

# GRAFTERS PUBLIC GOOD

## Seventh Article by C. P. Strain, Assessor of Umatilla County.

By C. P. Strain.  
THE preceding articles of this series, I have endeavored to associate the underlying principles of our indirect American system of government with its results.

Persistent evils are not creatures of chance. When commercial pirates and political vampires fatten and multiply year after year, and decade after decade, overthrowing moral majorities and elevating conspirators against the people to public positions of power and trust, there can be no escape from the conclusion that they spring from the inherent nature of the political system under which they flourish.

It is not my purpose to enter into a discussion of the tariff question. But I desire to use it to illustrate by concrete examples that we do not and cannot understand or control those public questions, which are far removed from us so well as those which are near us, and can not, therefore, protect ourselves against abuses arising at distant seats of government without modifying our system.

This incapacity to grasp remote questions is the foundation principle upon which the vicious based his political philosophy.

Centralization of government gathers up the power of the many and commits it to the hands of a few. Within a county carries administration of law to the county seat; within a state, to the state capital; within the nation, to Washington.

Local administration, under the very eyes of the people, is understood by all of us. We all know the tax levies of our own school district, city and county. No flagrant abuse of political power can escape our knowledge in local affairs.

But where government is so centralized as to be carried beyond our personal observation, popular ignorance increases progressively.

There is scarcely a chance in a thousand, gentle reader, that you and I can distinguish one tariff bill from another. Yet we divide ourselves into factions, armies, fanatics, known as political parties, and fight furiously over what we call principles.

As proof that we are deluded visionaries, I submit a test. I have before me the tariff rates of 1883, of 1890, of 1897, and of 1893-4 as proposed by the ways and means committee of congress. A list of important articles, such as American production or consumption, selected from one of these schedules, follows. Can you name it? Can you even determine whether it is Democratic or Republican, without consulting statistics?

- 1.—Alcohol, 10 per cent ad valorem.
  - 2.—Grain bags, 2 cents per pound.
  - 3.—Blankets, value not over 30 cents, 15% cents and 50 per cent ad valorem.
  - 4.—Clothing, ready made cotton, 50 per cent ad valorem.
  - 5.—Copper, manufactures of, 45 per cent ad valorem.
  - 6.—Coffee, free of duty.
  - 7.—Drugs, crude, free of duty.
  - 8.—Eggs, 6 cents per dozen.
  - 9.—Glassware, plain and cut, 50 per cent ad valorem.
  - 10.—Hides, raw, salted, dried, pickled, free of duty.
- Do not name this bill from its rates, and tell whether it is Democratic or Republican, we know nothing about the details of the tariff question.
- If we know nothing about it, a profane brood of voracious trust magnates will use it to ruin us.
- Put these two facts together:

## "NEAR REFORM" IN TEMPERANCE

By Mrs. Ida Wallace Unruh.  
We have had all sorts of "near" things, such as "near silk" and the like, that deceive no one as to their character. We now, in the temperance world have a "near reform" society. The luster of near silk would perhaps deceive the uninitiated by its shimmer, but the experienced woman could detect the deception by the touch of her dainty finger tips.

So, though some reformers in the apprentice days might take this new movement for what its sponsors declare it to be, yet to the man or woman that has been in the battle long enough to have the slightest acquaintance with the methods of "our friends the enemy" there is not the least danger of deception. It is, however, interesting to note the palpably "anti-temperance" claims that the friends make for it. They have had the effrontery to send a communication to the national organ of the W. C. T. U. explaining in detail the temperance features of the movement. In this communication they say:

"These sessions are the result of a great many years of study. We have given to the problem of how to compel the obedient the law on the part of the saloon trade a problem that society has been unable, up to the present time to solve. We believe that the principles that we lay down in this bill will make it more profitable for a saloonkeeper to obey the law than to violate it."

