as to prevent friction and disorder, thus avoiding the necessity of reproof or punishment, and leaving the time free for study, instruction and recitation. Lessons should be given in the first days of the term to teach the pupils how to move together, to come and go to and from the recitation, to stand and to work at the board, to go out and in at recess. This rearranged order of movement will prevent collision and disturbance. In the first exercises, when the pupils are practicing the movements, the directions should be definitely and quietly given. After the children have become accustomed to the order of movement, a signal may be substituted for the complete direction. This should be slight and quiet. Noise does not command attention. Let the voice be low, clear and decisive, impelling quiet, thoughtful attention to the exercise. All directions, whether by word or signal, should be followed by every pupil. The school should move as a unit. Repetition of commands makes them meaningless.

Many occasions of disorder in the schoolroom would be prevented by a right apportionment of lessons, adapted to the capacity of the children, and varied from day to day so as to secure interest. The mischief found "for idle hands to do" can be banished by work alone. Careful preparation of the day's lessons beforehand makes the teacher ready with task, material and directions. Each pupil knows just what to do, when to do it, and how. The need of questions and comment is obviated by the concise directions. Pupils can be trained to distribute pens, pencils, papers, etc., quietly and expeditiously, in some definite order, thus relieving the teacher for more important work, and creating in them the spirit of helpfulness.

The teacher's preparation for the teaching exercise or recitation enables her to present her subject in a manner interesting to the pupils, to illustrate vividly, and to be free from all need of reference to the book. Thus she can hold the attention of the pupils.

Beyond the careful preparation for her lessons and the details of the schoolroom work, the teacher needs sympathy with child life, and power to put herself into the child's place. Many an offense against the rules of the school is committed thoughtlessly, yet is treated by the teacher as if it were an act deliberately intended. Such an assumption on the part of the teacher leads to willful disobedience later, for it stirs a sense of injustice, which rankles in the child's heart long after the teacher has forgotten the offense. She should learn to judge from the child's standpoint, in order to see both sides, and to deal justly. The wise teacher often shuts her eyes to misdemeanors which would be emphasized by open reproof. The attention of the school is attracted by the reprimand to faults which otherwise would never be seen. A quiet word to the offender, a look or sign, a conversation after school, when nobody else knows, are better than the open correction. The teacher's manner, in necessary direction, should assume the intention to obey, not antagonize. Her attitude toward the child does much to determine his.

Rules of action should be decreed only when occasion demands them. The reason for them will then be apparent, and they will not seem to the pupils arbitrary exercise of authority. Once made they should be carefully followed. Penalties should be in line with the offense when possible. The child who cannot play with his mates must take his recess alone. The abuse of a privilege should be followed by its withdrawal. Punishments may and should be slight but certain. The teacher's even and steady persistence in the course she considers right counts for more than undue severity.—Waymarks for Teachers.

Singing.

Among the "tried recipes" for happiness and good work in primary classes none finds greater favor with me than singing. I wish every teacher of little ones could thoroughly appreciate the assistance it affords. There is nothing more refreshing and restful after a period of steady work than a song. The effect is sometimes magical. Pencils are placed by tired little hands that look as though they could go no farther. But look again a minute or two later. Fingers are moving as rapidly as muscles can make them, as the snow comes "falling down so pure and white." The music and motions put new life into the children.

Langue and lassitude fly before a bright song, and often when a spirit of unrest and disorder seems to possess the class it disappears entirely when the regular work is stopped for five minutes and a song substituted. Children love singing. There is no doubt about this, and when we add to that fact the other, that it is of the greatest assistance in preserving good order, we should be convinced of the desirability of giving it a place in our program. I would have every grade up to the highest sing, and sing frequently. Time is not lost, but rather saved, by it.—Educational Record.

Teacher or Drillmaster.

