

# POLITICS OF THE DAY

## CONGRESS AND THE TRUST.

The Democrats have no quarrel with the tariff that is not the quarrel of the people.

It may be noted that the Republican press is not entirely silenced by the money power and occasionally an earnest protest against the iniquities of this, the greatest robber act of modern legislation, is raised by stanch Republican newspapers. Harper's Weekly, in discussing the tariff, says: "The great central fact in the history of this measure is the continued domination of the sugar trust over Congress. There is some pretense of dispute as to whether the House or the Senate was victorious in the final arrangement of the sugar schedule. But it matters little which scheme for increasing the profits of the sugar trust was adopted. The people who speculate in sugar securities have expressed their opinion of this legislation in Wall street. The common stock of the trust was selling at 110 when the work of making the bill was begun, and after the conference report was made the stock sold at 146."

If the Republican party had been guilty of no other crime against the people than the passage of the Dingley tariff bill, that would be sufficient cause to create a protest so strong and universal as to produce the downfall of that organization; however, when the tariff is simply one instance of greed and rapacity selected from many cogent acts proposed, it is difficult to imagine how these banded robbers can have the assurance to demand still further suffrage from American citizens.

In order to show the absolute subservience of Congress to the sugar trust, it is only necessary to refer to the fact that Secretary Gage proposed an internal revenue tax on the advance importations of sugar, which would have converted \$5,000,000 into the treasury of the United States, and would not have cost the trust a single cent, but, on the contrary, would have left the combine with at least \$6,000,000 bonus to its credit, and Congress paid no attention to the suggestion. Let the people reflect seriously on these indisputable facts and record their indignant protests at the ballot box in 1898 and 1900.—Chicago Dispatch.

**Object Lesson from Mexico.**  
The fall in the price of silver and its effect on Mexico are the "object lessons" now most talked about by the Republican newspapers.

Some time ago the leader of the Republican party made a remark to the effect that it would be better to "open the mills than the mints." This remark was quoted largely, commented on loudly and given the widest publicity. The mints have not been opened, and the mills remain closed.

The mints in Mexico are open and the advocates of a monometallic gold currency, speaking apropos of the fall in the price of silver, announce in tones of triumph that it will have the effect of curtailing the business of the Mexican importer. What does that mean? Simply that the mills of Mexico will have to open to supply the home market.

The making of an alliterative phrase is not so productive of prosperity as the making of articles of domestic use by the manufacturers of a nation, working full time to supply a native demand. On every occasion when the goldite goes to Mexico for an argument against silver, the best he gets is the worst of it.

Mexico will open still wider her mills, give employment to more labor, save her money to spend at home, decline to enrich foreign manufacturers, dispense with European luxuries and prosper more brilliantly than ever. A few more "object lessons" from Mexico ought to settle the currency question.

**Federal Extravagance.**  
Economy in governmental affairs seems to have become a lost art. Expenditure has increased out of all proportion to the growth of the country.

The cost of carrying on the government has steadily appreciated from \$338,342,513 in 1867 to \$530,083,030 in 1896. From this it will be seen that it costs about \$200,000,000 more to run the government now than it did thirty years ago.

There is no evidence that legislators are careful in considering the matter of expenditures. The people of the United States have been forced by the stringency of the times to study the question of personal economy. Would it not be a good idea for the general government to lighten the burden of taxation by exercising some thought on this question also? There is much said about the necessity of revenue, but little is heard about the need of retrenchment.

General prosperity cannot be secured through lavish expenditures of public money. While wage-workers are obliged to accept reduced pay; while farmers must be content with smaller prices for products; while merchants and manufacturers must make the best they can of dwindled profits, the lawmakers in Congress lavish the people's money and levy increased taxes to supply the funds.

**Already Showing Evil Effect.**  
Consumers are early learning that under the Dingley bill they are confronted by a hard, tangible condition and not a mystical, intangible theory. Prices of all necessities are going up without the least promise of an increase in the income of wage-earners.

