

PEOPLE ARE TO BLAME. FROM BAD TO WORSE.

Now Suffer the Results of Their Own Folly.

HOODWINKED BY MONEY POWER.

Allowed themselves to be Deceived and Have Bowed at the Shrine of Mammon. Turned Their Backs on Democracy—Out of Evil Good May Come.

Brother Wanamaker of Philadelphia, who tried hard to be a politician, has been compelled to devote attention to his business during the past few years. As a shopkeeper he is compelled to keep his eyes on passing events and get something more than a glimpse of existing conditions.

A few days ago Wanamaker was called on to make an address at a banquet of the Business Men's League of Philadelphia, and he gave his hearers a few facts calculated to give them food for reflection. By a curious coincidence, Mr. McKinley was at the same moment the guest of the Union League club, not very far away. Among other things, Mr. Wanamaker said:

The country is not prosperous. From the outset of the last presidential campaign the party, press and political leaders generally fixed the November election of 1896 as the date of the beginning of good times. A full half of the year has expired since the will of the Republican party was declared. Thus far but one of the important losses of the campaign is nearing settlement, and hardly any noticeable improvement of the wretched times is manifest. The tide will soon set in strongly against the Republican party, unless the depression of business is altered. Idleness and want breed a bitter discontent which will never be overcome until there are ample employments.

It is a pity that McKinley and Hanna and Reed and Dingley and the rest could not have been where they might have heard their fellow laborer tell the truth about the condition of the country.

But this is not all Mr. Wanamaker said. He went further and uttered a warning to which the Republican party should give heed, saying:

The foes America has to fear are not the savage Turks or the insurrectionists of Cuba or the territory grasping British, but they are our own patient and heart-tired people, our own suffering, most promised people, who, betrayed and disheartened, no longer have faith in their party and will turn to any leadership that offer promise of better times, believing that worse times can never come than those now existing. It is a terrible thing to observe public sentiment drift and uncapitulated and the people sweeping away from their affection to the old party. The young men are growing up indifferent to republican principles, with no respect for parties of broken platforms who too national and state patronage in payment of election contracts. The political religion of the nation is falling lower and lower under insults to intelligence, violation of law, reckless daring of unscrupulous bosses.

That which gives Mr. Wanamaker cause for despair is precisely that which gives hope to those who know and understand the shameful record of the Republican party since its great leader died. The ways of Providence are mysterious, but if it is necessary, in order to open the eyes of the people to the truth and justice of Democratic principles, that they should be compelled to endure want and suffering and the rigor of hard times then it may well be said that what they have suffered and what they will be compelled to suffer is simply a blessing in disguise.

Anything that will compel them to know the truth and to value it—anything that will drive them to turn their minds to the contemplation of the principles that are essential to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in this republic—is to be welcomed.

They are now suffering the bitter results of their own folly. They have followed after false gods; they have allowed themselves to be deceived; they have misused their power; they have bowed at the shrine of Mammon. And now they are reaping the fruits of their blindness. Well will it be for them in the days that are yet to come if experience teaches them the truth and brings them to the indorsement of those principles of equality, justice and honesty that are the basis of democracy.

Meanwhile the great object lesson by which they may be able to discover their folly is giving daily and hourly exhibitions in Washington, at the White House and in the halls of congress. Eighteen months from now there ought not to be found an honest man in the country willing to support the Republican party.—Atlanta Constitution.

MAKE CHAPMAN ANSWER.

The Welfare of the Nation Demands the Exposure of Rascally Senators.

It is not enough to punish Chapman. It is certainly not enough to inflict a purely technical punishment upon him, which only advertises him as a perfectly safe broker for rascally senators and corrupt public officials to deal with when they want to sell out their votes or their official authority for money. Chapman knows what senators speculatively sold their votes to the Sugar trust. He should be made to tell.

The situation is intolerable to the country. It should be equally intolerable to the senate and to every upright member of that body.

As soon as this nominal imprisonment is over the senate should send for Chapman again, and again insist upon answers to its questions, and again and again punish him if he refuses.

The senate is continuous. So is Chapman's contempt of it. So should be its insistence upon his purgation of that contempt by full submission and frank answers to its questions. The important thing is to make him answer those questions.—New York World.

An Easy One.

