

REPUBLICAN CRIMES.

Two Years of McKinley and Hanna at Washington.

Workings of the Dingley Law and the Gold Standard—Strikes instead of Prosperity—The Mission of Democracy.

At the Chicago Auditorium Saturday evening, September 24, ex-Gov. John P. Altgeld, of Illinois, delivered a lengthy address upon the political questions of state and nation, in which he dwelt impressively upon the corruption of republicans and the results of two years of their rule at Washington. In the course of his remarks Mr. Altgeld said:

The Dingley Bill.

"In the campaign of '96 the trusts and the great concentration of capital in this country raised an enormous fund for the purpose of debauching American citizens and carrying the election by improper methods. As soon as President McKinley was inaugurated the different interests which had contributed this fund demanded that they be given an opportunity to collect it back, together with an enormous profit. Congress was at once convened, and although in session many months, it did no business except to enact the Dingley law. Ostenstly it was for the protection of the laborer and to furnish money for the treasury, but it did neither of these things, and in reality it was for the benefit of monopolies only. The famous McKinley law, then barely dead, had during its life raised the wages of any laborer in this country, and had, for the year ending July, 1894, produced a deficit in the treasury of \$70,000,000. This was caused by placing duties so high as to stop imports of certain articles. The treasury naturally got nothing, while the advanced price of goods, which the people had to pay, went into the chests of the monopolies. The Dingley law was constructed on the same principles, and the deficit in the national treasury, under this law, promises to be fully equal to that under the McKinley law, nor has it raised the wages of any laborer; but it has created conditions by which the American people are being compelled to pay hundreds of millions of dollars, not into the federal treasury, but into the coffers of private corporations.

The Sugar Trust.

"One illustration answers for all. The great sugar trust had, and has, control of the sugar business and market of this country. It reputed to have given over \$1,000,000 campaign funds in 1896, so in framing the Dingley law the sugar trust was given such a tariff as it wanted. The result of this was that the price of sugar went up 25 per cent; sugar that the laboring man formerly got for four cents a pound was at once marked up to five cents; instead of getting 25 pounds for one dollar, he got 20; and during the first year after this Dingley law went into effect the sugar trust cleared over \$20,000,000, over and above what it could have made under the former tax. Not a cent of this went into the federal treasury, but it all came out of the pockets of the people. The trust not only got back the millions it had given, but it got nearly \$20,000,000 besides. Almost the same state of facts exists with relation to the leather trust and a great number of other trusts and combinations. Nothing done for the laborer, but everything for the manipulator. Home labor is driven out by pauper labor brought over in shiploads, but the trust is protected. Gentlemen, do you believe in using the powers of government to enable a few men in that manner to make fortunes off the masses of the people?

The Worst Curse of All.

"Again, two years ago the republicans declared in their convention, that they would sustain the gold standard only until they could get an international agreement restoring bimetallism, and they pledged themselves to do everything in their power to secure such an agreement. During the campaign we charged that this pledge was not made in good faith, that they were really under control of foreign and eastern manipulators and that that pledge was simply intended to deceive, and in that way secure the votes of conscientious republicans who felt that the gold standard was a curse to this country. We pointed out that the demonetization of silver had resulted in lowering the general level of the price of property nearly 50 per cent; that the total amount of money in circulation in the world determined the demand for property, and that the general level of all prices, while the law of supply and demand would again raise or lower the price of any particular article above or below this general level; that the lowering of this general level had destroyed the purchasing power of our farmers and of the great producing classes, and had thus paralyzed our industries, destroyed our trade and caused widespread bankruptcy, suffering and distress throughout the civilized world, and that, until the general level of prices was again raised to what it was during the existence of the bimetallic standard, we could not again have prosperity; that a low standard of values always falls hard on the poor and always gives the manipulator an advantage; it breaks manhood and cheapens character; and inasmuch as the debts, interest and taxes and the great burdens that were weighing our people down were not reduced in size, but required just as many dollars to liquidate them as was really necessary, that it was a crime to maintain a system which made each dollar twice as hard to get as it formerly was, and we claimed that if silver were restored to the place it had occupied for hundreds of years, it would again raise the general level of prices of property and enable our people to discharge their burdens and to buy freely, and again inaugurate an era of prosperity, industry and happiness.

