

POLITICS OF THE DAY

MCKINLEY'S BLUNDERS.

That President McKinley was ill advised enough to take up the gauntlet thrown down by Senator Teller, and to commit himself unreservedly to advocate the policy and plead the cause of the goldbug Shylocks, was deplored by the wiser and more moderate element of his own party. He cut himself loose thereby from the entire Republican party of the Southern and trans-Mississippi Western States. He made his renomination for the Presidency depend upon the adoption by the Republican National convention of 1900 of a purely gold standard platform—a platform demanding a continued and increasing reduction of the total amount of the currency, and a recall of every dollar of the paper money issued by the government directly. He had had the choice between Wolcott and Gage, and their conflicting policies, and had chosen Gage's.

Already he is threatened with retribution. Already Speaker Reed has warned him back. The Gage plan and the Indianapolis Mugwump plan have frightened certain Republican party leaders; they have called on McKinley to pause. It is announced in the Republican daily having the largest circulation in this city that there will be no further attempt to carry out the goldbug program in the present Congress. This is a great victory for the Teller resolution—a surrender of Speaker Reed to Teller.

And this is not all. The silver Republican Senators from the Pacific States, whose attitude on the currency question is identical with that of the Democrats in Congress, are for taking their revenge on McKinley. They have revolted at the Hawaiian annexation project. They look upon it as mere New England missionary work, and resent the coming to Washington of President Dole, and the unanimous support which the Republican goldbug Senators from the six Eastern States are giving to the proposed treaty now pending. The treaty is now in danger of defeat by the men whom McKinley antagonized by his speech at the New York dinner.

Thus, while the Democratic party closes up its ranks and speaks with a voice practically unanimous, the Republican ascendancy, won in 1896, by fraud and double dealing, is threatened with division and defeat in the Congressional elections of the present year. The situation has a parallel to that of 1798, when the Democracy of the "old Thirteen" States roused itself under the leadership of Jefferson and Burr, to overthrow the Federalist administration of President John Adams.—New York News.

That Golden Feast.

It has been said that when President McKinley attended a fifteen thousand dollar dinner given in a ten million dollar hotel he "turned his back on the starving cotton spinners of New England." This is true in a limited sense. It would be too much to ask of the President of this great nation, made up of rich and poor, that he should refuse the courtesies of the rich. It is not so much his presence at the dinner that should cause criticism as what he said there. But, aside from the fact that the President was quite within the bounds of propriety in attending the dinner, there can be no doubt that his presence there will lose him many votes, should he succeed in being re-nominated for President in 1900.

Commenting on this matter, the Pittsburgh Post says: "Brother McKinley should beware of these feasts of Belshazzar. They had much to do with the undoing of James G. Blaine. The banquet, magnificent in its oriental display and Babylonian luxury, was almost within earshot of some of the 125,000 New England cotton operatives who are striking against taking 70 cents off their average wage of \$6 a week."

As a candidate for re-election, the Waldorf-Astoria dinner incident and the gold-bond menu-card will be quoted against McKinley; but, more than that, his attempt to carry water on both shoulders—his endeavor to pose as a gold monometallist and an international bimetalist—will be remembered. As the guest of millionaires, McKinley was in the company of those who contributed largely to his election. By his presence he has given color to the charge that he represents the trusts and the combines, and not the people, but if he is to be a candidate for re-election the votes of the people will be needed to place him in the seat of his ambition.

On Account of "Competition."

Attention has been so centered on the troubles of the cotton mills of New England that other troubles in a different line of business have probably escaped the attention of Dingley and his tariff defenders. However, while Southern competition is alleged to have caused the trouble in the cotton manufacturing districts of the East, the same excuse can hardly be urged for the reduction of wages by the Wheeling Iron and Steel Company of from 10 to 20 per cent. As a consequence of this cut, the workmen threw down their tools and are doubtless waiting to hear what Dingley has to say in connection with this wage reduction.

It is unfortunate that the advance agent of prosperity failed to bill his show to appear in Wheeling. Perhaps, however, the failure of the beneficent tariff to protect the iron and steel in-

dustry in the South is due to Northern competition. Certainly such an excuse would have as much basis as that urged for the cotton mill troubles in the East, and it is assuredly a very poor rule that won't work both ways.

Bimetallic Clubs.

William J. Bryan brought a message of good cheer to the people of this country in his address at the Jackson day banquet.