There are certain things which are easy of accomplishment in a schoolroom. In over seventy schools that I have inspected thus far I have not

found more than six or seven rooms which the teacher in charge could not control. There is an abundance of poor teaching and any amount of lack of teaching. The country is full of people who can control. It is also an easy thing to teach pupils to read in the sense of recognizing word-forms. In the poorest schools are found many pupils in the upper rooms who can read with fluency. Teachers with no method or with any one method or with all methods will teach pupils to read. It is easy to teach grammar to a certain extent. By the aid of diagramming and formal parsing a mechanical proficiency may be secured which is closely akin to intelligence. History and geography, too, have their easily accessible phases. It is quite as remarkable what children will absorb mentally. It is quite as remarkable what ignorant persons can do in the way of teaching.

On the other hand, it is remarkable how little influence the common school has on the life of the pupil after he leaves school. I mean in the way of giving him a predisposition to push any or all of his studies after his school days are ended. The geographies and histories and reading books of our common schools have no successors unless the pupils find them in higher institutions of learning. Does it not seem fair to expect that the common school will make book stores more profitable? I mean real book stores and not paper-covered ones.—Exchange.

Stop the Evil.

Should the little folks be required to prepare lessons for school at home? Emphatically, no. Six hours' mental application, which they get in school, is enough of a demand upon their vital resources every day. A sound mind and a healthy body are worth infinitely more to every man and woman than the knowledge of books and schools. Give the children a chance to play and romp, to laugh and sing, to rest and sleep, so that the fatigue and worry that necessarily settle upon them from the day's work may be thrown off, and their young systems kept fresh and elastic. Do not crush the springs of young life and make children at seven and ten talk and act like old people. You have no right to starve their mental and moral growth, and yet that is what you are doing when you burden them with work at night. Six hours' study is more than enough for any child below twelve years of age, and to attempt more than this is taking a mortgage upon the child's future health and happiness. Let us be content in such cases with the school, and not seek to do that which will harass the child's sleep with troubled dreams and the morbid fancies of an overworked brain.—Exchange.

How to Read.

Read topically, read about a period, read about a certain nation. Have a system, but don't spend so much time on the system as not to read at all. As to "what to read," read relatively little fiction, no matter how good. Read what interests you. Read in connection with your business. Be sure to read at least one great and good book each year. Have books, but do not buy a whole library at once. Buy the books you want. Let your library grow up around you. No one can afford not to buy books. When a man gets where he wants no more books he is dead and only awaits burying. The envelope system of securing and classifying the results of one's reading is to be commended. Have a series of envelopes. Put the topic on the outside. Put a blank piece of paper in each. On this put references to any work you may have read on the subject. Also put newspaper cuttings in the same envelopes. By this means one's information on any subject can be massed very quickly.—Selected.

Sleeping on the Stomach.

Sound, restful sleep, both by night and by day, is more easily induced if from the first the child be taught to lie on its stomach and face. The only necessary precaution against suffocation is the provision of a smooth, flat, somewhat hard hair mattress without a pillow. The advantages of this position are many. Some one has said that half the diseases of infancy result from keeping the stomach too cold and the other half from overheating the spine. By adopting the position suggested as the uniform one during the hours of sleep the stomach and abdomen are kept so warm as to prevent the colic and stomach ache and materially to aid the digestive process, while the spine and back of the head are no longer overheated by the increased temperature of the sleeping child. It may be a coincidence merely, but it is at least a significant one, that all the children the writer has known to rest habitually face downward have been unusually sound sleepers and have enjoyed more than average good health.—Harper's Bazar.

That Explained It.

One of the dispensary doctors—it would not be fair to name him—tells a good story on himself.

There was a dispute as to the disease of which a certain gentleman died whom he had attended. Several medical friends insisted that he had died of dropsy. None of them knew that the young doctor had attended him, and when he remarked that he knew what the man died of, and insisted that everybody else was wrong, one of them said:

"How do you know so well what he died of? If you know so well, perhaps you can tell us."

"I know what he died of—because I attended him," was the reply, and the cruel answer came in chorus: "That explains why he died."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Can Get No Jurymen.

It has been discovered in Jamestown, R. I., that it is impossible to secure a man there for jury duty, as they are all enrolled in the fire department.



Farmers and Good Roads.