New York grocers have advanced the price of sugar 6-10 of a cent a pound. This is just a starter. From this increase the Sugar Trust will reap a reward of \$25,000,000, as the Dingley bill intended it should. There has also been an advance of from 10 to 25 per cent. on all woolen goods. The new law has caused an advance in the price of hides, and an increase in the cost of boots and shoes from 30 to 50 cents a pair will follow.—St. Louis Republic.

**Growth of Bimetallism.**  
The Republican press has evidently received instructions from the money power to announce that "free silver sentiment is dead."

These instructions are followed obediently by most of the goldite newspapers, but the New York Commercial Advertiser refuses to stultify itself. "We had hoped that the sharp defeat which the nation inflicted on the regular Democracy last year," remarks the Advertiser, "might have some chastening effect and deter the party leaders from repeating the costly blunder of endorsing the free silver and pro-socialist planks of the Chicago platform. This hope, however, has not been fulfilled. The Democratic organizations in all the States outside of New York, where contests are pending, continue in the hands of the free silverites."

It is not a matter of very great importance to the Democracy that Republican newspapers solace their readers with the false idea that the free silver sentiment is declining, but it is gratifying to know that there are some newspapers in the ranks of the opposition that have independence enough left to admit the fact that free silver doctrine is growing.

The fact of the matter is that never before in the history of the United States since the demonetization of silver began has the belief in bimetallism been more widely held or more firmly cherished than it is to-day. It is, perhaps, just as well that goldites should flatter themselves with false hope, but it is also important that Democrats should know and appreciate their own strength.

Gold monometallism is losing ground among the people, because the legislation of the Republican party is so palpably against the interests of the people. When the campaign of 1898 is ended there will be many Republican newspapers ready to confess that the free silver sentiment is growing, and in 1900, with the election of a free silver President, the confession will be forced upon them all.

**McKinley's Bad Pardon Record.**  
Within three weeks the President has released three men who had embezzled large sums of money entrusted to their care, although in each case the offense had been most flagrant, and in none was any just reason for clemency presented. These three pardons, following one another in quick succession, constitute an alarming indication of weakness on the part of the President. They indicate that Mr. McKinley is liable to yield to the appeal of any wife, daughter or sister of a criminal who gets to Washington to plead for his release on the ground that he was good to his family while he was wrecking a bank and making a lot of people beggars.—New York Evening Post.

**Government by Injunction.**  
This government by injunction is the most absolute despotism and the most flagrant usurpation known to organized society. The power of the federal judges, as construed by themselves, is greater than the constitution or the fundamental rights of man. It suspends the freedom of speech and of the press. It destroys individual liberty. It exceeds in pretensions and in performance the exploded doctrine of the divine right of kings. No greater menace to our liberties could be devised than the federal judges' arbitrary assumption of omnipotence and infallibility.—Kansas City Times.

**Home Consumption Not Sufficient.**  
With enormous, enlarged productive capacity, a circumstance which is partly responsible for the great depression of prices the past few years, we have deliberately closed the outlet which has been built up at the cost of so much enterprise and effort. Protectionists maintain that it is only necessary to look to the domestic consumption, but the time for that has passed in spite of our 73,000,000 of population. Our great iron furnaces and steel works and machine shops have capacities far in excess of the consumption of our most prosperous period.

**Squaring Accounts with Trusts.**  
The situation is just this: An aggregation of trusts and monopolies elects the President controls Congress and taxes the people generally, not for the purpose of raising revenue for the support of the government, but for the sole benefit and aggrandizement of the combination. The act whose passage they have secured by combination, virtually prohibits the importation of foreign goods similar to their own, and gives them a monopoly of the home market and ability to extort their own prices.—Atlanta Journal.

**Dingleyism the Lost Straw.**  
The Constitution is of the opinion that the country is on the eve of the greatest Democratic revival ever known in the history of the republic. All the signs and symptoms point to it. The people have come to the end of their patience. The tariff monstrosity,

enacted for the benefit of the trusts, is the last feather that will break the camel's back. We are about to witness one of those epoch-making revolts that sometimes occur in the history of parties, and it is to be on a scale commensurate with the reforms to be wrought, and the wrongs to be righted.—Atlanta Constitution.

