

# POLITICS OF THE DAY

## INCOME TAX REVIVING.

A new terror rises up to deepen the dismay of the abject bondsmongers. It is that if war comes there will be another tax agitation for income tax. One of their organs remarks with bated breath: "If the income tax is impossible under the constitution as it stands, there would certainly be a movement to amend the constitution in that particular." This is dreadful to think of. Such a peril is quite enough to put all thoughts of preserving the national honor and dignity out of mind. If the fool people are likely to get at the incomes of those who run the government as a business enterprise for their own profit, and make them pay for their profits, what is the use of living?—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## Democratic Gains.

The spring elections continue to result favorably. The disreputable performances of the Republican Congressmen at Washington, the vacillation of President McKinley, and the prospect that Banker Gage, with Grosvenor, Dingley, and the rest, will hatch up some national bank finance schedule which will rob the people by means of taxes and bank issues to pay interest on large sums of borrowed money, have disheartened the Republican masses. Everywhere there is Democratic gain. Chicago has been swept as by a tornado, and the reform element there has encountered a defeat similar to that which it experienced here in New York. The group of Ohio cities has gone back on the Republicans. Cincinnati, which gave nearly 20,000 majority for McKinley, has been carried by the Democrats by 2,000 majority. The same change is to be found in the returns from Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton and Toledo. Milwaukee is to have a silver Democratic Mayor. The general disappointment at the non-arrival of the promised McKinley era of prosperity has disgusted the people, and has started them upon the road of reversing the fraud of 1896.—New York News.

## Let the People Buy Bonds.

A New York bank president is quoted as saying that the government could readily obtain from the great financial interests of the country all the funds it needed if bonds were issued. This is true, no doubt. But the biggest financial interests of this continent are the interests of the masses of American citizens who create the wealth of the nation. They are the ones who should first be considered if bonds are put on the market. If these Government securities, backed by the superb credit of the United States, are excellent investments for the bankers, they are equally good investments for the wage earners and the farmers. It is the people who fight the battles and pay the taxes of the Government. They are entitled to the foremost chance when bonds are to be sold.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

## Taxation to Make Up Deficit.

Whether we have war or peace with Spain we shall have to pay the cost of getting ready for war, and suggestions for internal taxes are heard here and there. But it is misleading, in the present condition of the national income, to call these proposed taxes war taxes. Why should not the ruling political party in Congress face the fact that its revenue laws do not bring in enough income to meet the expenditures of the Government on a peace footing? There should be no humbug about increasing taxation because of making war or making ready for war. What the treasury demands is more revenue than Dingleyism produces whether for war or for peace.—Boston Post.

## Too Much of a Stale Fiction.

Let us be done once and forever with the stale fiction of Spain's honor being involved in the preservation of her territorial integrity. It has been said—her public men still say—she cannot relinquish Cuba without compromising her honor. Was her honor, then, compromised when she relinquished Mexico? And Guatemala? And ten or a dozen colonies in South America? And when she receded Louisiana to France? And when she ransomed Cuba by giving up Florida? And when, after regaining Florida, she once more and finally relinquished it for cash, under fear of military compulsion?—New York Tribune.

## Dingley Wisely Keeps Silent.

The Dingley bill isn't such a howling success that its author is howling about it loud enough to be heard. Dingley isn't saying a word in these exciting times. Dingley isn't defying the galleries, like the fearless Johnson of Indiana. He is sitting timidly watching his monumental deficit bill and waiting for the opportunity to amend it to get more revenue, when the stress of war may be pleaded as an excuse, instead of an absolute failure of the bill itself.—Utica Observer.

## The Maine-Count Remains.

The Maine disaster is the main count in our indictment against Spain. It is our supreme justification for driving Spain from Cuba. It is the high and conclusive reason upon which the nations expect us to act, and they will justly lose respect for us, as we will lose respect for ourselves, if we do not act.—New York World.

## Favorite Son of Old Glory.

Fitzhugh Lee returns from his long and difficult experience at Havana to find that the whole nation honors and

loves him. Few public servants have been more promptly rewarded for distinguished services. Not long ago he was the favorite son of old Virginia. Now he is a favorite son of old glory.—New York Sun.