Lucky Accidents.

"A whole chapter of accidents followed the election of '96, all favorable to the republicans. First, the great drought and consequent failure of crops on three continents, resulting in a terrible famine, temporarily raised the price of wheat far above the general level, and thus helped those farmers that had not yet sold their crops; and second, the same drought caused the loss of about \$6,000,000 head of sheep in Australia and the surrounding islands, which fact raised the price of sheep and the price of wool throughout the world; and third, came war, which usually creates more or less activity in commercial circles. Astonishing as it may seem, the republicans attributed all these things to their tariff law. But these accidents have spent their force; wheat is again approaching the 50-cent line, the general level of prices is about where it was two years ago, and is showing a constant tendency to sink still lower, because, while the population of the earth is increasing and demands more and more, the annual addition to the world's store of money is not increasing in proportion. In consequence of the general downward tendency of prices no man feels safe to embark in new enterprises, and the money that we have in the country is collecting at the centers, like blood congealing the heart, and is not circulating in the extremities.

No Prosperity—Plenty of Strikes.

"Instead of the restoration of prosperity, we were promised, we find that those classes who are on one banner or another devour the substance of other men, who are prospering, while the great masses of our people find themselves in as much distress as ever. While the brokers and speculators, the manipulators who have absolute control of certain markets and can force the people to pay any price they may ask, are talking about prosperity.

IT IS STILL ALIVE.

The Goldbug Party Cannot Kill the Free Silver Movement with Their Bombast.

"The silver craze is dead" is the oft-repeated cry of the magpies and chatboxes of the goldbug party, says E. E. Ewing, in the Silver Knight-Watchman. Wait and see. The silver men are intelligent thinkers. They have read and studied the silver question and understand the magnitude and influence the free coinage of silver would have for the good of the business of the country. They are not standing around in groups talking, neither are the gold or the tariff advocates found in that position. The money question is to be more the issue in the future than ever in the past. In fact, there is no other prominent question before the American people today on which party lines are so clearly drawn, and silver must occupy the fore front of the question in opposition to the gold craze. The gold craze is as much of a craze to-day as the worship of Baal had become among the Jews when Elijah mocked the idol's priests, telling them to call louder, that maybe he was asleep or on a journey. But their frantic screams and rending of garments did not bring rain or fire down from Heaven to kindle wood under the burnt offering; and neither do the promises of prosperity by the priest of mammon, "sound money" and gold standard bring prosperity. Their gold idol like Baal must be asleep or on a journey and hears not, however much the worshippers of the calf rend their garments and cry "we are on the edge of prosperity. The greatest boom is about to start ever known;

Regenerated Democracy.

"Two years ago our great party adopted a new declaration of independence. It cut loose from the forces that were degrading it—that were robbing it of its mission. It devoted itself anew to the service of mankind, to the elevation of humanity. Since then it has demonstrated that a resolute, compact minority party with high aim and lofty purposes can frequently accomplish more for the welfare of the human race than a majority party; that while a majority party has to busy itself with patriotism and compromises to keep its supporters together, the minority party can keep its face to the sun, constantly holding its hand on the sword of Justice.

Glories Achieved.