**Money and the Crops.**  
Republican newspapers are congratulating themselves and the people over the good crops. In this everybody will join them, for good crops are undoubtedly worthy of congratulatory mention. But there is one crop which the Republicans are using all their power to diminish, and, unfortunately for the people, they have it in their power to lessen that crop. They cannot reduce the quantity of corn and wheat and oats and cotton, but they can curtail the quantity of money. It is just as important that the people should have a plentiful supply of money as it is that they should have a generous return from the fields of agriculture. The mines of silver and gold which abound in the United States will furnish abundance of money if the Republican politicians will open the mints to coin the bullion.

The fruits of the farmers' toil cannot be moved without money. The prices he receives must be meager if there is a meager supply of money. The manufacturer cannot dispose of his goods if the people have not the money with which to buy. The folly of contracting the currency is never so apparent as during the days of bounteous harvest. The crime against the people in closing the mints is never so patent as when the farmers' bins are overflowing with grain and his pockets are empty. Set the mints in motion and the mills will open. Provide the people with plenty of money with which to do business and business will be done. The growth of money should parallel the growth of crops. Then prosperity will come.

**More of Prohibition than Protection.**  
Senator Allison thinks that the ad valorem tax imposed by the new tariff bill will be about 60 per cent. The McKinley act average was 49 per cent. The average of the present tariff is 39 per cent. The first tariff bill enacted for the protection of manufacturers averaged 8 per cent. On many articles the duty proposed in the present Dingley-Aldrich-Allison measure is greater than the value. It is time that the protectionists should swap names with the prohibitionists.—Philadelphia Record.

**Retrenchment Necessary.**  
The time is coming, and it may not be far away, when we must arrange to govern our expenditures by our income, and make them conform not only to that, but also to the problem of our great national debt, which one day we hope to extinguish. Let our Congressmen be educated up to the necessity of restricting the expenditure, instead of making provision to increase income by additional taxation to meet lavish expenditure, and we will be nearer the right track.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

**Time for a Change in Iowa.**  
The State house should be cleaned of the contaminating influences of the tax-increasing, extravagant, speculating officials of the present administration. The time for looking after the interests of the common people a little instead of fostering those of the corporations, trusts and money power has arrived. Through the medium of the Democratic organization the necessary reforms can be brought about, but in no other way.—Keokuk Constitution-Democrat.

**McKinleyism on Top for a Time.**  
McKinleyism in an aggravated form is on top. But public opinion may change again. President McKinley, of all men, has had reason to meditate upon its variability. It is quite possible that in the supreme moment of his jubilation he was haunted by an apprehension that the time might not be far away when the country would reject, with intensified disgust, this large dose of the noxious medicine that sickened it in 1890.—Rochester, N. Y., Herald.

**Exchange Comment.**  
There are surface indications of sufficient proportions to justify the belief that Tom L. Johnson expects to tie ugly knots in somebody's political clothing before the close of the Ohio political swimming pool.—Washington Post.

When trusts attempt to cover too much ground they become topheavy and work out their own destruction. Hence the new billion-dollar proposition backed by the Standard Oil managers is not as threatening as it seems.—Minneapolis Tribune.

Simply because he confesses that if he is in the next Congress he will quite likely be the leader of the minority doesn't signify that Speaker Reed is inspired with the gift of prophecy. The voracious blockhead in the country could have told Mr. Reed as much.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Force the merchant to pay an outrageous tax upon his goods; let the merchant add the tax to the selling cost of his goods. The consumer buys the goods and thus refunds the tax to the merchant, but—the foreigner pays the tax! If you don't believe it, ask Dingley.—Indianapolis News.