A review of the proceedings of the farmers' meetings, being held this winter, shows that the tillers of the soil are taking up the subject of improved highways in an earnest and active manner.

It can no longer be truthfully said that the farmers, as a class, are against the good roads movement. A goodly majority of them are exerting a strong influence for the betterment of the public ways, and are laboring with their less-informed neighbors, to try and make them view the subject in the same light.

The result of the campaign of education, that is being carried on this winter, will become happily apparent in the superior amount and kind of road improvement that will be undertaken in a great many localities when spring arrives.

From State legislatures to the impromptu gatherings about the store stove, at the corner grocery, the subject of better roads is being dwelt upon. Luckily it is a question, the discussion of which means that, eventually, it will be answered in the proper way. Wheelmen, in every locality, should keep the matter before the public for consideration. The present year should bring large results in road and street improvement.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Convict Work on Roads.

The Chicago Times-Herald says editorially: The anti-convict labor bill drafted by the conference of manufacturers and trades-unions at the Sherman House is patterned after the New York law which has just gone into effective operation, but it is an improvement upon it in that it provides against the evil effects that would result from enforced idleness in the penitentiaries. The bill that will be introduced in the Illinois Assembly provides that no convicts shall be allowed to work at any trade or industry wherein his work shall be contracted to any person or firm or wherein the product of his work shall be sold to any person or association. The bill limits the articles that may be manufactured to those that are used in the State institutions and are not manufactured in the institutions. It also provides that the prisoners may be used by the State for the building of public highways, roads, canals, and other public improvements that would not be undertaken unless the labor of convicts was available.

The New York law provided for the appointment of a prison commission, the duty of which was to ascertain what employment could be devised for convicts that would not bring them into competition with free labor. After a thorough investigation the commission reported against the use of machinery in the prisons and against the manufacture of articles needed in the other State institutions. It was found that the inmates of the institutions for the insane were able to make all the articles they needed, and that this employment was a necessary adjunct to the remedial agencies employed for their cure.

The logical and inevitable conclusion of every investigation of this kind is a recommendation that convicts be employed in constructing public highways. The experiment has been deferred from year to year in the hope that a more satisfactory solution of the problem would present itself. In the meantime public sentiment in favor of good roads has been gathering power. The advent of the wheel and of the wheeling organizations has given the public demand for better highways a mighty impetus. The response to this growing and well-nigh imperative demand is certain to ultimately afford the one practical solution to the convict labor problem.

The objections to working convicts on the highways have been largely sentimental. It has been argued that the sight of prisoners, in prison garb, laboring in this manner would have a deleterious influence upon public morals. It is difficult to understand how such an exhibition of industry on the part of convicts could have a demoralizing effect upon society. So far as the convicts themselves are concerned, it is the most humane and healthful employment that could be devised, provided the conditions under which they labor are properly regulated by men of humanitarian instincts.

Refuse Oyster Shells.

The waters of Maryland produce one-third of the total supply in the world. It yields twice as many of the luscious bivalves as are grown in all foreign countries combined. During the present century it has put on the market 400,000,000 bushels of the toothsome mollusks. These have sold for the enormous sum of \$250,000,000. Almost all of this country is dependent for the abundance and cheapness of this edible on the supply of the Chesapeake. From here also come very nearly all of the oysters used for canning. In fact, the output of this industry in Maryland is equal to one-sixth of all the fisheries of the United States put together.

The quantity of oyster shells landed upon the shores of Maryland during the last century has been reckoned at 12,000,000 tons. Until very lately the canning firms have had much trouble in getting rid of the shells, having to pay, in fact, for the removal of all that they could not give away. Recently, however, they have been able to sell them. They are now shipped to all parts of the country and are utilized variously for roads, for lime and employed in making coal gas. They have also been found to serve almost as well as stone

In the manufacture of special grades of iron for railroad beds. Cultivators of oysters also employ them, having found that they afford suitable surfaces for young oysters to attach themselves to. They are likewise used to some extent as chicken food. They are very good for hens, the shells of eggs being largely made of them. The trade received \$25,000 in a single year for the empty shells.

