

WILL CONGRESS ACT?

Unless Congress shall promptly come to the rescue the Government will be confronted with the alternative of a suspension of specie payments or a recourse to the merely temporary relief from a third issue of bankers' bonds.

The gold reserve has been reduced to \$50,000,000. A sum equal to one-fourth of this remainder (\$12,500,000) was withdrawn last week. If the rule led by the banks shall continue, as with a premium on gold minutely there is every reason to believe will be the case, the end is near.

The only remedy at hand has proved ineffective. Within less than a year the Government has obtained \$17,000,000 in gold from the bankers and lost it all and \$8,000,000 more through the financial thimble-rigging of Wall Street.

Will Congress drive the Treasury to the same futile and costly experiment for the sake of a temporary relief? Shall the endless chain of buckets be dipped for the third time into the bank vaults only to be emptied back into them again? Or shall an humiliating and possibly vain appeal be made in foreign money markets to furnish what our own people are unable and willing to supply?

It is for Congress to say. It is for the Democratic party in Congress, as the responsible majority, to say. It is, in the last analysis, for the people to say. A sufficiently united and vigorous expression of their desire will bring their servants to a sense of their duty.

The national honor must be preserved. A failure to sustain the currency would result in such a blot upon the nation's faith and such disaster to the country as neither has ever yet experienced. The practical bankruptcy of this great Government, with limitless resources at its command, would be a reflection upon republican institutions which it is the duty of patriotic men of all parties to unite in preventing.

A simple remedy is accepted by all experts as adequate. It is to authorize the Treasury to issue a popular loan for the maintenance of the gold reserve. All other matters, whether of currency or of revenue, can wait. This is imperatively required now. Such a loan, to the amount of \$500,000,000 if needed would be subscribed in three days. There is money enough and patriotism enough in the country to meet the crisis if Congress will give the people a chance.

This is the right way. It is the easiest and most effective way. It is the democratic way. Will Congress act at once?

Attorney-General Hancock is the author of a bill to be introduced in the Legislature this week which provides that all railroads of the State shall be compelled to carry public officers free of charge when on official business. The bill empowers the Secretary of State to issue certificates to be given such officers, and to be recognized by the railroad companies. It looks as if the anti-pass provision would be speedily nullified.

The largest big railroad scheme is to build a railroad from the Hudson river to San Francisco, and a bill has already been introduced in Congress to incorporate the company. The capital stock of the company is to be \$100,000,000, and the promoters of the project insist that the present route to the Pacific coast can be shortened by seven hundred miles.

Buffalo proposes to establish a bureau of electricity in connection with its board of Public works. The large increase in the use of electricity in one year or another, of late years, would seem to justify the creation of such a bureau as is proposed.

The official reception of the German Ambassador at Washington on Sunday was an unprecedented affair for the day, but that didn't deter Cabinet officers and men and women prominent in social life from attending.

When a boy of 15 deliberately commits suicide by hanging, as happened in Maine Sunday, specialists on brain diseases have fresh cause for prosecuting their researches as to the cause of insanity.

It is reported from the Boston wool market that "the demand for wool has decidedly improved, and the business of the week has been the largest in a year." Free wool means more business.

The winter is not such an open one after all as was predicted. The snow is from fifteen to fifty feet deep in the Rockies, and Northern New York is undergoing an unusual experience.

The Teaching of Spelling.

In the Isle of Man spelling is still learned by singing the spelling lessons. Some thirty years ago a Westerner went about Massachusetts giving geography lessons by the same method. The names of States, capitals, rivers, &c., were fixed in memory by a sing-song exercise which was quite effective. Speaking of spelling, we sometimes think that it is scarcely taught at all in this country nowadays.

EDITORIAL TOPICS.

Richard Croker has gone to Florida, where they don't ask where he got it.

Warner Miller speaks highly of Senator Hill. He met him recently outside the breastworks.

Ex-Solicitor General James N. Bethune of Georgia, former owner of Blind Tom, the negro pianist, is dangerously ill.

Col. "Bob" Ingersoll's new lecture is entitled "Which Way?" Of course the answer is to be found by way of the box-office.

"And, papa, what did grandfather do for his country?" "Nothing whatever, my son. He was a member of Congress."

The late Senator Ingalls received one vote in the Republican Senatorial caucus in Kansas. It looks as if he might still remain "a statesman out of a job."

The interesting news comes that the Queen of Corea is jealous of her husband, who seems to be a bold, bad flirtatious miscreant—a harem scarer, kind of chap, in fact.