It is painful to note that right in the beginning of the tariff-made prosperity that the immense cotton mills of Fall River, Manchester and Lawrence are shutting up. In his closing speech on the tariff bill just enacted Mr. Dingley told us that the bill would "open up new opportunities for our own labor, which will be the beginning of that prosperity that was dispelled in 1892." Now it is in order for Mr. Dingley to explain why his bill doesn't work.—Utica (N. Y.) Observer.

## INSPIRED A FAMOUS POEM.

Mrs. Amelia Koehler Who Suggested "The Last Rose of Summer."

Considerable interest has been awakened throughout the country by the announcement of the death of Mrs. Amelia Koehler, of Mount Vernon, New York, at the age of 92, owing to the fact that she is supposed to have inspired Thomas Moore's famous poem, "The Last Rose of Summer," and to whom the poem was dedicated by its composer.

The incident, as often told by Mrs. Koehler to her friends, is full of interest. When she was 13 years of age she was sent to London, and there she attended a school kept by a sister of the poet, who frequently visited the school and became acquainted with the pupils. Moore took a decided liking to her and would spend hours in conversing with her. One day, as they were



THOMAS MOORE. MRS. KOEHLER.

sitting in the garden, she plucked a rose and, placing it on the lapel of the poet's waistcoat, exclaimed, "Oh, now I have given you the last rose of summer." And, as the story runs, this very rose was in fact the last rose left blooming in the garden.

"My child," said the poet, "you have made a beautiful suggestion, and when I have written some verses on it they shall be dedicated to you."

A short time after, Moore wrote the famous lines which follow, and dedicated them to her:

'Tis the last rose of summer,  
Left blooming alone;  
All her lovely companions  
Are faded and gone;  
No flower of her kindred,  
No rosbud is hind,  
To reflect back her blushes,  
Or give sigh for sigh.

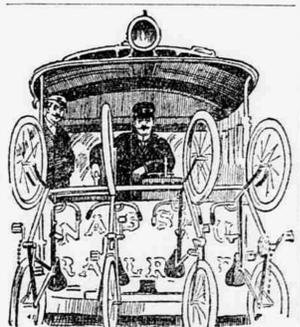
I'll not leave thee, thou lone one,  
To pine on the stem;  
Since the lovely are sleeping,  
Go, sleep thou with them.  
Thus kindly I scatter  
Thy leaves o'er thy bed,  
Where thy mates of the garden  
Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may I follow,  
Left friendships decay,  
And from love's shining circle  
The gems drop away;  
When true hearts lie withered  
And fond ones are flown,  
Oh, who would inhabit  
This bleak world alone!

Mrs. Koehler's maiden name was Amelia Offerfeld, and she was born in Aix-la-Chapelle. Her father was an officer in the Prussian army and her mother was of British descent. She was 15 years old when she married Charles Koehler, an importer of Bond street, London. When he died, forty years ago, she came to live with her daughter in this country and remained there until her death.

## TO CARRY BICYCLES.

**Brooklyn Plan for Transporting Wheels on the Trolley Lines.**  
Many bicycle riders in cities would welcome the adoption of a plan for transporting wheels in operation on one of the trolley lines in Brooklyn. The illustration shows how four bicycles can be carried on each dashboard with-



BICYCLE RACKS ON TROLLEY CARS.

out interfering with the motorman or conductor in any way. These racks are also in use in the baggage cars which have been equipped for wheels by the New York Central, Long Island, Manhattan "L" and other railroads. The racks used on the trolley cars are riveted to the sheet iron of the dashboard instead of being screwed to the wall, as in the baggage cars.

**Smart Young Sailors.**  
The boys responded with surprising quickness and good order. This is the second life they have saved this winter. These were the concluding words of a statement made by Commander Field of the schooner St. Mary's at a meeting of the Board of Education of New York city, a few months ago, regarding a rescue made by the boys of his ship.