## Trusts Number 200 Now.

An expert who has canvassed the growth of trusts finds that fully 200 such organizations are now in existence, with a total capital in stocks and bonds of \$3,662,000,000. This does not include many business and manufacturing combinations in process of formation, for there is scarcely a week that the announcement of a new pool or trust of gigantic proportions is not made. The capitalization claimed for existing trusts is equal to 56 per cent of the aggregate capital credited to all manufactures in the United States by the census of 1890.—New York Journal of Commerce.

## Big Standing Army Not Wanted.

It would be hardly possible to state a plainer proposition than that the genius of the people of the United States is opposed to the creation of a considerable standing army. President Jackson, who had had in his character more of the military spirit than any of our Presidents, never asked for it. President Taylor, another military hero, looked with abhorrence upon the thought. President Grant never took a step in that direction. These men all had experience of what standing armies were.—Boston Herald.

## What Plain People Think.

The plain everyday people of the United States hold that a nation is like a man; when it has received an insult and a blow it is high time to fight. Furthermore, people unhampered by books feel that for a nation like this to sit idly by and watch cowardly barbarians like the Spaniards torture and starve wretched noncombatants, almost within cannon shot of its boundaries, would amount to a national compounding of crime.—Kansas City Times.

## What Grosvenor Didn't Explain.

Mr. Grosvenor has not explained how Wall street came to know of the postponement of the President's message before Congress knew of it and while that body, as a matter of fact, was waiting for the message. But Mr. Grosvenor is not expected to explain. Like the gentleman who held a prominent position on a certain front porch in Canton some time ago, he has, for obvious reasons, "nothing to say."—Columbus Press Post.

## McKinley a Tenderfoot.

President McKinley resorted to diplomacy with a nation skilled in its arts by centuries of practice, while he had but his own inexperience, the aid of his Canton lawyer, and that of an old man in his dotage. When a tenderfoot sits in a game with an expert he is pretty apt to get the worst of it. Sagasta was not slow to take the advantage of him.—St. Paul Globe.

## Republicans Growing Scarcer.

While Grosvenor valiantly protests against the injection of politics into the discussion of the Spanish question, at the same time he boasts that if there is a war "it will be a Republican war." Judging by the results of last Tuesday's municipal elections, there are no more enough Republicans in the country, outside of Rhode Island, to make a very formidable army.—St. Louis Republic.

## Patriotism Bounded by Pelf.

"Trust us to preserve the honor of the nation!" shouts the broker. "We will keep that honor secure—for a consideration." "War is hell!" shouts the excited dealer in options, and in an undertone he adds: "It depreciates the price of my securities." The patriotism that is confined to pelf seems to be in the middle now. But it is riding for a fall.—Omaha World-Herald.

## McKinley Can't Cut Loose.

If President McKinley could but muster up the courage to cut loose from Hanna and his stock-gambling friends it would perhaps be possible yet for him to regain in some measure the confidence of the people. But with Hanna he is like Sinbad with the old man of the sea astride his neck.—Kansas City Star.

## Political Paragraphs.

After the army and navy have evicted Spain from Cuba, why not employ them to evict Hanna from the cabinet meetings?—Chicago Dispatch.

Just how an act of war, such as the blowing up of the Maine, can be arbitrated is hard to understand.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

A circus manager has offered the Government the services of twenty-five patriotic elephants. But with Hanna on its hands the Government hesitates.—Exchange.

In the memorable language of Ambassador John Hay, it looks as if Consul General Lee was determined to hold her nose again! the bank till the last galoot's ashore.—Boston Herald.

The thievery and jobbery, the bad faith and chicanery which have brought the Republican State machine into bad odor are sufficient to bring a heritage of defeat.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

It would take old Grover and Olney about three minutes to decide whether we should have peace or war with Spain, and in view of the way they cut J. Bull's comb three years ago there is not much doubt about which they would choose.—Memphis Scimitar.

# THE FARM AND HOME

## MATTERS OF INTEREST TO FARMER AND HOUSEWIFE.

### Value of a Fast-Walking Team—More Attention Should Be Given Green Crops—How to Grow Celery—Best Varieties of Potatoes for Seed.

