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THE PALLADIUM UNION LABEL

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1897.

FOR A TARIFF COMMISSION.

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Representative Fowler, of New Jersey, to provide for a permanent Tariff Commission for the purpose of investigating Federal taxation and adjusting inequalities in existing law. The Commission is to consist of seven members to be appointed by the President. The term of office is to be twenty-one years and the salary \$7,500. The bill makes it the duty of the Commission to investigate all questions of Federal taxation and annually make a report to the President of the United States on or before the first day of November, with such recommendations for changes in import duties and internal revenue laws as they may deem wise and proper. The Commission is to have power, with the approval of the President, to suspend any part or the whole of any tax upon imports, or any internal tax which may have been imposed by the Congress, provided, however, that such suspension shall take effect only upon the following conditions: First—It may take effect immediately if the recommendation has the unanimous support of said Commission and receives the written approval of the President of the United States. Second—It may take effect in one year after the date of recommendation if recommended by at least five of the said Commissioners and receives the written approval of the President of the United States. Third—It may take effect in two years after the date of recommendation if it has received at the end of each year the recommendation of at least four of the said Commissioners and the written approval of the President of the United States. Such an arrangement as here proposed would tend to minimize tariff uncertainty and in time local conditions could be adjusted so as to remove unjust and unnecessary tariff taxation. But what a monkey-and-pigro time this Commission would have with the big syndicates, combines and trusts, whose interests clash with the interests of the people.

EXCHANGE OF RIFLES.

Governor Black has signed the bill permitting the exchange of the Remington rifles, now in use by the National Guard, for the Springfield rifles now in possession of the general Government. This ends for a time, the efforts to induce the State to buy a magazine gun. On the ground of economy the exchange is all right. New York State gets a better rifle than the Remington without expense. But it should be remembered that the Federal Government itself has just discarded the Springfield gun. If the time should ever come when the Regular Army and the Guard will be required to operate in the field together it will be found highly essential, for reasons that are only too apparent, that both forces should be armed with the same rifle. If a magazine gun is best for the army it is best for the National Guard.

The fatal mistake in this whole matter was the appointment of a Commission, by Governor Morton, under authority of an act of the Legislature, to select an arm for the State troops. Not a single member of the National Guard was named on that Commission and not one of the three was a practical man. One of them, who boasts of something of a record as a soldier, had little actual experience in the field. About all he ever knew about a gun he learned by consultation with the officers of a military company in the town where he lives, after his appointment. This

Commission, after experiments and examinations, recommended that the Remington rifle be selected. A scandal followed. Jobbery was apparent and the Governor wisely refused to approve of the findings of the Commission. Then came the offer of the Federal Government, with the result that the Legislature passed the bill authorizing the exchange of rifles, which the Governor has just signed. The exchange will be made at once.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

There are 3,196 water works plants in the United States, of which 1,693, or more than one-half, are owned by municipalities. In New York State municipal ownership is represented by Albany, Auburn, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Cattaraugus, Cohoes, Fort Edward, Geneva, Gouverneur, Granville, Lesterside, New York, North Tonawanda, Oneida, Phelps, Richfield Springs, Saugerties, Schoharie, Syracuse, Ticonderoga, Tonawanda, Washingtonville, Ogdensburg.

This information is furnished in the Manual of American Water Works, compiled by M. N. Baker, Ph. D., Associate Editor of the Engineering News. The Manual gives all sorts of interesting information concerning the water supplies of the various cities of the United States, including statistics of the revenue and expenses, cost, debt, sinking fund, etc. The tendency toward municipal ownership has been steady, more noticeable, however, in the larger than the smaller cities. Only nine of the fifty largest cities now depend upon private water companies, and of the twenty largest only two—New Orleans and San Francisco—are so dependent. We quote from the Manual:

In the early days of water works construction in this country private ownership was the rule. That the opening of the century there were seven cities with more or less complete water supplies, only one of which was owned by a municipality. At more works were built the relative number of public plants gradually increased, reaching 27.8 per cent. in 1836, when there were fifteen public and thirty-nine private works. It took twenty years for this small number of works to increase, at the end of which time, or in 1855, there were still only 105 water works in the United States. Of these, forty-eight, or 45.3 per cent., were owned by the public. In the five years which followed shadowed the strife of 1861-65, and in the half decade of the war, public ownership fell to about forty-two per cent. The war over, water works were built more rapidly than ever before, until in 1875 there were 413 plants, and the public ownership had increased to fifty-four per cent. of the total, which point has not since been quite attained, although almost reached at the present time. After 1875 privately owned works increased so rapidly that the percentage of public owned works decreased, until in 1890 it was only 42.9 per cent. Since then it has increased again to 53.2 per cent., or just below the 53.8 per cent. of 1855. But in 1875 there were only 422 works in the United States, while now there are 3,196.

