

## A MYRIAD OF ABUSES.

## REVIEW OF POLITICAL FACTS AND CONDITIONS.

The "Turtle-Back Papers" Takes Up the Living Issues and Discusses Live Questions of the Day in a Fearless Manner.

As the time approaches to put in operation the new income tax law, it is heartening to notice the concern manifested by those who are liable to come within the bounds of its provisions, and the efforts being already made to have it declared unconstitutional by the courts.

To a student of the times as they exist at present, these murmurings are entirely unnecessary; there will be few, very few whose income is large enough to make them amenable to the law. How the philanthropist's heart must bleed when he sees the great number of poor men this country supports, when the assessor appears; and with what surprising alacrity do they recover their fortunes once the danger is past.

Can a man be honest who evades the law? If he can, then the natural order of things is reversed, and all who cannot count at least a half million when making an inventory of their possessions, must be classified as dishonest.

There is one consolation the laborer has when voting for public officials, that is, the purse makes the man, who gets elected. How cheering! With what commiseration and pity for the sad lot of his ancestors, does he turn back the pages of our history. To think that they were compelled to elect men to these same offices who had nothing to recommend them but a first-class reputation, honesty and ability, quells the stoutest heart, and causes him to marvel how the country survived the honor. How the voter's cheeks must have tingled with shame, when, after electing a congressman, to think he would be debarred from giving more than two \$10,000 dinners out of a salary of half that amount, and be able to retire at the end of his term with a fortune. Those indeed were times that tried men's souls, how to steal and not get caught at it. They have since learned.

How sad must the people have felt, when, after getting a petition signed with hundreds of names to send to their representatives for the purpose of having a needed legislation enacted, had they paused to consider that the individual would have to attend to it in person. No stenographer; no franking privileges; no free passes nor private car for himself and family and all his relatives down to the thirty-third cousin. Let us be thankful that the people of to-day do not have to bear this humiliation, nor leave to posterity such a heritage.

It seems to be a crowning stroke of progress and of advancement in civilization, that congress must first ascertain, when agitating the money question, what effect it will have on Wall street and the national banks. It is through these mediums that the producer is kept under control. To lose that grip, the average politician of the present would lose his occupation.

Why must the government depend upon these sharks for its existence? It seems entirely foreign to the question to answer that national banks and scheming brokers must be fostered under the protection of the government, as a medium of exchange. We are acquainted with hundreds of men who will not patronize local banks, even when they know the proprietors are worth many times the amount of business that can possibly fall in their hands; but deposit their hard earned savings in a national bank under the delusive idea that the government stands behind it and will make good all losses. The failure of many of these institutions within the past few years with liabilities running into the millions, assets practically nothing, leaving the depositor a dividend of 300 per cent in experience, is gradually disabusing the public mind of some of the fallacies of our present political machinery.

The government is supposed to be of the people, for the people and by the people. Should this sentiment become lukewarm, political tricksters devote many days stamping the country—for which the people pay them a princely salary—to impress the maxim with renewed vigor into the minds of a doubting constituency, and awaken the dear people to a greater conception of how the party in power is working for their especial benefit and a flag of liberty to live under.

Granting this to be true, why may not the student of political economy arise and ask the question: "If the people are the government is not its promise to pay good, as long as there is enough responsible people left to form a government?" If it is good, then why must it ask for the indemnity of its acts of Wall street and the national banks before enforcing them? If it is not good, then may we ask, what is a bank note worth, if the bank issuing it becomes insolvent?

"True," replies Shylock, "but the people do not study these great questions as we must; nor properly investigate them." This is a fact. If the people resolved upon having a general cleaning up, such a stench would arise from misappropriated funds and disreputable legislation, disinfectants would double in price within a week.

Occasionally it happens that an unsophisticated farmer who has spent the best years of his life in tilling the soil and attending to his own business, has the audacity to ask why it is that nearly all men in public life are lawyers and capitalists. His neighbor, who has perhaps devoted more time to the study of those questions affecting public welfare, and has arrived at that point wherein he does not know as

much about it as when he began, answers: "So that enacted laws may be legally construed." This seems plausible, though after turning the answer over to see the under side, our illiterate farmer scratches his head several times to get his mind in proper working order, concluding it very queer that only those of his class come under the ban, while the rascals all escape the meshes of it.

According to history, it has always been a disadvantage to be poor, and time does not seem to have improved the prospects. Added to that, it appears now to be dishonorable to be in that delightful condition. When a man's position is fixed, his ability gauged, and his fitness for places of trust scheduled by the amount of money he can command, as events seem to prove is the edict proclaimed in our present way of doing things, surely the millennium approaches nigh.

Take for instance the election of a United States senator. The first consideration by those having the selection, is the size of the candidate's barrel, and the exact diameter of the bung. This satisfactory, the one making the best exhibit is awarded the prize. To the novice this preliminary examination would suggest corruption. Far from it. This mode of procedure determines a degree of forethought in our legislators, worthy of a better cause, and in perfect keeping with the advanced age in which we exist. In short, it settles beforehand many perplexities which, under any other plan, complications would inevitably follow.

It relieves the recipient of legislative honor of great concern. He is not liable to become an inmate of the poorhouse just when his services are needed to save his bleeding country.

His family will be able to entertain in a manner becoming to their station; while, if one of his daughters should marry a duke the latter will be certain of a living.