#### The Walking Horse.

We hear a great deal about the running horse and nearly as much about the trotting horse, but very little about the walking horse. The first two are valuable in their way, but neither of them is as much needed in this country as the last. A slow-walking team makes work drag in spite of every effort of the driver. Farm work must be done with the horses at a walk, and a slight difference in the rate at which the team gets over ground makes a great difference in the amount of work accomplished.

The great trouble with most farm teams is that they are allowed to get into the habit of dragging along at the rate of about two miles an hour, even when going unloaded, and this habit becomes fixed and impossible to remedy, for the farm horse that gets in the notion of going slowly will poke along in spite of any urging that may be used. There is much farm work that is very light on the team. Cultivation is not heavy work, and drawing a mowing machine does not call for more than a small fraction of the power a horse may exert without injury. Hauling loads to market is not heavy work, when the roads are good, and all these kinds of work should be done with the team walking at a rate that would keep a man on a comfortable dog-trot all the time.

The fast-walking horse is made in breaking the colt. He usually wants to go too fast, and is held down until he comes to believe that his gait is to be a dragging walk. If the colt is trained to walk up briskly, but not trot; if he is never allowed to trot until he is thoroughly trained to walk as fast as he can without trotting, there will be no trouble about his walking in after life. When the colt that is being trained begins to lag, touch him gently with the whip to let him know that he must move up a little more briskly, but do not strike him hard enough to hurt and excite him. Make him keep on walking as fast as he can, and the habit will soon become a fixed one, and his value will be increased.—Farmer's Voice.

#### Green Crops.

Farmers should give some attention to green crops, whether they use the entire pasture or not. Green crops afford a large variety and cost less than any other foods, giving large amounts of forage and assisting in keeping the land in good condition. Rye, crimson clover, red clover, cow peas, green corn, rape and oats are all suitable for producing green food in abundance, and, as rye and crimson clover give a supply in the spring, before grass has made growth of any consequence, they should always be in the line of rotation. Oats and peas, broadcasted together, may be seeded now if the ground is not frozen, and they will give a larger amount of green food on the acre than can be secured from three or four times that area of pasture, and the forage may be cut off and given to the animals at the barn. When the green food is no longer suitable for cutting, sheep may be turned on the remainder, and will find a fair proportion of food. Later cow peas may be sown, and they will leave the land in better condition than before. It is not too soon to sow Essex rape, and, as many farmers have not given it a trial, those who will make the experiment with rape as green forage will not fail to give it a place on the farm hereafter. It can be cut or eaten off several times during the year, and yields enormously, sheep being very fond of it, while cattle and hogs also relish it highly.—Philadelphia Record.

#### How to Grow Celery.

Dr. S. B. Partridge, of East Bloomfield, N. J., is raising celery on a large scale on the bed of a reclaimed swamp. He set 125,000 plants last year of the dwarf Golden Self-Blanching, and produced from 1,500 to 1,800 dozen bunches of celery per acre, marketable at from 20 cents to 30 cents per dozen. His celery kept for winter market is placed in trenches made by means of a crib, 16 feet long and 14 inches wide, which is placed in the row and filled with celery. Then a deep bank of earth is thrown up on either side to the top of the celery, after which the crib is taken up and moved forward its length, and the same process is repeated. The trenches are left open at the top until the approach of cold weather, when they are covered with straw and earth.—New England Farmer.

#### Selecting Potato Seed.

In choosing varieties of potatoes for spring planting it is advisable to select those that have been recently produced from seed, provided, of course, that their quality and productiveness have been tested and are generally known. The variety that is newly produced from seed is generally more vigorous than that it is likely to be after a few years' contest with potato bugs and the blight and rots, which all help to decrease potato vigor and productiveness. But it is not advisable to plant potatoes, however good, which are very unlike standard sorts, and whose good qualities are not generally known. There is so much difference in potatoes that the mere fact that a potato is a potato is not enough with most consumers to secure a market for it until after they have given it a trial.