With a clear recital of the victories won by Democracy in the year just past, the great champion of the rights of the masses coupled a prophecy of success in the future. Giving the reasons for the faith that is in him, he presages that the twentieth century will open with the money of the constitution restored, and that the people will be able to sing a new song of a nation restored.

But the eloquent advocate of bimetalism does not neglect to indicate some of the practical means through which success is to be achieved. Among them he points out the necessity of enlarging and perfecting the scope of the clubs of a nature similar to those whose members he addressed as an adjunct to the work of the party organization.

This suggestion should fall upon willing ears, and should be carried out by industrious hands. The work of forming clubs should be pushed with the greatest activity, and the remaining days of winter should be filled with labor in this direction. The campaigns of 1898 will soon be in progress, and much depends on their results.

There should be a Democratic club in every precinct. By such organizations the individual can be reached, funds can be secured and the integrity of the ballot box protected. By all means let the matter be taken in hand and the formation of Democratic clubs inaugurated at once.—Chicago Dispatch.

No Chance of Rejection.

Mr. McKinley's personal and political admirers boast that of fully 3,000 names sent by him to the Senate in the last ten months not one has been rejected. Why should they have been rejected? They were practically furnished to the President by the Republican Senators, and when they came back from the White House these Senators acted on them under an understanding that no Senator would make objections so long as his own men were approved.—New York Times.

Dear Victory for Hanna.

There seems to be an eager determination on the part of Senator Hanna's friends to prevent any disclosure of the facts regarding the way in which a majority vote was secured for that able dispenser of campaign funds. People of course ask why Hanna is afraid of the truth if he is not guilty. They are beginning to think he is afraid of the truth because he is guilty. In fact, Hanna's election is developing into a first-class scandal.—Boston Post.

McKinley a Bulwark for the Trusts.

The Dingley law is adopted. There is no help for it now. The protected manufacturers are either taking in their extortions from the pockets of the people or holding their mills idle to force reductions of wages of their employees. The sugar trust and the rest of the trusts are dividing their share of the swag. The system will, of course, be maintained while Mr. McKinley remains in the White House.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Thurston and McKinley at Odds.

While Mr. Thurston is telling us that "every dollar is as good as the best dollar ever coined" Mr. McKinley is telling us that the bonds will be paid in "the dollars that are the best at the time of payment." It seems that the Senator and the President are drifting apart.—Omaha World-Herald.

Brief Exchange Comment.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Dingley and Speaker Reed make a majority.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Ohio Legislature is to engage in a wholesale investigation of trusts. The trusts, understanding the character of the Ohio Legislature, will not be slow in proceeding to the captain's office.—Washington Post.

While Mayor Harrison of Chicago was representing Illinois in courtesy to the president of the Hawaiian republic Governor Tanner was acting as judge at a con cake walk in Hot Springs.—Quincy Herald.

The Republican party has proved to be united upon no important measure of public policy under this administration except that of the tariff, and its tariff policy has brought it failure and discomfiture.—Boston Herald.

It has just occurred to the Eastern mine owners that they can afford to advance the wages of miners 10 cents per ton without loss. The plan is to advance the price of the product 25 cents per ton and claim a great victory for protection.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

The free trade editors of Iowa are blaming the Dingley bill for crippling our foreign trade, while those of some of the other States are claiming that it is bringing bankruptcy to our domestic industries without producing any revenue.—Peoria Journal.

Again we are assured that the Dingley tariff has nothing to do with the strikes in the New England cotton mills. Senator Hoar says it has not, and he knows. But it is curious how often the Republicans feel called upon to volunteer this information.—New York Evening Post.

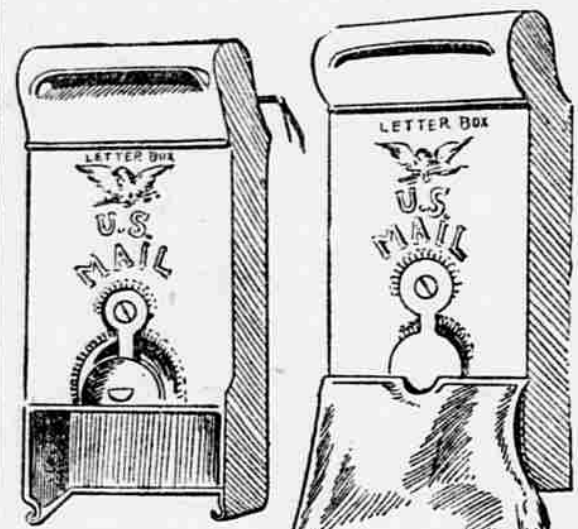
KEYLESS LETTER BOX.