He can attend poker parties with impunity, feeling secure that if the other fellow held too many aces, causing him to go broke, the hall of legislation is full of lobbyists who desire protection to their pet measures and are willing to buy reserved seats.

He is in a position where the stock markets can be looted after and where, if he sees an opportunity of investing a few thousands, drawing out double or treble the amount, can do so; thus removing the temptation to speculate at Coldwater began introducing evidence.

Miss Mabel Hall, of Chicago, addressed the Berrien County Sunday School Association at Buchanan.

The G. A. R., of Kalamazoo, opened a fine art and industrial exposition.

Battle Creek.—The seven-day evangelists' conference listened to statistical report by the secretary, showing the membership to be 42,733 and the number of ministers 515. They are supported by tithes, the amount collected the last year being over \$200,000. Signs of the Times, printed at Oakland, Cal., was made the general missionary paper.

Detroit.—Mrs. Horace Pope and William Brosseau, her accomplice, have been held for the murder of Dr. Pope, the husband of the former.

Three young lads, Fred and Will Eldridge and Fred Connel, each about 17 years of age, were arrested at Ionia on a charge of assault and battery. The complainant is a teacher named George H. Barr, of the Prairie Creek school in Ionia Township, who it is said came into court with a pair of eyes that were worse than a total eclipse. He had bad trouble since his appointment last fall. Last week he was threatened with being thrown through the window by Fred Eldridge, and the next morning the trouble came to a climax when the teacher told the scholars that if he went through the window it would be as a corpse. "Dead it is, then," was the reply of a pupil, and a free fight followed. Sticks of wood, the stove poker, and a chair played a prominent part. Barr got the worst of the deal and had the three boys arrested. It seems there has been trouble brewing for some time. It is alleged that one of the trustees of the school has been setting the boys on with promises of treats and seeing them through if they got into trouble.

The State convention of the Prohibition party was held at Lansing last week. Myron H. Walker of Grand Rapids was nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court and Noah W. Cheever of Ypsilanti, and Delevan B. Reed, Hillsdale, for regents of the University.

The principal object of the convention, however, was for a reorganization of the State committee. It was com-

plained that Charles P. Russell, of Detroit, who has been chairman of the committee for the last eight years, was not sufficiently vigorous, and had not made prominent other reforms sought by the party besides prohibition.

It was claimed that if free silver and other planks of the platform had been

made more prominent the necessity for the Populist party would not have existed, and it would never have been born.

Michael J. Fanning, of Jackson, was chosen to succeed Mr. Russell, and an entire new committee was selected.

Overtures from the Populists for a pooling of issues were rejected by the radical wing, and all the reforms demanded by the party will be made prominent from the platform and the party literature.

John Martin, a teamster engaged in hauling cedar posts near Fairhaven Junction, was found dead by the roadside last week with his head cut in several places. His team and load were found near by and it is probable that he fell off the load and under the horses and sleigh. He was 40 years old and unmarried.

Gov. Rich, upon recommendation of

the pardon board, issued a pardon for

Herold O. Henderson, convicted of

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Henderson, a graduate of Yale, and has

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## STATE OF MICHIGAN.

## NEWS NUGGETS FROM ALL PARTS OF WOLVERINEDOM.

Political, Religious, Legislative and Every Sort of Happenings Up to Day of Going to Press—Seven Days' History.

Kalamazoo.—The Ancient Order of United Workmen grand lodge of Michigan held its nineteenth annual session in this city last week. Detroit was chosen as the place of meeting next year. The total number of benefits in force is 22,652. During the year 1,859 certificates were issued and 1,495 were canceled from death and annulment. The expense rate on each \$100 disbursed was \$4.24.

Menominee.—John Martin, a teamster, was found dead by the roadside. It is probable that he fell off the top of the cliff and under the horses.

Springfield.—Mrs. Edgar, wife of a Flint & Marquette conductor, committed suicide by shooting herself through the head. She left a note to her father, G. J. Walker of Grand Rapids, saying that her husband was so jealous that life was miserable.

The Michigan grand lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen, elected officers as follows: Past grand master workman, Louis H. Beck, Detroit; grand master workman, Theodore E. Bissell, West Bay City; grand foreman, Charles Colling, Alpena; grand overseer, J. M. Hartnett, Escanaba; grand recorder, W. Warne Wilson, Detroit; grand receiver, John C. Ellsworth, Fowlerville; grand guide, James A. Lombard, Grand Rapids; grand watchman, William Cochran, St. Johns; grand medical examiner, Robert E. Jamieson, Detroit; J. F. C. Pollings of Detroit is re-appointed deputy grand master workman.

Menominee.—An issue of 5 per cent twenty year city bonds to the amount of \$47,500 was sold to N. W. Harris & Co., of Chicago at \$2,700 premium.

Harrison.—For more than a year Clare county has been flooded with counterfeit silver dollars. George Flitzgibbons, David Ireland and Frank Thorpe, living in a log hut twelve miles from here, have been arrested. They claimed to be loggers, but in the hut were found molds in which bogus dollars had been cast.

Union City.—Edward H. Crosley, who was attacked by Policeman James Davis while walking with the latter's sister, shot Davis, probably fatally.

The defense in the Mizenar murder trial at Coldwater began introducing evidence.

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