#### The Food of Dairy Cattle.

With the advent of the growing season begins a lessening of the cost of

food for stock. Dairymen have less labor to perform in spring and summer, as the cows can be put on pasture, and consequently feed themselves. Nevertheless, there are many points from which the matter of producing milk and butter at the lowest cost may be viewed. Every dairyman should first know the characteristics of the cows in the herd. With the aid of the scales he should be able to estimate the amount of food consumed by each individual, and by the use of the milk tester he can keep himself informed of what each cow is doing. Unless he uses these precautions he will be operating in the dark. There is a wide difference in the capacity of cows, even when of the same breed, and this difference may be such as to cause a loss from one cow, while the other gives a profit. In a herd of from twenty to forty cows there may be some excellent animals, and the entire herd may give a profit, yet among them may be some that entail a loss, and at the same time increase the cost for labor. In a recent test at the Pennsylvania Experiment Station it was found that a cow in a herd that produced 296 pounds of butter in a year only gave a profit of \$30, while another cow that produced only 276 pounds in the same period gave a profit of \$60. The capacity of one cow was to digest and assimilate the food better than the other. The profit was not in the quantity of butter produced, but in the reduction of the cost.

#### Straw as Mulch.

In grain-growing localities farmers have a cheap supply of excellent mulch in the straw of the grain crops they raise. In most cases no better use can be found for this than to use it as a mulch for trees set recently. If the ground is plowed the soil under the tree should be covered with at least enough straw to keep the surface from becoming compact. By keeping the surface soil loose and friable, air is enabled to enter it, and this is absolutely necessary to give vigorous growth to the roots. Quite often in planting trees deep holes are dug into the subsoil, and earth without any vegetable matter is thrown to the surface. Some mulch around the tree so far as the subsoil extends will prevent it from becoming hardened and excluding air.

#### Food for Young Chicks.

It is useless to attempt to raise young chicks on corn-meal dough, as such food is not sufficient. Very young chicks should be fed three times a day, and millet seed should be scattered so as to induce them to exercise in seeking the seeds. An excellent food for young chicks is bread, made of the following substances: Sifted ground corn, 1 pound; corn meal, 1 pound; bran, ¼ pound; middlings, ¼ pound; ground meat, 1 pound; ground clover, 1 pound; salt, 2 ounces; bread soda, 1 ounce. The bread should be crumbled, given dry, and on clean boards, allowing no food to remain, as it will become sour if uneaten.

#### The Cream Separator.

Recent German trials indicate that the separator removes from milk and cream not only the dirt and slime which pass through the strainer, but the greater portion of bacteria. As cows are usually cared for and handled there is always some dirt and dandruff from the cow's udder gets into the milk. This cannot always be caught in a strainer, but if any passes through it is included with the slime which remains in the separator bowl. The German trials indicate that most of the bacteria remain with it.

#### Grape Vine Fertilizing.

Grape vines usually need very little manure other than mineral, and that chiefly potash. In European countries it is the habit of vineyardists to burn the prunings each year, and apply the ashes. No other fertilizer is used. In fact, stable manures are objected to, as they make the vines grow rank, and the fruit will lack the flavor that belongs to fruits whose vines are only manured with the ashes. Much of the excellence of French wines is possibly due to this sparing use of manure.

#### Productiveness of Strawberries.

As many as 10,000 quarts of strawberries have been grown on an acre. A plot 50 feet square will produce over 600 quarts—in the same proportion. It is not every grower who receives 5,000 quarts per acre, but a garden plot can be made to give larger proportionate yield than a field.

#### Hints to Beekeepers.

Adjusting boards should be used in hives of all weak stocks. Colonies having defective queens are always the foundation of trouble.

Colonies selected for breeding should contain a good supply of drone comb. Little wooden troughs holding about a pint of sirup are good for feeding bees.

The supply of drones depends entirely on the amount of drone comb furnished.

Colonies selected for breeders should be pushed by early feeding to their utmost limit.

Do not feed in the morning, as it tends to cause robbing and to make the bees restless.

It is just as necessary to select for the production of drones as for the production of queens.

Pollen is always stored in or near the brood nest, and here is the place where the bees will cluster.

Bees are not apt to attach comb to cloth, so cloth divisions between frames serve as a guide.

Queen cells should never be retained in any colony except one that is in a natural, healthy condition.

Be sure that the entrances to the hives are kept open. The bees want good, fresh air to breathe.

Confine each colony to only as many combs as the bees can conveniently cover, giving more combs as needed.