In closing his valuable treatise Mr. Baker discusses the new things in the way of machinery and pipe lines that have come into water works practice and makes some practical suggestions. On the subject of filtration he says that the slow sand process has gained most in favor, though much is claimed for the bacterial efficiency of mechanical filters. Municipal reform, Mr. Baker says, can not fail to have a beneficial effect upon water works undertakings. He deprecates the habit of some places of changing water works officials every time the complexion of the municipal government changes. On this point he says: "While many a familiar name still on the list of officials attests the fact that in many cities a faithful and efficient water works superintendent or secretary is appreciated, there are more changes than can be accounted for merely by natural causes, or removals for the good of the service alone. If any public servant becomes valuable with increased years and experience, it is the man responsible for the operation of a water works plant. It is certainly to be hoped that with better municipal government there may come a change in the policy which is still followed in too many cities of making a change in the water supply department heads with every change in the dominant faction in municipal politics; and that instead we may everywhere see the man who discharges his duties faithfully and well retained in his position year after year, so long as his meritorious services continue."

The final signature of the bill on every wrapper of GASTORIA

"Champ" Clark, the Missouri Congressman, held the Republicans on a hot griddle in the House the other day. He inquired why the Republicans did not pass a money bill, as they had promised during the campaign, and answered, "Because you dare not." Republicans had prated about Democratic incompetency because the Democratic House had 603 amendments to the tariff bill rammed down its throat. "Sweet is revenge! You'll have to swallow a thousand! You are sending three men to Europe on a wild goose chase to side you over the elections this Fall, and so return Marcus Aurelius Hanna to the Senate. Next Fall you will have a monetary commission to side you over the elections of 1898."

A clear blunder has made an extra session of the New Jersey Legislature necessary. One of the most important acts of the last session was the adoption of a constitutional amendment prohibiting all kinds of gambling, but in the official copy of the bill which was sent to the Governor the word "prohibited" appeared as "provided," changing the entire meaning of the sentence and necessitating the re-passing of the amendment. This little slip will cost the State several thousand dollars; it would be only fair to apply the careless clerk's salary in part payment for the extra expense.

April made another good showing in the matter of fire losses. The aggregate for the United States and Canada is reported at \$10,833,000, against \$11,010,600 for 1896 and \$11,180,150 for 1895. The totals for four months ended with April were: 1897, \$42,062,400; 1896, \$47,620,300; 1895, \$49,513,250. This is a steady progression downward, with more than \$5,000,000 less in 1897 than in 1888. May the good work go on: The country can well afford to reduce the size of its annual cash heap.

The vote of the House of Representatives, 100 to 30, refusing to open in the Senate amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, to revoke President Cleveland's order setting apart 21,379,840 acres of land as forest reserve, was sensible and creditable. The same forces that are insisting on the lumber tariff of two dollars per thousand are the same that are trying to raid the forest reserve. If the House will do the next sensible thing and strike out the lumber tariff, its action will win popular approval.

Girl students in educational institutions are making bids for fame nowadays. At Sage College, Cornell University, one plucky young woman saved the building from destruction by fire Monday night by prompt use of a bucket of water. At Butler College, Indianapolis, three "coeds" participated in a "rush" and prevented a larger number of young men. The higher education for women is evidently not restricted to mental training; it is also teaching them to be courageous, quick to act in an emergency and aggressive.

A correspondent writes to the Indianapolis Sentinel to ask this question: "Why is it that in 1892, when the tariff question was the predominant issue, President Cleveland called a special session of Congress to consider the money question, and now the money question having been the issue President McKinley has convened Congress in special session to consider a revision of the tariff?"

The war correspondents are having a lively time with the Greek army. Some of them had their horses taken from them on the retreat from Pharsalia and had to follow the army on foot. Two others were arrested as Turkish spies. Others describe their emotions under fire. One group was dashed by Greek shells and another was in the thick of a volley of shrapnel. They are plucky fellows, all.