A collector of curiosities in New York claims to own the first hat that Grover Cleveland ever purchased in New York. The country might like to know how it would fit him now.

Minister Grip, Swedish representative at Washington, has been asked to sit in the Venezuelan Claims Commission. Grip is sure to grasp all the fine points of the matters at issue.

Away out in Kansas Major Elijah Halford is not free from the annoyances that pertain to national celebrity. He is in constant receipt of letters from total strangers who wish him to express an opinion as to whether ex-President Harrison is really desirous of another Presidential nomination.

Gov. Morton's coachman, the historic Howard, finds his notoriety very annoying. Rural visitors in Albany seem to consider him an object of great interest, and wherever he is known he is stared at and whispered about until his cheeks turn red, and he bitterly regrets that fate ever made him a national issue.

The ex-Queen of Naples agrees with other ex-monarchs that Paris is the best place for rulers out of a job, and she has returned to her old quarters in the French metropolis. The ex-Queen has lived very quietly since the revolution that deprived her of a throne. She is averse to display, dislikes company and dresses with the utmost simplicity.

Mr. Reed's prominence as a possible candidate for the Presidency has stimulated his correspondents to a point where it has become a burden. He receives hundreds of letters every day, most of them assuring him of success, and it takes the greater part of his time to attend to them. It robs him of all leisure and prevents him from giving much attention to his Congressional duties.

The Union Pacific Railroad, if sold for its full value at the present cost of railroad construction, would not bring enough money to pay the Government a cent after clearing off the first mortgage. The United States simply have been bled out of the entire amount of the subsidy and interest. This is Republican financing—the work of the party that says the Democrats do not know enough to govern the country.

It has been said of Gov. Tillman, who succeeds Butler in the Senate, that he would need only a cutlass and a cocked hat to "make up" as a realistic stage pirate. In manner and bearing he is the antithesis of his courtly predecessor, who will leave behind him the reputation of having been the handsomest as he was the politest man of his time in the Senate. Butler is one of the last of the cavaliers, Tillman an unclassified hybrid.

It was the irony of fate that both Dr. Loomis, the specialist in pulmonary disease, and his first wife should die of pneumonia. Dr. Loomis was one of the first prominent New York physicians to send his patients to the Adirondacks to try the curative properties of the air there, and nearly thirty years ago he built a cottage of his own in the North Woods, then only half explored and boasting but one hotel where now there are scores.

The "Tribly" craze has had no fannier outcome than the desire of girls in all parts of the world who think they resemble Du Maurier's heroine to communicate with the author. Mr. Du Maurier has received a large number of photographs from young women in this and other countries asking him if, in his opinion, they resemble the real "Tribly." These letters and pictures place him in an embarrassing position, but he is doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances.

An Italian paper says that the violin-cello upon which Sig. Pratti plays is valued at \$2,000. It is a Guarneri instrument. According to this same authority, all the prominent fiddlers have small fortunes invested in their violins. Ysaye has a Guarneri worth \$1,200 and Jean Gerardy plays upon a Guarneri valued at \$1,000. Dr. Joachim has a large collection of valuable violins. The Stradivarius that belonged to Ernst, and said to be worth \$10,000, has come into the possession of Lady Halle.

A CITY WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT.

Redeem Elections Every Year, but the Redeemed Never Quality.

The town of Humboldt, Kan., is an organized city of the third class, with 1,600 people, and for 18 years there has not been a municipal officer in the town, although the city election has been held every year. Thereby hangs a tale, and as it contains a warning against the taking of bonds and going into debt it should be told.

In the spring of 1870 there was projected south from Junction City to Parsons a railroad called the southern branch of the Union Pacific. Humboldt was not a young town then, but bond voting was the fashion, and Humboldt, which was old enough to know better, voted bonds to the extent of \$175,000 for the road. Not satisfied with this debt, in 1876 the town voted \$25,000 to the Fort Scott, Humboldt and Western, a road known in the west as the "Old Fifth Parallel." This road was graded from Fort Scott to Humboldt, but it was never equipped. The grade was made better by passengers riding along the Missouri Pacific. But the grade did not bring the flood of trade that was expected, and the lands being sold to the usual "innocent purchaser" the town began to skimpish around the courts to keep from paying an unjust debt. The inevitable came, and in 1878 the town, as a legal corporation, dissolved into thin air.