# GOOD ROADS

## Something About Roads.

A correspondent writes the Indiana Farmer from Bicknell, that State, in these words:

While at the World's Fair, in the Transportation Building, I noticed a section of some foreign corduroy road that was claimed to have been built some years before Christ. The cost of building stone roads in many parts of the State is bound to be large, owing to the lack of suitable material in places. Some of our people here think that we have plenty of material in our limestone hills to construct good stone roads. Others think it would be cheaper to bring it by rail from the north and east. Be this as it may, to build good roads in this county will cost a good deal. Some think it would be best to make a loan of long standing and let posterity help pay the debt. In my opinion if some of the other callings would pay as much taxes in proportion as the farmers do, the surplus would go a long way toward making good roads. I do not think there are many farmers that are willing to have their taxes enlarged very much at this time.

Doubtless there are more people here interested at this time about dirt roads than any other kind. That our roads have been abused is a fact known to everyone. As a general rule it appears that our road supervisor's sole object is to "splash" over his work and receive his ill-gotten gain. And on the other hand the men that go on the road to work are too apt to be watching the sun and asking what time it is. They don't work like they do at home. What is the result? The roads are washing away, bridges have broken through, culverts are filled, fences thrown down and people compelled to drive around bad places.

What is to be done? In the first place in certain places there are more roads than men to work them. I think the law exempting men from work on the roads on account of age, or disability, if they possess property, is not fair. Men usually use the roads more after the age of 50 than they do while younger, because they are often worth more and have more produce to haul, and often possess saw-mills, wheat thrashers and other valuable property. If not able to work let them hire. Who would think of exempting one from taxation on account of age or disability?

Are the roads not as important as the taxes?

Where is the country that has no roads? Take the roads from our country and the streets of our cities will grow up with briars. Farmers ought not receive pay for cleaning their fence corners next to the roads. If the land belongs to the road, let the supervisor work it and the briars will not grow. If it belongs to the farmer let him clean them without pay. Perhaps supervisors should receive more pay and then be held strictly responsible for the work they do. They should make weekly trips along the roads, take out obstructions, turn water from roads, fix up bridges, culverts, etc.

## THE KAFFIR WHEN OFF DUTY.

### South African Mine Laborers Lead a Monotonous Life.

Life on a South African mining property can hardly be monotonous. The report of a traveler fresh from the cape gives a curious insight into one phase of labor on the Rand. It used to be the custom of the Kaffir, on receiving his salary—usually \$5 per week—to sally forth and invest all his earnings in bottles of brandy. He would then return to his hut, squat down and drink it like beer until he succumbed. This went on regularly among the mining staffs of all the large companies until, in order to prevent a weekly cessation of labor, the companies adopted the method of inclosing all their native employees inside a compound, and shutting them in like prisoners until their time of service has elapsed.

Visitors to the compounds often take in a pound or so of the native coarse tobacco, for a handful of which the Kaffirs, under stress of their deprivation of tobacco as well as liquor, will often gladly exchange fine old native bracelets and knobkerries. The native method of smoking is peculiar. After the pipe is filled several long pulls are taken and the smoke swallowed. The bowl is then taken off, the stem is inserted in a bowl of water, and the water is sucked through it and swallowed also. Then comes the tug of war. The man who can hold out longest without coughing is considered a hero. After a short time the smoker will convulsively cough for fifteen or twenty minutes, and one can quite understand why the Kaffir is not allowed out to buy tobacco. In the case of the traveler, who gives these details, the mine manager asked him to cease bartering the vile stuff for native trinkets, otherwise the whole relay would be unfit to go down when their time came.

The Kaffir usually returns home after six months or a year at the mines, and is considered a rich man. He buys two or more wives and takes his ease while they do all the work.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Good Thing to Lose Your Job.

Many men who have fair-salaried positions are contented to thus go through life, having no higher hopes and aims than simply to do their work well, and never expect to be anything more than a clerk all their lives. They thus become dwarfed in their mental capabilities, and if they live to be old their services gradually become less and less valuable to their employers. Had some

men of this stamp lost their positions early in life, the struggle that they would have been forced to make would have tended to develop what was best in them.