The story that 35,000 Americans are going to Cuba to fight for the cause of liberty is off the name "plunder of cloth" as that sent out from Auburn early in the game, that a regiment would go to the island from that city. It is not more soldiers that Cuba needs, but munitions for those she already has.

The German military authorities have succeeded in arming their entire artillery with new quick-firing guns by which one battery is able to fire sixty shots a minute, covering a range of five miles. We have no quarrel with Germany.

The heaviest battalions are with the Ottoman army and might be to triumph over right in the Orient. Note in Cuba. The right is whipping the heavy battalions of Spain down there.

It is encouraging to note that the Administration is planning a Cuban policy. It is beginning to feel the pressure of public sentiment for the recognition of the insurgents.

Public sentiment is demanding the approval of the paving contracts by the Council. Those who must pay the largest assessments are urging prompt action.

The whipping-post has just been brought into use in Maryland, for the punishment of a wife-beater for the first time since the war. Good for Maryland.

I look as if Colonel Sanger would try to run for the Assembly again. He is wanted at Albany.

Who is Governor Black going to disappoint in relation to the White Canees bill?

TURN TOPICS. A hundred years ago the whipping post and pillory were still standing in New York city. They ought to be there yet for the punishment of men who whip their wives.

Trade at home, where you earn your money!

What a lot of fun the Elks had with President Berg: Oh my!

John Davis wants to bet that there are more men who go fishing for trout in this neighborhood than there are trout in the stream.

Oswego's new home is a beautiful one. There are few Odd Fellows lodges more comfortably housed. Thomas H. King, the owner of the building, has shown every consideration for the comfort and convenience of the lodge in fitting up the rooms.

Oswego's old tars are rapidly disappearing. Captain Peter Cronley, who, in the days of Oswego's big fleets, was one of the best known vessel masters on the lakes, is the last to go. He was a genial, well-souled man and a brother of the late James Cronley, formerly of the Palladium's staff.

Jefferson county seems to be getting pretty bad all at once. It has had two murders within a month.—Syracuse Post.

The Crown Prince Constantine is desirous of better treatment than he is getting.—Buffalo News.

Prudence: We should not judge the Prince too harshly. He was handicapped in more ways than one and he undoubtedly did the best he could.

Emira has entered into a contract for some asphalt pavement at \$3.49 per yard. Oswego's price is \$1.96.

The Emira Garvie tells this little story: When a dear, little curly-headed six-year-old, the son of an Emira man, was leaving his prayers the other evening, he intoned, after "God, make me a good boy," "and bless the other little boys in Emira."

"You should pray for the little girls, too, dear," said his mother.

"Does God love little girls?" asked the small worshipper, as if the idea was surprisingly new.

"Certainly."

"And so the prayer was amended. "O God, bless all the little girls, too, if you can."

An old proverb says: "Eat onions in May; all the rest of the year the doctors can play."

It is the Mayor of Auburn, Nebraska, and not Auburn, N. Y., who is just for contempt of court, although the types did try to make us believe otherwise.

Another half million in gold goes across the sea to-day. We did not send any of it.

A man who weighs 460 pounds should never get drunk unless supported by a derrick.—Buffalo Enquirer.

When many a man gets drunk he thinks he weighs 40 pounds.

Boston has had a tall show. Oswego has one every pleasant afternoon and they are just too sweet for anything.

Mr. Depew had just enough blarney to open the Irish fair in New York.

No man is allowed to doubt the word of William Waldorf Astor. At a dinner party in England Mr. Astor had something to say of the size of American territory. A bold Britisher intimated that Astor was telling a fairy story. Mr. Astor, much nettled, offered to bet that he could produce from one cross section of a California tree a table big enough to accommodate all forty of the assembled guests. The Britisher was game. The wager was sealed and, in consequence, the German ship Maria Hackfeld is carrying to London a piece of cargo consigned to William Waldorf Astor.

It is a great slab of red wood, the cross section of one of the big trees of California, fourteen feet four inches in diameter. It is about three feet thick and weighs about thirteen tons. It was the lumber woods in the City, and the ship's a big slab a play of our

such as it was being lowered into the hold. It will prove Astor's table narration and teach the Britisher not to question the word of an American gentleman.