Then when the officer of the court came to Humboldt in 1878 to compel the mayor to turn over the interest due on the bonds he found that, although there had been a red-hot election the spring before, and although there was a man there called mayor, there was in fact no mayor at all. The situation has remained the same for 18 years. In two years ago the debt will be outlawed. Then Humboldt is coming up to breathe the free air once more as a municipal corporation. At present the programme is written upon a "tangled web." Every year the mayor and city council are elected. The old administration retires and the new administration comes in—only it doesn't. It comes to the threshold, but it doesn't enter. It does not "qualify."

The council meets without the oath of office. The mayor is merely chairman of a committee of citizens—the council—and the meetings of the committee are held regularly. Ordinances are passed giving the city marshal and the street commissioner power to keep the town orderly and clean. The council cannot handle any public money. The little money used by the council is raised by private subscription among the residents of the town, and as it doesn't go through any red-tape machine and as every one who pays these volunteer taxes knows just how much he pays for everything the money is not squandered. It is, in fact, a business administration. The city marshal is only a flat functionary. As city marshal he has power to do nothing except scare small boys who throw melon rinds in the alleys and to notify owners of pigeons to clean up, but as constable of Humboldt township he can arrest men and enforce the laws as well as the best policeman in the world.

The street commissioner has no power save with the consent of the people, whose property he grades up or down. He is a sort of advisory board. The city clerk issues licenses to show which are clearly first, and his records of the proceedings of the council would have no weight in any court. None of these appointive officers qualifies. The whole machinery of administration in the little town is carried on by common consent. The present mayor—the man who was elected, but who has not qualified and will not—is W. T. McElroy, editor of the Humboldt Times. Mr. McElroy has been in the little town for 30 years, and his paper is 29 years old. He thinks when the citizens get out of this hole the man who offers to vote a bond on the town site will be hanged.

He says that the city stands ready to compromise with the "innocent purchasers" of the bonds for exactly what the purchasers are alleged to have paid, 25 cents on the dollar. This proposition, he declares, has been made and rejected several times. Every few months a creditor from some court tries to find funds of the extinct corporation in some bank in the country. Not long ago the officer tried to do so. But so far the courts have been unable to get the best of the contest, and only time will release it from the trouble.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

LUCK FOR THE BATTENBERGS.

The Boys Are All Doing First Rate, Thank You, Just as They Writing. Fortune is once more looking favorably upon the Battenbergs. A movement is afoot in Bulgaria to place Prince Joseph upon the throne occupied for a few brief years by his gifted brother Alexander, and as the present ruler is rapidly losing his popularity, which was never great, the change is not at all improbable. Joseph's brother Henry, the husband of Princess Beatrice, has been again received into high favor by his mother-in-law, Queen Victoria, whom he had offended by facial slights upon her daughter.

Today we learn that the British admiralty has adopted an invention by Prince Louis Battenberg, who is an officer in the royal navy. Last year, as recorded in The Sun, he devised a new semaphore for signaling aboard ship, which, however, did not turn out to be of much practical use. His second invention, described as a course indicator, has had a better fate. The admiralty, as the result of extensive trials, has ordered that the flagships, battleships and cruisers be fitted with it. Many experienced naval officers reported adversely upon this course indicator on the ground that it was calculated to engender carelessness among navigating officers, but the prince's influence naturally prevailed.—New York Sun's European Letter.

Well, What Will You Do?

New York Tribune.

On the other hand, if Platt's plans succeed and his attorney is elected Chairman of the County Committee, it cannot be supposed that the great mass of honest Republican voters, who believe in their hearts that the party has a higher mission than to put any set of politicians in office or keep them there—the men who, when they elected Strong, meant to abolish Croker and his system and not swap him off for Platt and a new gang—will quietly sit down under it. They are too much in earnest for that. Whatever arguments may be made for submission on the ground of regularity and precedent, and however weak and timid the men may be who are recognized as leaders against the Platt domination, they will certainly assert themselves and demand recognition. For they, too, mean business, and will not be overruled in their purpose by the machinations of men who, pretending to be in accord with them, are secretly contriving their defeat.

The Disputed Surplus.

Chester Examiner. Congressman Reed recently suggested to the Committee on Ways and Means a horizontal increase of 10 per cent. on all customs duties for two years. A few years ago William R. Morrison proposed a horizontal cut in customs duties. There used to be a surplus in the United States Treasury so large that it terrified political economists. It has all been spent, and a great deal of it thrown away. Mr. Reed with his lightning code of rules, helped to get away with a great deal of the money.