On the night of the 23d of February, after the boys on the St. Mary's had turned in, the cry was raised on the wharf at the foot of which the ship lies, in New York, that a man had fallen overboard in the North River. The boys turned out, lowered a boat, and in a moment were off to the rescue. Just as the man rose for the last time they pulled him in, and in an insensible condition he was taken to the hospital, where he revived.

the man's last, and the least delay on the part of the handy boys would have been fatal to him. But if they had been capable of delays they would not have been good sailors, and they made no delays and did no bungling.

The school-ship on which these boys acted so bravely and promptly this time, and have acted as promptly and effectively before, is, though commanded by an officer of the United States navy, a part of the public school system of New York city. The boys are just such as go to the public schools in the most crowded parts of the metropolis.

They are good material for the making of prompt, quick, ready and intelligent sailors, and—for such the same causes as those which make them good sailors—for the making of good citizens as well.—Youth's Companion.

## Republican Simplicity.

A story is related of an old Dutch merchant of Amsterdam, who, having amassed a fortune in trade, determined to spend the remainder of his life in the quiet seclusion of his country house.

Before taking leave of his city friends, he invited them to dine with him. The guests, on arriving at his residence, were surprised to see the extraordinary preparations that had been made for their reception.

On a plain oak table covered with a blue cloth were some wooden plates, spoons and drinking vessels. Presently two old seamen brought in dishes containing herring—some fresh, others salted or dried. Of these the guests were invited to partake; but it was clear they had little appetite for such poor fare, and with considerable impatience they awaited the second course, which consisted of salt beef and greens.

This also, when brought in, they did not seem to relish. At last the blue cloth was removed, and one of fine width damask substituted; and the guests were agreeably surprised to see a number of servants in gorgeous liveries enter with the third course, which consisted of everything necessary to form a most sumptuous banquet.

The master of the hour then addressed his friends in the following terms:

"Such, gentlemen, has been the progress of our republic. We began with strict frugality, by means of which we became wealthy; and we end with luxury, which will beget poverty. We should, therefore, be satisfied with our beef and greens, that we may not have to return to our herrings."

## Gay Music at a Funeral.

People in Vincennes have been witnessing what is called "a gay funeral," according to a paradoxical phrase. Mr. Ferret, a resident in that suburban borough for many long years, died recently at the age of 80. He left instructions in his will that the local brass band should be engaged for his funeral, and that lively music was to be played during the journey to the graveyard. The octogenarian's relatives fulfilled his wishes to the letter. In the black-bordered invitations to the interment sent out by them they announced the names of the airs to be heard during the funeral. As the cortege started for the cemetery the band struck up the appropriate "Chant du Depart," to the intense astonishment of the master of ceremonies sent by the Pompes Funebres, who knew nothing about the last wishes of the deceased octogenarian in the matter of music. Then the bandsmen played a series of polkas and mazurkas, and wound up at the cemetery with the "Marsellaise." After the funeral all adjourned to a tavern, where drink was ordered in abundance. The instrumentalists, having been refreshed, played more lively music and then everybody returned home, apparently satisfied with the day's outing. This is the third funeral of the kind which has been organized in France within the past twelve months.—London Telegraph.

## The Union Jack.

The origin of the word "Jack" is unknown. The meaning, as understood to-day, is "something shown," and in this sense the application of the word is now limited to the Union flag. Some have supposed it to be derived from the jack or jacque, the tunic worn in early time by men-at-arms, those of Englishmen being decorated with the cross of St. George; which jackets, when not in use, were hung in rows, side by side, thus displaying the blood-red cross, which was at once their banner and their shield. Others regard the name as coming from that of the sovereign James (Jacobus or Jacques), who was the first to hoist it as a national emblem.

## Reason for It.

"I never hear you speak of your son."  
"No. There are occasionally some little matters of family history that one does not like to discuss."  
"He has disgraced the family name, has he?"  
"No. Fortunately he had decency enough to change his name before he would consent to run for the Legislature."—Chicago Post.

## Paved with Grass.

It is proposed to pave London roads with compressed grass blocks. The claim is made that the pavement of these blocks is noiseless and elastic, resists wear well, and is impervious to heat and cold. Its manufacturers guarantee its life for five years.