A New York young woman bought a duck for dinner and found a valuable diamond inside it. This must have been one that "Len" Osterhout shot recently at Sparking brook, up near the Montezuma marshes.

Jerry Simpson, if we may believe the newspaper paragraphists, arrived at Washington from Kansas "sockless and with hayseeds in his hair." Now, the Hon. Jerry, if we may believe the Chicago Tribune, "sports a pair of golf stockings of elaborate and intricate design, calculated to show the contour of his sturdy calves in the most efficient manner, with a gorgeous sweater and knickerbockers to match. As he takes his daily run on his bicycle it is remarked that his eyes have not that icy glare which he frequently bestows on Speaker Reed when matters of great pith and moment are persistently ignored by the Chair of the House, but on the contrary beam with a mellow and lambent light very pleasant to behold."

Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O

Ask your grocer to-day to show you a package of Grain-O the new food drink that makes the drink of coffee. The children may drink it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it, like it. Grain-O has that rich, real brown of Mocha or Java, but is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. The price of coffee. Fifteen and twenty-five cents per package. Sold by all grocers. Label 5471

Happy up! Only a few more left. Come early and get a good bargain in shoes at the Sheriff's sale, 8 East Bridge street. may 13th

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Richardson Theatre Afternoon and SATURDAY, MAY 15 Evening. The Peerless Irish Comedienne, May Smith Robbins, in the Musical Comedy, in 4 Acts, LITTLE TRIXIE.

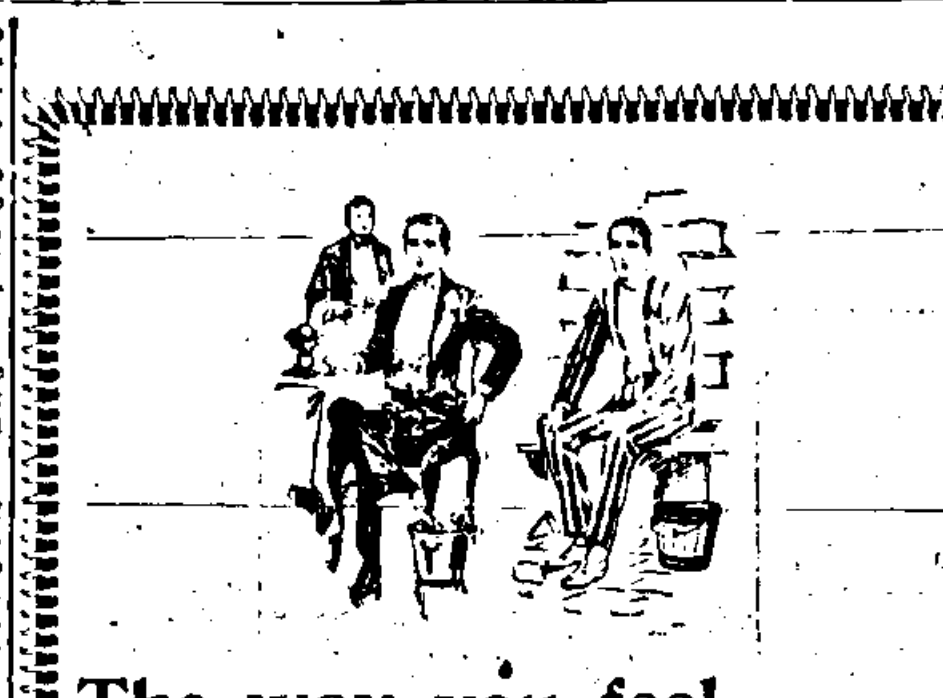
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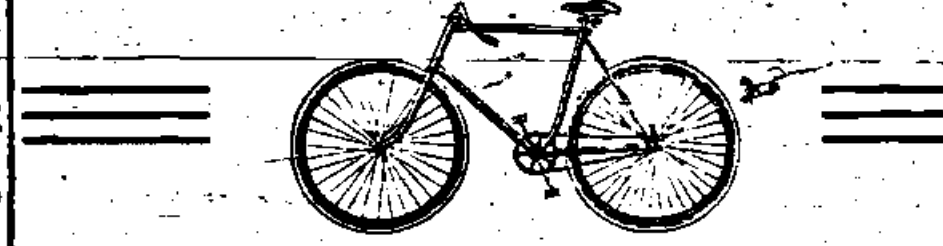
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