LEGAL NOTICES.

SUPREME COURT—CAYUGA COUNTY. Joseph H. Hart, Plaintiff, vs. John F. Hart, Defendant. A decree of the Supreme Court, dated the 10th day of December, 1885, in the above entitled case, is hereby affirmed. The said decree is hereby affirmed, and the same is hereby made a part of the record of the said case. Dated the 10th day of December, 1885. JAMES W. HART, Referee.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS—BY VIRTUE OF A decree of the Surrogate of Cayuga County, made the 10th day of December, 1885, in the above entitled case, the said Joseph H. Hart is hereby appointed executor of the will of the late John F. Hart, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate of the late John F. Hart, deceased, are required to present the same to the undersigned, the assignee of said Joseph H. Hart, at his office in the City of Auburn, N. Y., on or before the 10th day of January, 1886.

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TOWN TOPICS.

If there be any way under the ordinances to reach and punish druggist Parcells for his action last week in running down Mr. Duckett and severely injuring him, it should be done as an example to show riders of horses that pedestrians have some rights in the streets. Mr. Parcells is fond of horseback riding, a beautiful and agreeable exercise. It has been a common thing for him to ride pretty swiftly through the busiest portion of Genesee street so that he might show to the public the good qualities of his animal. We have seen him many times ride at a speed that should not have been permitted.

The Syracuse Courier, through an Albany correspondent, fixes up the local political (Republican) slate in this county in the most approved style. It selects H. L. Burrill of Weedsport, as the assembly candidate in the North, W. A. Ogden of Genoa in the South districts, and Assemblyman Wilcox is to be advanced to seat in the Senate. The correspondent also says that Nathan Munger of Port Byron, is backed for the canal superintendency by Lieut. Gov. Saxton and Assemblyman Wilcox is trying to get the plan for Albert Hallett of Cato. Benjamin Hoyt of Weedsport, and Henry Stokes of Montezuma, bring up the rear in the race, both of whom will be, in sporting parlance—distanced.

What a jury will do, is very uncertain. Take the case of Morris Mulkin, the King's Ferry stage driver who was tried in Albany last Saturday on a charge of stealing a registered letter containing \$90 from a mail pouch while on his way to Auburn. Neither a stage driver nor any one else has access to the contents of a pouch, excepting postmasters, who are invested by the government with a key for its opening. Some postmaster on Mulkin's route must have handed to him the pouch unlocked.

When confronted with the charge of robbing the registered letter by officials at the Auburn office, Mulkin is said to have essentially confessed to his guilt. Yet, with this admission repeated under oath by our local officials, a jury failed to agree, nine favoring acquittal, two for conviction and the twelfth juror being detained at home by illness. Mulkin was thought to jail Sunday night. On Monday he entered bail in \$1,000 before S. C. Commissioner Adams for his appearance at the Utica court.

Charles LaLonde will undoubtedly profit by the sentence he received for sending obscene letters through the mails to his wife. He is in the Cayuga county jail, there to remain until himself or friends raise \$25 to pay his fine.

In their annual reports, our two savings banks present a very fine showing. The Auburn Savings bank, the older one of the two, has over 7,000 open accounts, and the Cayuga County Savings bank over 4,000. These open accounts represent almost an equal number of depositors. Once in a while a single depositor may be administrator of several estates and himself have a number of open accounts. Such instances are not frequent. The total population of Cayuga County is, inside of 65,000 including young as well as old. About one in five of its inhabitants is a depositor in a savings bank. These banks, each containing a handsome surplus, pay 3-1/2 per cent. interest semi-annually.

Charter election day is coming along rapidly. Candidates on the Republican side are plenty. John E. Savery, just out of one office is looking for another. He would like to supplant Mr. Guion in the Recorder's chair and receive the \$1,500 salary paid that official. Republicans who have long stood by Mr. Savery, and especially those of the grand army, are asking themselves the question, "Isn't John ever going to let up?" Was John born to hold office while many of us have never held a single post in position? These who have helped him into many offices are growing weary of his repeated and continued importunities for political preferment, and some of the number say emphatically that he has had enough.

Whoever succeeds in capturing the Republican nomination will by no means have an easy race. Recorder Guion is an exceedingly popular official, punctual in attendance upon his duties and in his sentences not severe. It is the custom in other cities to retain officers of a similar character so long as they will serve. The late police justice of Syracuse, Mr. Mulholland, died in the office he had acceptably filled for a long period of time. An old officer knows the usual line of offenders constantly coming before him, whereas a new official would be obliged to learn anew their faces. Mr. Guion will again be a candidate, and, as heretofore his re-election is assured.