Mark Hanna has no position on the tariff or other important questions, except to affirm that he is a candidate for re-election to the senate. He desires the people to guess what he might do under certain circumstances when their interests would be involved.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Increased Depression Under Republican Rule.

HARDER TIMES AND LOWER PRICES

People Discover the Mockery of Republican Pledges—No Sign of Returning Prosperity—What the Last Campaign Settled—A Goldbug Controversy.

The Washington Post and the New York Evening Post, two esteemed contemporaries edited by two of the most virile mugwumps and independents known to the business, are now engaged in a laborious controversy over a question as to what was settled by the recent election. The Washington Post, having remarked that the coinage issue was settled by the voters, its New York contemporary loudly inquires that if this is, indeed, the case, "what, in the name of all gods at once, are the populars talking about and threatening to do at the next election?"

All must admit that this exclamation is charged with great scholarship and classical warmth. When an editor, even in New York, feels at liberty to call on all the gods at once, we feel in our bones that he has had lodgings on Mount Olympus in the boarding house where the gods dwelt and had their washing done. It seems to us that the Washington Post fails to give the proper weight to this suggestion. Indeed, it makes no reference to the matter whatever, but proceeds in the most matter of fact way to remind its metropolitan contemporary that in a government of the people a popular issue is never absolutely settled beyond the possibility of a change; that in the last election the question of independent free coinage was disposed of for four years, but not settled.

It seems to us that even an editor who had associated with the gods on terms of equality would be able to understand how it is that the free coinage issue has not been settled.

The Democrats offered it to the people wholly and solely on the ground that it would restore prosperity. The Republicans, on the other hand, while they admitted that the gold standard was bad enough to call for a remedy, declared in favor of international bimetalism, and likewise pledged themselves to restore prosperity by means of higher tariff taxation.

Thoughtful men know that, although the free coinage question and the tariff question figured as the issues between the parties, the real issue is prosperity, the restoration of business, trade and industry to their old level. The issues between the parties are merely means to an end. The restoration of prosperity is the real issue.

If the Republicans can bring about international bimetalism and thus restore prosperity, there is an end to the independent free coinage contention. Or if they can restore prosperity by means of higher tariff taxes the free coinage, free trade and tariff arguments all fall to the ground. The people are willing to pay higher taxes as the price of prosperity. But when they pay the price they want the goods delivered. They will demand prosperity as the result of Republican tariff legislation.

The Washington Post warns its New York namesake that the gold standard organs are themselves making weighty contributions of aid and comfort to the free coinage cause; first, by sneering at the conference commission appointed by Mr. McKinley to promote international bimetalism, and, second, by advocating the retirement of the greenbacks.

But these things are mere matters of moonshine and have small weight with the great body of the people. The main, the overpowering argument against the Republicans and the policy which they are pursuing is the fact that prices are lower and times harder than they were when the people selected the Republican party as their instrument to restore prosperity. This fact, which is felt from one end of the republic to the other, and which bears heavily on every man, woman and child who is engaged in earning a living, is more important than all other issues put together.

In fact, it is the only issue before the people at this moment—the only question worth considering. Will the Republican party be able to restore prosperity by means of higher tariff taxation? If it is able to do so, well and good. That will be an end of the matter, and various questions that are now important will never be heard of again. But if they do not restore prosperity what is the alternative? Why, the very necessities and calamities that will come to the people during Mr. McKinley's administration will compel them to turn to the Democratic party for relief, and they will need no compelling. They will swarm to the polls in behalf of Democratic doctrines when they discover the mockery of the Republican pledges.

When that is demonstrated, neither of the two Posts will have any difficulty in discovering what is "settled." They will find that the Republican party itself is "settled."—Atlanta Constitution.

Political Opera Bouffe.

About as opera bouffe a proceeding as was ever witnessed in politics was the recent bluff made to pass a resolution to have the Massachusetts legislature investigate trusts. A resolution requiring the same body to investigate the existence and causes of the cerulean hue that is an inseparable characteristic of the cuticle covering the abdominal region of the lineal descendants of the pilgrim fathers who have neglected to emigrate would have equally as hard a time getting adopted.—Exchange.

Mild In Comparison.

Compared with the demand for the triumphal trusts, Turkey's terms are the most.—Detroit Tribune.

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