## Had Lost Caste.

"You no longer recognize Miss Barnes."  
"No. I can't afford to."  
"Why not?"  
"She is still riding a '96 wheel while I have a '97 model."—Chicago Post.

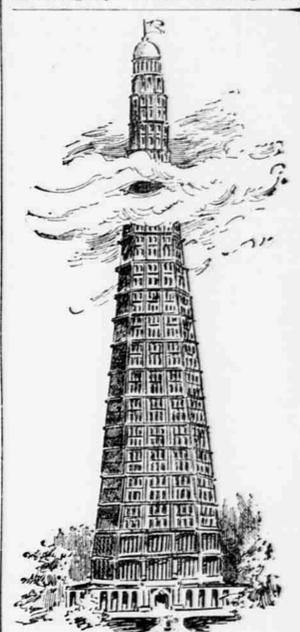
Every one believes he does not "get the credit" he deserves.

## FOR THE "GREATER CITY."

Monster Sky-Scraping Tower Proposed for New York.

William J. Frye has drawn plans for a proposed tower to commemorate the consolidation of greater New York. The proposed tower, which is to be 2,140 feet in height, would be in most respects the most wonderful structure in the world. The Eiffel tower in Paris is 984 feet in height, less than half of the proposed observatory tower of New York. The tower is to be twelve-sided and built of steel. The lowest portion will be 300 feet in diameter, and will be flanked by four pavilion buildings, giving the structure a base of 400 feet. The outer walls will be of cement, having wire cloth imbedded within that material.

Internally, the tower will be a labyrinth of steel columns, girders, beams, plates, and other shapes in steel, no particle of wood being used in construction or finish, and when completed will be a white tower, absolutely fire-proof. Directly in the center will rise a tube twenty feet in its outward diameter, and ten feet in its inner diameter, extending up to and in through the



THE PROPOSED TOWER.

dome roof. The inside of the tube will be smooth, and sightseers may enter through doors on the ground floor and look up through the tube, ten feet in diameter and 2,140 feet in height. Electric cars with reserved motor power of compressed air will run spirally around the 100-foot central area, making a trip to the fifth floor from the top, about a two and a half miles' ride. From this point to the top visitors will be conveyed in an elevator. This proposed tower is to be built within the next three years, and somewhere up on the heights, where there is a firm, rocky foundation.—New York World.

## A HEART OF BRICK.

**Curious Method of Prolonging the Life of an Elm Tree.**

One of the oddest sights of New Brunswick, N. J., is the elm tree in front of John E. Elmendorf's house, on Albany street. Mr. Elmendorf had the tree lined with brick to keep it alive.

The tree is said to be nearly 200 years old. Several years ago insects attacked it and hollowed its heart out. Then at a Fourth of July celebration a spark set fire to the dry interior and destroyed the greater part of what was left. Only the bark on one side and a little



THE BRICKS IN THE TREE.

of the wood remained. At every wind the tree shook and seemed in imminent danger of falling. Mr. Elmendorf had given up all hope of saving the elm, when his wife proposed that they wall it up inside. Mr. Elmendorf set a mason at work lining the elm with brick. Fully one-half of the tree is now solid masonry, and it is in a flourishing condition. The side with the bricks faces the street, and is easily seen. It is two blocks from the Albany street bridge. The tree is known as the freak tree and the brick tree.—New York Sun.

## Gladstone's Denial.

There was a report not long ago that Mr. Gladstone was learning to ride the bicycle, and its contradiction is the signal for Mr. James Payn to drop into poetry:

Mr. Gladstone denies he has taken to biking;  
Nor are we surprised it was not to his liking;  
Though from office and power he be a receder,  
He will never be a Wheeler who has been a Leader.

## The Widows Might.

"Dawson declares that if he marries, at all he will wed a widow."  
"Yes, that is like him; he is too lazy to do any of the courting himself."—Tit-Bits.