Impossible for Thieves or Collectors to Get at Its Contents.

Ten keyless and thief-proof street letter-boxes will soon be placed in Washington for practical test. The box is the invention of Count di Brazzi, Italy's commissioner to the World's Fair, who recently perfected the automatic letter registry box now in use at the general postoffice in New York City. The new letter-box is somewhat larger than the largest now in use and resembles it in general appearance, except on the face and at the bottom, where there are flanges or hooks on which to adjust the letter collector's bag while the contents of the box are transferred automatically.

It will be impossible for any one, either collectors or thieves, to abstract letters. The collector does not see the letters he collects. They are not seen nor handled by any one from the time they are dropped into the box until they reach the clerk who stamps them in the postoffice.

The boxes are equipped with combination locks, operated by a small, flat knob, but this lock cannot be opened unless the letter carrier's bag, locked by the same kind of a lock, is adjusted



KEYLESS BOX. To the hooks or flanges at the bottom of the box. The bag is locked when the collector receives it at the postoffice, and he makes his round of the boxes on his tour in regular order. He cannot skip one box, for if he does the combination between the bag and the next box is not complete, and he would have to return to the box he had missed.

When the bag is adjusted the collector turns the knob of the lock, both box and bag are opened simultaneously and the letters drop unseen into the bag. Then, before the bag can be removed the knob must again be turned, locking both bag and box, and the collector proceeds to the next box.

At the postoffice he turns the bag over to the proper clerks, who adjust the bag to a device similar to that on the box, a knob is turned, and the combination lock is opened, permitting the contents of the bag to fall into a hopper, whence the letters are carried to the stamping clerk. An ingenious arrangement makes it impossible to filch letters from the street box by a wire or any similar means.

BRITISH WILD MUTTON.

Curious Undersized Sheep that Roam on the Isles of Soa.

On the islet of Soa, one of the St. Kilda group, there is a flock of absolutely wild sheep, quite distinct from any breed on the mainland, and are supposed to be the descendants of a



BRITISH WILD SHEEP.

small flock left on Soa centuries ago by the sailors of some passing vessels calling for water. They are curious little brown creatures, undersized and active as any goat. They are wild as chamois, and it is quite difficult to get a shot at them.

A Curious Request.

The conditions attached to bequests of money are often curious. An interesting illustration of this is afforded by an annual custom which takes place in one of the cemeteries of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Some years ago a gentleman left a sum of money for the relief of the rates on condition that certain members of the corporation should every year place a wreath of flowers on his tomb. So, annually, as the anniversary of his death comes round, the mayor and other members of the corporation attend and hang a wreath on the granite obelisk which marks his resting place. Thus his memory is kept green among his fellow-citizens.—Golden Penny.

Other Insects in Ants' Nests.

It is certain that ants intentionally sanction the residence of certain insects in their nests. This is the case, for instance, with the curious blind beetle, claviger, which is absolutely dependent upon ants, as Muller first pointed out. It even seems to have lost the power of feeding itself; at any rate it is habitually fed by the ants, who supply it with nourishment, as they do one another.

Thousand Eggs at a Time.

A single female frog will produce a thousand eggs at a time. Frogs subsist on insects, and are themselves devoured by a variety of other animals.

MRS. DELINA ROBERTS, WHO SAVED TWENTY-TWO SOLDIERS.



CONGRESS has awarded a medal of honor to Mrs. Delina Roberts of St. Louis, who is credited with acts of bravery on one occasion during the civil war which won for her the admiration of thousands of soldiers. In 1862 she was a girl of 17. She had a brother in one of the Iowa regiments and a brother-in-law was engineer on the Government boat Des Moines. One day she went aboard the boat as it was about to start from Fort Donelson for a point on the Missouri river, being one of several boats which were to transport several regiments of troops. There were some sick soldiers aboard and the girl was permitted to accompany the soldiers, acting as nurse for the sick. The journey occupied three weeks and in that time she won the affection of all the men by her kind and unvarying service.