Many of the most successful business men of to-day would not have achieved their present financial positions had they always remained clerks. Had they had their choice, perhaps, they would always have been clerks; but many of them lost their situations, and this very fact was the door which opened up the way to starting a business of their own. So, should these words catch the eye of any young man recently discharged, let him take fresh hope and courage, and resolve to do something for himself. If he is made of the right kind of stuff and is contented to start in a small way, and be satisfied with slender wages for himself for a few years his chances for winning a competency are good. To such a man, although the loss of his situation at first seemed a misfortune, in the end it will prove one of the greatest benefits that ever befell him.—Hardware.

## Press Blunders.

Probably no article on typographical errors ever appeared without containing a typographical error, unless the proofreader has been fortunate enough to intercept on the way to the press the mistakes which seemed to be predestined for that very list of mistakes. A queer blunder recently appeared in a New York Journal's elaborate article on blunders.

In this article the following paragraph occurs:

"The account of the locomotive striking a car and cutting her into 'calves' is perfectly understandable."

No doubt this would have been "understandable" if the word "car" had been printed "cow," as it was written, and as it stands in the traditional joke which forms the basis of the story.

With some of his other stories the author of the article had better success. He tells of the author of a classic Roman drama who, by the undesired aid of the printer, made his hero exclaim, "Bring me my togs!" instead of "Bring me my toga!"

He relates that one of Mr. Black's heroines once perished from swallowing a dose of "opium" instead of opium; and that once there was a proofreader, one of a sporting eleven, who had read for the first time the title of Dickens' "Cricket on the Hearth."

"Impossible!" said the proofreader; "you can't play cricket in a fireplace," and he corrected it to read, "Crickets on the Hearth."

A famous and dreadful blunder was once made in an advertisement, where mistakes of the sort are comparatively infrequent, by reason of greater care; a blunder in an advertisement may be expensive. The advertisement of a great manufacturer of marmalade was made to read:

"Blank's preserves are not to be eaten."

A "b" had dropped out before the "eaten." It was probably an engraver, and not a compositor, who made a wedding invitation read, "Your presents is requested" instead of "presence." Barring the grammar, this version would be well enough in a great many cases.

An old English newspaper, mentioning the absence of the prime minister, said: "Sir Robert Peel, with a party of fiends, is shooting pheasants in Ireland." This might have been no joke in an opposition paper, but this one was friendly to Peel instead of being "friendly" to him.

## Uncle Bill's Letter.

We had a note the other day from Uncle Bill, who writes—  
"Been gone some twenty year or more, an' is by fortune blessed'd.  
He sent his photograph along, an' in his letter said:  
'He's livin' on a ranch alone an' never yet has wed.  
'I guess the Maynard girl still lives,' he wrote, 'an' pretty still—  
She who was known as Roxey when I to her was Bill?'"

We showed the photograph to her—she read the letter through,  
An' with a little sigh she said, a little nervous, too:  
"Well, Mr. Smith deserves good luck—a noble heart, God knows!"

An' then her face turned strangely like a white and wilted rose.  
Perhaps the kind words touched a chord that straightway felt a thrill—  
"She who was known as Roxey when I to her was Bill."  
Ah, undercurrents of all lives! \* \* \* \*  
Around her children play;  
She has a husband who is kind—an' yet who knows, that day  
When she remembered that one heart in all the world of care  
Still turned to her in tenderness an' thought her pale cheeks fair,  
She felt a pang of deep regret—longed for the old dream still,  
When one was known as Roxey, an' one was known as Bill?  
—Chicago Times-Herald.

## The Bayonet.

The bayonet is said to have derived its name from the fact that it was first made at Bayonne, France, and its origin illustrates the proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention." A Pasque regiment was hard pressed by the enemy on a mountain ridge near there. One of the soldiers suggested that, as their ammunition was exhausted, they should fix their long knives into the barrels of their muskets. The suggestion being acted upon, the first bayonet charge was made; and the victory of the Pasques led to the manufacture of the weapon at Bayonne, and its adoption in the armies of Europe.

We can never tell by the looks of a man on the streets if he is going to a church social, or to sit up all night with the corpse of a friend.

Worrying about people has to be handled with rare judgment, to keep it from becoming nagging.

Everyone occasionally wonders "how anyone so nice can do such a thing."