"I want here to congratulate the democracy of America upon the fact that since its release two years ago from the paralyzing influences that had controlled it, it has already made an achievement that will forever gladden the close of this century with glory. It has driven that tyranny, that robbery, that assassination, which for centuries had darkened our skies near our borders, forever off the western hemisphere. It has rescued suffering millions. It has lifted the standards of justice. It has opened a career for countries which have tasted nothing but the curse of oppression for centuries. It has done more; it has put in practice, and thus enforced recognition of a new principle of international law, and that is, that no government has the right to rob and murder its citizens, and that wherever it does so, it is the duty of other governments to interfere and protect the people. This principle marks a new advent in the history of the world, and has a meaning for the coming millions of the earth that only the eye of the omniscient can measure. Should the regenerated democracy never accomplish anything more, this one achievement will cover its memory with glory.

The Chicago Platform.

"I further congratulate the democracy upon the fact that every day since 1896 has demonstrated the wisdom and the high position then taken, not simply on the money question, but upon all the other great questions. The money question lies at the base of our distress, and must be righted before we can again prosper. We must and will restore the dollar of the fathers. The gold standard is a disastrous failure in every country that has recently tried to establish it. It has utterly ruined India, and recently the bankers and brokers and gold standard writers of London have united in a protest against any further attempt to establish the gold standard in India, declaring that it has not only ruined India, but that it would produce a panic in London, because there is not enough gold for the purpose. In England and in the German empire the agricultural interests are paralyzed, and a parliamentary inquiry as to England has shown that this condition is due to the gold standard, and in both of these great countries there is now a powerful movement for the reestablishment of bimetallism. This question is arousing the world, and will continue to do so until it is settled right.

Mission of Democracy.

"So, with the questions of corruption, of corporation rule, of usurpation by federal courts, etc. The inability of the patriotism and the manhood of the country are with us. The scribbling by hand-hired men is still with us, but is losing its influence. The regenerated democracy will take no backward step. It has a great mission, and under the peerless Bryan will perform it. It stands for higher ideals, stands for a higher justice, stands for a new era, stands for a new republic."

NOT TO BE EXTINGUISHED.

The Money Question is an Issue That the Monopolists Cannot Put Down.

The anxiety of the money trust to attract attention away from financial subjects, and, if possible, prevent their further discussion during the present and future campaigns, is entirely natural. It cost these people not less than \$30,000,000 to secure the election of William McKinley in 1896. Notwithstanding their enormous financial resources, they came perilously near failure. Worst of all, however, that campaign set the middle classes to thinking upon matters of finance as they had never thought before. This is what members of the money trust dread more than any other one thing. They understand if the time should ever come when our people shall carefully consider questions of finance the day of fat stealing is over for them.

To carry the election of 1900 on the financial issue would cost them not less than \$40,000,000, and then the result would not be a foregone conclusion. Perhaps they believe by the judicious expenditure of \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 they can control the current of political discussion this year, and thus side-track a dangerous issue. They have already practically shut off the great city dailies. Through the Associated Press, the American News company, and other news agencies, they hold the metropolitan press in the hollow of their hands. Every agricultural and religious journal willing to prostitute itself for money has been secured. Party leaders with life in them are now in strong demand. They do not invest in dead politicians any more than in dead horses, so, when you see a politician trying to crowd the money question to the rear and minor issues to the front, it is safe to bet there is a hen on.

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DEMOCRATS ARE BLAMED.

Republican Ingenuity in Misrepresentation Produces a Strange Charge.

A republican political genius has discovered that the democrats only are to blame for McKinley's and Alger's mismanagement of the war and the sufferings of our soldiers in the field. The ingenious gentleman who made this discovery is Hon. John A. Hull, a member of congress from Iowa and said to be chairman of the house committee on military affairs.

Mr. Hull says that if a resolution which he offered in the house near the closing hours of the late session had been adopted there would have been a congressional committee on active duty all the time to prevent blunders by army and navy officers and to save the soldiers and sailors from distress through the errors of their commanding officers. A committee of congressmen would have forestalled every order issued through mistake and would have saved the army and navy from the consequences of every military or naval error occurring through incompetence, oversight, insufficiency of help and supplies and from all other causes.

