

"Pilling & Crane of Philadelphia have, during the past week, sold for spring delivery between 175,000 and 200,000 tons of Newfoundland ore to nine different concerns in eastern Pennsylvania." But whatever the price of this imported ore in the open market our consumers must pay 40 cents a ton duty in addition to that price. This reduces by 40 cents the force of the competition which the trust ought to be obliged to meet and therefore enables the trust to extort 40 cents a ton more for its ore than it could extort if it were not for the tariff. But little ore is now brought across Lake Superior from the Canadian side; the removal of the duty would probably result in extensive competition from this quarter and afford some relief from the exactions of the trust.

But the district which now suffers most from the duty on ore because the duty bars its only avenue of escape from the trust, is the eastern section of the United States. This section produces considerable non-Bessemer iron and needs only large supplies of cheap Bessemer ore to enable it to make Bessemer steel. As early as 1890 Major L. S. Bent, president of the Pennsylvania Steel Co., said to the house ways and means committee, "Give me free ore and I will sell pig iron in Liverpool and send steel rails to London."

Because of the duty the mills of the Pennsylvania Steel Co. at Steelton, Pa., and at Sparrows Point, Maryland, have been idle much of the time during the last eight years, while many eastern mills have been permanently closed and the iron and steel industry of New England has become almost extinct. Without tariff restrictions iron and soft coal would be as cheap in Boston as in Pittsburgh. With tariff restrictions New England's iron and steel industry exists only by consent of the iron and coal trusts of Pennsylvania and the lake district. These trusts have always insisted that tariff duties should be retained.

It is evident that while the removal of the duty on iron ore might not kill the ore trust it would at least cripple it somewhat and prevent it from extorting quite such excessive prices from all sections of the country. As in the cases of so many other trusts it is clear that the first step in their treatment should be the removal of tariff duties. This would clear the way and would show how much of the trust evil was tariff and how much something else, which would require different treatment.

In view of the monopoly uses which the various iron and other trusts are making of the tariff there is good reason why all duties on products controlled by trusts should be repealed. Delay in taking the duties off simply encourages trusts and monopolies, hinders the development of all industry and prevents the just distribution of products—which

is the best guarantee of a stable government.

It is fair to assume that trusts will never be suppressed by statute law. The effective remedy for trusts and their evils must lie in the removal of the conditions that create and foster trusts. These conditions are the result of special laws and can be changed only by repealing special laws. One of these special laws gives us our tariff system, which, if it is not the mother of trusts, certainly fosters and protects them. Had tariff duties been abolished twenty years ago, we should not now have as many trusts and most of those formed would be innocent affairs incapable of fixing prices at exorbitant figures.

BOLTON HALL.

THE EFFECTS OF THE CONTEST.

Now that it has been announced that an attempt will be made to seize the state by a legislative contest, the responsibility for this premeditated revolution should be clearly established.

As might have been expected, those now urging forward this contest are the men responsible for the music hall convention and the campaign that followed. Realizing that they have burned the bridges behind them and that for them there is no forgiveness, these men are working to seize state offices and then fasten their machines upon the state.

It is but natural also that those newspapers which saw nothing in Goebel's treachery during the convention but an admirable diplomacy, and nothing to censure in his killing of Sandford and betrayal of Carlisle, should extol this movement. They are plainly in the same plight as he is, and must rise or fall with him. Since the election, by printing false affidavits and by constantly slandering this city, they have been working to prepare this contest. The story of tissue ballots, originating either in the brain of Goebel or in the office of the Courier-Journal, was printed in that paper long before any information could have been received from the remote and inaccessible counties where these ballots are alleged to have been used.

This contest will injure Mr. Bryan, the next candidate of the democratic party for president. Mr. Bryan came to Kentucky fully cognizant of what had taken place at the convention. He knew that Goebel had obtained his nomination by violating a personal pledge. He also knew that Mr. Blackburn, for whose election he professed to be so anxious, had four years previous denounced Goebel for killing Sandford, and had sworn to devote all his energy to secure his punishment. Conscious of all these things, Mr. Bryan came to Kentucky and spoke in the interest of Goebel.

The election followed, and Goebel was defeated. The result was published in

every part of the country, and must have even reached Lincoln, Neb. Only one or two Goebel newspapers disputed the result, and even these admitted that it was in doubt. In the face of all this Mr. Bryan sent the following telegram:

"Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 9.—To the Hon. William Goebel, Frankfort, Ky.: I have just learned that returns are near enough complete to insure your election. Accept hearty congratulations. I am sure your administration will strengthen the party. WILLIAM J. BRYAN."

It will be remembered that Mr. Goebel speaking after Mr. Bryan in this city, said that the same election machinery that he expected to elect him would be used in a precisely similar manner to carry the state for Bryan in 1900. This promise seems to have gotten the better of Mr. Bryan's conscience. If Mr. Bryan is consistent he will now address letters to the members of the Kentucky legislature urging them to seat Goebel and Blackburn regardless of the law and the evidence.—The Louisville, (Ky.) Post, December 20th 1899.

POLITICAL.

"If those who say that the tariff question is settled and must not be reopened on any account mean to imply that the duty on hides is to be perpetual," warns the Boston Advertiser (rep.), "they are not helping the cause of protection in New England by such a dogmatic line of argument."

"Popular enthusiasm over the extension of our territory has always assumed that the merit system of appointment would apply as a matter of course," remarks the Rochester Times-Herald (rep.). "Without this assumption there could have been no enthusiasm, and the anti-expansionists would have had their way from the beginning."

"Senator Hoar is right," declares the Philadelphia Ledger (rep.). "We blundered terribly in the beginning of our dealings with the Filipinos, but it is not too late to retrieve our errors. We have paid dearly for them in blood and treasure; but, if congress will approach the question in a patriotic instead of a partisan spirit, all may yet be ordered for the best."

Looking over the globe this Christmas morning, 1899, THE CONSERVATIVE concludes, from the number of preparations by big governments, with big armies for manufacturing corpses at those agreeable international expositions called battle fields, now visible on all four quarters of the globe, that "peace on earth and good will to man," is a mis-translation. Properly it should read:

"Pieces on earth," because man wills that "pieces" are better than peace.