The acts which made her a heroine occurred the night the voyage ended. It was a beautiful moonlight night. The boats had tied up and the soldiers had gone ashore to pitch their tents in a cornfield that bordered the river. Mrs. Roberts, at that time her name was Delina Reader—sat on the deck talking to the captain. Suddenly there was a succession of flashes and gun reports and bullets came flying over the boat. On shore there was commotion; the soldiers had been attacked by a band of guerrillas. For over an hour the battle raged. Almost as soon as it started Miss Reader had made her way ashore and began caring for the wounded. She picked up a wounded soldier, carried him aboard the boat amid a storm of flying lead and returned for more. In all she carried 22 men aboard the boat before the firing ceased. Had they been left ashore, with their wounds undressed, they would have died. A few days later she received from the colonel of an Indiana regiment which had been in the fight a beautiful milk white horse, as a testimonial of esteem. Subsequently the girl was a nurse in various hospitals and on several battlefields.

MARK HANNA'S HOME.

How the Ohio Senator Passed His Boyhood Days.

Just opposite the court house in Lisbon, Ohio, stands on old brick building, now occupied as a harness shop and shoe store, and it was in one of these rooms on the second floor of the building that Mark Hanna was born. "The father, Dr. Leonard Hanna, conducted a store in the building at the time and lived on the second floor," says an old resident, "but soon afterward his business so increased that he moved his family into a large one-and-a-half story house and devoted the place in the store to business purposes. About this time Mark began going to school.

"One day, in the old log schoolhouse, the master gave us a difficult problem in mental arithmetic. It went the rounds of the class without being answered until it came to Mark. The



MARK HANNA'S BIRTHPLACE.

teacher repeated the problem and Mark listened with his usual close attention. When the master finished he said:

"Well, I can do that on paper, but it is too hard to solve mentally."

"But the scheme didn't work, and Mark was checked down with the rest of us. However, he was unwilling to let the matter drop, and at recess several of us boys got together and Mark took the same problem that the schoolmaster had given us and changed the figures. We then filed up to the teacher and told him we had a little problem in mental arithmetic that we wished he would solve, and Mark read his revised problem. The teacher looked wise, adjusted his glasses, and asked to see the paper on which the example was written.

"But that isn't mental arithmetic," protested Mark.

"So he read it again, and the master



WHERE HANNA SPENT HIS BOYHOOD.

figured long and hard, but could not get the answer, and sharply ordered us all out of the school-room.

"I remember very distinctly an old boat owned by Col. Harper, a veteran of the war of 1812. It was operated by a hand-power paddle wheel. My, but we boys used to have fun with that ancient boat! We were about the age when young girls had a strong at-

traction for us, and Mark and the other boys spent all their spare change in renting it and taking their girls out to ride. One time we appointed Mark captain. I handled the rudder and the other boys took turns at the wheel. Mark shouted his orders in great shape, and I would flop the rudder as he directed. A contention sprang up among us on account of the captaincy, which some of the boys coveted. Mark gave up his post and took a turn at the propelling crank. Our new captain unfortunately ran the boat aground, which resulted in a spirited rebellion of the crew."

Dragon-Fly Dines on Mosquito.

There are two natural enemies of the mosquito, the dragon-fly and the spider. The latter, as we know, wages constant warfare upon all insect life, and where mosquitoes are plentiful they form the chief diet of their hairy foe. The dragon-fly is a destroyer of mosquitoes in at least two stages of life. The larva dragon-fly feeds upon the larva mosquito, and when fully developed the former dines constantly upon the matured mosquito. The dragon-fly as a solution of the mosquito pest question is not wholly satisfactory, for while there is no serious difficulty to be encountered in the cultivation of dragon-flies in large numbers, yet it is manifestly impossible to keep them in the dark woods where mosquitoes abound, the hunting ground of the "darning needle" being among the flowers and dry gardens where the sunshine prevails. For this very important reason, the scheme of hunting one kind of insect with another must be abandoned as impracticable.

The Largest Coin in the World.

The largest gold coin in existence in the "loot" of Anam, a ponderous gold disc, nearly a pound in weight, on which its value, \$44, is written in Indian ink.

Next in size and value to this cumbersome but desirable coin comes the Japanese "obang," which is worth approximately \$11; and the "benda" of Ashanti, representing a value of nearly \$10, makes a good third, bracketed with the 50-dollar gold pieces of California.