Congressman Hull alleges that near the last hours of the congressional session he offered the following: "That the house committee on military affairs has power to sit during the adjournment of congress and make such investigation as to organization and conduct of all branches of the army as it may deem advisable and report to the next session of congress."

This committee is that of which Mr. Hull is chairman. If he and his committee had been kept on duty no mismanagement of war affairs would have occurred! But the democrats in the house objected to the consideration of the resolution and it was too late in the session to pass a measure against objections from any source. Hence the democrats are responsible for the maladministration of the war department.

The country knows from familiar history the egregious absurdity of clothing a congressional committee with power to exercise supervision over war movements. It was illustrated in the evil results of the action of congressional war committees during the civil war. They embarrassed the administration of Abraham Lincoln and the measures of Grant in the field. If the democratic members of the house defeated a plan to send a republican congressional committee to the camps and the field for the oversight of army movements they rendered to the country a service of the highest value.—Chicago Chronicle.

ALGER IS BLUFFING.

The Secretary of War Is Trying to Play One of His Sly Tricks on the People.

From two newspaper sources in Washington the statement has been disseminated that Secretary Alger has placed his resignation in the hands of the president. The time when he did this is stated to have been on the occasion of his calling at the white house just before setting out on his camp inspection tour.

It will be recalled that Gen. Miles, who has made incriminating statements against Alger and repeated them, returning from Puerto Rico entered Washington about that time. He came in one morning and Alger left hastily that same day. Before leaving, it is now explained, he visited the president and gave him the famous letter asking for an investigation. Then it was that he is said to have placed his resignation in the presidential ear, for he delivered it orally.

It has taken the master a long time to leak out. That it has finally seeped through the thick wall of secrecy creates the inference that Mr. McKinley is contemplating the acceptance of the resignation of his remarkable secretary of war and has taken this means to prepare the public for the startling denouement. It would not be in keeping with Mr. Alger's braggadocio vaunts, made when the storm raised by the "round robin" first rose against him, "that he would not retire under fire," if he were to quit the cabinet before a court of inquiry could pass upon his responsibility.

He probably deems it wisest to hold on to his job until that tribunal which is yet in the air has had a chance to do something. It may not get into working order for a month yet; and it may not get down to the meat of the investigation before congress reassembles. There is, too, that hope of all republican officials, justified by the experience of their investigated predecessors in the past, still remaining to him. He may be whitewashed.

Alger's resignation evidently has a string to it. He will not let go until the fall elections are over. The party's necessity and his own political fortunes alike demand that he shall keep up his bluff for at least seven weeks longer.—St. Louis Republic.

Imperialism and militarism necessarily go hand in hand. The latter is the natural outgrowth of the former. The recent movement in favor of an imperial policy for the United States, chiefly noticeable in quarters where Mark Hanna is supreme, was supplemented shortly after its inception by a demand for an immense standing army, not unlike the armies of Europe, "to guarantee peace at home and protect our new interests abroad."—Columbus (O.) Press-Post.

The marked reduction in the republican majority in Maine is indicative of party apathy, and, taken in connection with the slump in the republican vote in Vermont, shows a prevalence of conditions that may well give republican leaders throughout the country concern.—Philadelphia Ledger (Rep.).

While democrats have leaders like Blodget, Bryan and Bailey, standing squarely and uncompromisingly for the principles of the decalogue and the declaration of independence, there is not money enough on earth to control America against the Chicago platform.—Mississippi Valley Democrat.

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10:45 a.m.	11:00 p.m.	Leave Evansburg	arrive 4:30 a.m.	2:35 p.m.
11:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	Leave Evans	arrive 3:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
12:15 a.m.	1:00 a.m.	Leave Winslow	arrive 3:30 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
11:30 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	Leave Oakland City	arrive 3:37 a.m.	1:57 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	7:12 a.m.	Arrive St. Louis	Leave 7:15 p.m.	7:32 a.m.

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J. F. Hurt, agent, Oakland City.

RICHARDSON & TAYLOR,

Attorneys at Law.

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