Starfishes are the oyster's worst enemy. Other animals the young bivalves have to guard against are crabs and boring snails. They are also in danger of being stifled by mud. In Pacific waters stingrays are their most dreaded foes. The little crab that lives in the shell of the oyster has always excited much interest. It is found in about 5 per cent. of the bivalves. It is a sort of parasite of the oyster, whose shell protects it and whose feed supports it.—Philadelphia Times.

In the Gas Office.

There was a look of joy about his face as he went into the gas office that made the man behind the counter glad in his soul. It was so different from the expression which visitors ordinarily wore. He walked to one window and then to another and stood around and smiled.

"Can we do anything for you?" the clerk inquired.

"Nope. Go right ahead with your business. Don't mind me."

"If you came to get warm," the clerk suggested, "the heater is over on that side of the room."

"I didn't come to get warm. There's a genial glow through me that makes external heat entirely unnecessary. I had a few spare minutes and I came here to gloat."

"Over whom?" was the surprised query.

"Over the company."

"I—I must say I don't quite understand you."

"I suppose I'd better explain it. It's too good to keep. But I get so much enjoyment out of it that you'll have to excuse me if I tell it slow, so as to make it last longer. Your people are very particular about your meters."

"Of course. We have to be."

"You've got it down so you can measure the extra pressure that occurs all through the city if one of the workmen happens to cough in your gas factory."

"We haven't got it quite so close as that, but we've done our best to protect our interests."

"Well, I had occasion to have a sanitary plumber in my house yesterday. He's the man that made the discovery. He informed me that there was a whole lot of sewer gas in my house that you never discovered. You didn't have any arrangements for measuring it in the meter, and it got clear past you. I'm not naturally vindictive, but I couldn't resist the temptation to come around and tell you about it and make you feel bad."—Washington Star.

Not Exactly a Cinch.

This is the way a man named Gaines, of St. Peter, Minn., got the better of an insurance company: Many years ago Mr. Gaines insured his life for \$3,500. After many years of payment of \$90 a year premium at the age of 70 years he asked the officers of the company how much they would pay him to cancel his policy. They offered him \$2,000. He refused to take it, but made them this proposition: "If you will give me \$416 a year until death, which is \$8 a week, I will cancel the policy."

"Agreed," said the company, which thought it had a cinch in its favor, as he would not live many years. Since that time he has lived eighteen years, and the company has paid him his yearly stipulation of \$416, which up to this time has amounted to \$7,488—the savings of the \$90 premium in the eighteen years and the interest make it the snug sum of over \$18,000 that the old man gained by his bargain. Mr. Gaines is well preserved at 88, and bids for to receive many more payments at the hands of the company, which struck a tough piece of human timber upon which to base its calculations.—Chicago Tribune.

Tornado Freaks.

"Near my old home in Marshall County, Kansas," said Mr. G. A. A. Deane, of Little Rock, Ark., at the Hotel Page, "there occurred a cyclone the other day that performed a queer feat. It struck the house of a former neighbor of mine and scattered things in various directions. A few days later he got a letter that had been carried by the wind and dropped in a small town in Nebraska, sixty-five miles to the northeast, and not long afterward some considerate stranger mailed him his check book that had been found away down in Missouri, 100 miles to the southwest."

"Now, the truth of these statements I will vouch for, as they are made by one of the most reliable men I ever knew. Why the two articles should have been carried in opposite directions I am unable to explain—it's too deep for the unscientific mind, and I commend it to some of Uncle Sam's to-morrow experts in Washington.—Washington Post.

Cycling in Paris.

Cycling is increasing rapidly in Paris. The Touring Club de France has been six years in existence, and while in 1895 it numbered 25,000 members, it has increased to 47,000 and it is confidently predicted that before the exhibition is opened it will attain the high figure of 100,000.

Horses and Motors.

In England it is estimated that the cost of fodder for a horse traveling twenty miles a day is twopenny per mile, while a motor-wagon of two and a half horse-power can be driven the same distance at the expense of half a penny per mile.

Some people do not take their worthlessness to heart enough to do them any good.