The heaviest silver coins in the world currencies are—an Anamese ingot, worth about \$3, and weighing considerably over a pound, the Chinese tael, and the Austrian double-dollar.

Paris Cabs.

A citizen just returned from Paris describes a very ingenious device that has been adopted there for use in cabs. It is a register that indicates the exact distance automatically the cab travels on a trip, and at the end displays the amount of the legal fare for that distance, for the information of the passenger.

Life Measured by Hours.

The mushroom's life is measured by hours, but it flourishes long enough for an insect to hang its egg on the edge of the "umbrella," and for the egg to become an insect ready to colonize the next "silver button" that pushes up.

Let any man wander around with a girl on bright moonlight nights, and the last quarter will find him engaged.

The day breaks but doesn't fall, while the night falls but doesn't break.



The Little Schoolma'am.

Speak of queen and empress,
Or of other ladies royal,
Not one of them has half the power,
Or subjects half so loyal
As she, the little schoolma'am,
Who trips along the way
To take the chair she makes a throne
At 9 o'clock each day.

Her rule is ever gentle;
Her tones are low and sweet;
She is very trim and tidy
From her head unto her feet,
And it matters very little
If her eyes be brown or blue;
They simply read your inmost heart
Whenever she looks at you.

The children bring her presents,
Red apples, flowers galore,
For all the merry boys and girls
This queen of theirs adore.
The darling little schoolma'am,
Who reigns without a peer
In a hundred thousand class rooms,
This gayly flying year.

Blunders in Examinations.

School-examinations and composition writing produce funny results the world over. An Austrian teacher has recently published in Vienna a book called "Humor in the School," which is made up of instances of blunders collected in the Austrian public-school pupils, judging from the instances contained in this book, is of a peculiarly limpid and artless character. In an examination in history a pupil was asked, "How many coalition wars can you name?"

"Four," he answered.
"Name them."

"The first, the second, the third and the fourth."

A young lady who was required to write a description of a ship ended with the sentence: "From all these particulars we arrive at the conclusion that the ship may justly be called the camel of the sea."

A student of natural history, treating of the hibernation of animals, said that "the marmot sleeps so soundly in the winter that he does not even awaken if he is struck dead."

The author of an essay on the "uses of animals," asserted that "the horse is serviceable to man by his swiftness. How many brave soldiers owe their lives to the swiftness with which their horses have carried them away from battlefields."

A boy who was asked in an examination, "What is a cynic?" answered: "A philosopher who lives a dog life." None of these answers are more remarkable probably than that made by a schoolboy in France. "What are marsupials?" asked the teacher.

"Animals which have pouches in their stomachs," said the boy.

"Correct. And what do they have pouches for?"

"To crawl into and conceal themselves when pursued."

Puzzle—Find the Dunce.



Beecher's Method of Reading.

Henry Ward Beecher was methodical in his reading for improvement. He said: "I read for three things; first, to know what the world has done in the last twenty-four hours, and is about to do to-day; second, for the knowledge which I especially want to use in my work; and, thirdly, for what will bring my mind into a proper mood. Among the authors which I frequently read are De Toqueville, Matthew Arnold, Mme. Guyon, and Thomas a Kempis. I gather my knowledge of current thought from books and periodicals and from conversation with men, from which I get much that cannot be learned in any other way. I am a very slow reader. I should urge reading history. My study of Milton has given me a conception of power and vigor which I otherwise would not have had. I got fluency out of Burke very largely, and I obtained a sense of adjectives out of Barrow, beside the sense of 'exhaustiveness.'"

Scheme Was a Failure.

At the beginning of the school year corporal punishment was abolished in the Eighth Ward of Allegheny, Pa. When the pupils became unruly they were to be sent home. At a meeting of the board held Dec. 4, the verdict was unanimous that the scheme was a failure. The moment the pupils knew that the teacher had lost power to apply corporal punishment, control, to a certain extent, was lost. Principals and teachers advocated a return to the old methods. The board arrived at the same decision.

Educational Intelligence.

The railroads of Florida granted a special rate of one cent a mile to the State Teachers' Association at De Land.

Indiana University has chapel exercises but once a week, on which occasion some prominent minister discourses on a suitable theme.

Harvard University has shown a gain of 153 students this year, there being over 3,000 in all, of which 2,200 are in the academic department and 550 in each of the law and medical schools.