Treasurer Stupp is another Democratic official whom the Anovos can congratulate and cordially commend. The manner of conducting his office has repeatedly been indorsed by large majorities in the face of the usual prevailing opposition majority. The most popular Republicans have been defeated by Mr. Stupp.

himself particularly with the law of probate. A quarter of a century ago, William B. Woodin, a resident of Scipio, was elected and re-elected Surrogate of Cayuga County. When he was succeeded by John T. M. Davis of Weedsport, Mr. Woodin became Senator of this district for many terms. His son, Edwin Woodin, became prominent in local politics. Both are dead. The only surviving male member of the Woodin family is Walter Woodin, the grandson of the late distinguished politician and who, perhaps, in the not far distant future, may fill the place once occupied by his grandfather. Walter married the eldest daughter of supervisor Thomas J. Bell.

Aggie Harvey's and Kitty (Delano) Morgan's walking match at the Genesee Street rink Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings proved almost a total failure financially. The rink rents for \$20 per night and the receipts for the three evenings amounted to less than \$20. The girls therefore were out in time, muscle and board.

The Genesee Street electric railway injunction case came up Monday morning before Justice Davy. Rich & Aiken appeared for the Board of Supervisors and Taber & Brainard for Farmer Case of Scipio. Mr. Aiken opened the argument, reading a number of affidavits of taxpayers and real estate dealers relative to the benefit that would be obtained by the people and property along the proposed route. Proceeding with his argument he claimed the papers of the defendant did not state any cause for action and that the papers were insufficient. Although the county property is not upon the market and it is immaterial whether the value of the same should be raised, the projected road would render means of access easier to taxpayers who had business there. Eight out of ten taxpayers in this city were in favor of the road, while, with a faint backing, the gentleman from Scipio was trying to defeat the good people of Auburn.

Mr. Brainard for the plaintiff claimed that there was nothing tangible about the projected road. First the consents were to be given to three men: Dunning, Wills and Lord. The law required three should be a corporation that should ask consent and not three men. "There was no time mentioned," said Mr. Brainard, "in which the road should be built. It is all in the air, a visionary myth." He said that if the road should be built, it would be a great damage and injury to one of the prettiest streets in the town. That it was an insolvent incorporation, with its bonds selling for fifty cents on the dollar. Its rolling stock was in a badly impaired condition and that it was, and always had been, a nuisance to the streets of Auburn.

Hon. T. M. Pomeroy said he would rather give any amount of money than to have this road pass his premises. West Genesee Street had long been one of Auburn's prettiest streets and that its residents had taken great pride in keeping and perfecting its beauty. This road, if put through, would spoil the street and mar its beauty forever. The present street railway was a busted concern and always had been. Then he scored the Business Men's association. There was nothing of it but the president, a real estate dealer and his clerk. The association was never heard of until this matter came up.

After listening to both sides the judge was inclined to think that the papers of the plaintiff were not sufficient. Taber & Brainard asked leave to amend their complaint to which Rich & Aiken objected as they had already had twenty or thirty days in which any change could have been made. Judge Davy then allowed the plaintiffs time to amend their complaint and gave Rich & Aiken until February 10 to serve additional affidavits. He further ordered the motion to stand over to the next special term at Rochester in February.

The General Opinion.

"The Lexow plan of police reform is a complete surrender of all that was to be gained. It embodies all that is bad in the existing system and adds some features equally objectionable," says The World, and in so saying it expresses the general opinion. As a matter of fact, it is the Tom Platt plan—not in any sense the plan of the reformers whose efforts have made any change of plan at all possible.

The Futility Stand-Law.

We are not now talking of the regulation of the liquor traffic by high license or otherwise. We are talking of the closing of the saloons to the workman on the only idle day he has in the week, in defiance of the wishes of the majority of the city population. The attempt to do this has been persisted in for a quarter of a century. We know all about its history and results, and can therefore speak about it with a confidence which would hardly be justifiable on any other public question. A Sunday law concerning liquor dealer into an enemy of the law and a debaucher of the police. We advise those who are interested in the peace, order and morality of the city not to be influenced by the denunciations of those who seek its repeal. Standing in the revelations of the Lexow committee and on the experience of the last twenty years, they may defy the a-priori boasts.