The features that they specially commend are that licenses now outstanding shall remain in force unless cancelled by a majority of voters; that they be made transferable as any property; that the license shall in no case be excessive; that a penalty to be assessed like that of the saloon ever 18 years years who represents himself to be of age. These features and some others of like character they claim not fall to solve the vexing question of the saloon. They, however, fail to say that it is the saloonkeepers' side of this vexing question that these provisions are intended to solve. That this effort of the saloonkeepers to regulate themselves follows close upon prohibition is plain to see. It is time and locality takes away much of the artificial luster of this "near reform" movement.

The effort to compel obedience to law follows so close upon a pressure in that direction upon the part of people that it loses much appearance of being a voluntary action. It is the student of the saloon from the standpoint of the home that the only method that will result in any degree in the satisfactory solution of the saloon problem will be the elimination of the institution in its entirety. If any other institution is part bad and good the good citizen uses his influence to have the bad features eliminated, but if there is one that is wholly bad and has no redeeming qualities he perseveres to make the opportunity for themselves, then the good citizen works for its destruction.

If the friends of the saloon can bring forward one single good thing that the saloon stands for I have not yet heard of their doing so. It is true that they are fond of telling us that it provides a legitimate place for the man. When I hear a woman always reminded of the poor woman and that it has been a friend one day asked her if she was trying to win him away from the habit of drinking, she answered: "No, my dear, I am not. I am only trying to make her more attractive and comfortable, she answered."

basis of which is extortion and popular ignorance, it trembles and sways and rumbles like the tottering buildings of a mighty city in the throes of an earthquake.

It is due to this course that national elections disturb business. This is why reform breeds apparent disaster.

The mass exposure of trust methods without disturbing the primary causes which sustain them, was the cause of the recent panic with its tumble of stock values with losses aggregating billions of dollars. We can destroy the trusts only at our own peril.

Question of Immunity.  
The same colossal structure towers above the heads of which immunity from prosecution and excessive tariff duties are pillars which support it. Between these, our giant captains of industry stand, like Goliath of old, able and willing if need be to bring down upon the heads of their captors this appalling temple of privilege.

These things are so far away from us, being centralized at Washington, that we cannot understand their details. They are supported, moreover, by circumstances which cannot be escaped.

There are different standards of living. The American workman occupies a higher plane, socially, than the Asiatic and he must be protected against the importation of the oriental and his products.

Furthermore, the Democratic party, the historic enemy of the tariff graft, shamefully abused its last opportunity. It produced a tariff bill, the Wilson bill, as amended by the senate, which left the principle of excessive protection untouched; and which applied that principle with greater discrimination than the McKinley bill of the Aldrich bill.

The west, for example, will not soon forgive the Democratic party for placing wool on the free list, while protecting the manufacturer of woolen goods at the point of trust-breeding proportions.

There is no escape, however, from centralization of certain political powers, the power to levy tariff duties included. For we must have a nation endowed with all the functions necessary to give it sovereignty and to afford the citizens of every state the benefit of free trade and intercourse with all the other states.

Centralization of itself is no menace. Economic law demands it within proper spheres.

Several Examples.  
Notice, for instance, the plan of creation as exemplified in our own being. The mechanism of the human body, with its thousands of related units and parts, acting in obedience to a controlling intelligence, is itself an organism which illustrates this point.

Organisms derive their faculty of action and their beauty of form from a symmetrical, harmonious relationship of their parts. Such relationships impart simplicity and strength to government; as well as to animal bodies.

Our American system of government possesses a very nice balance of powers as between the states and the nation, and between a state and the subdivisions within it.

But owing to obstructions and indirect application of power, it lacks obedience to the people's will, and invites the presence of an official cabal who employ the nation's prodigious industrial energy to enrich the trust with their appendant plutocratic trappings.

This condition cannot be overcome until such time as the instrumentalities of our government shall be placed in the hands of a mature public will in possession of reliable information.

In the next and concluding article of this series I will discuss a centralization of government responsible to the people.

## KUBELIK GIVEN HEARTY RECEPTION

By G. I. W.  
Kubelik was again granted a warm reception yesterday afternoon at the Hellig when he played in a return concert. By request he had changed his program to include the Sinding concerto which he has been playing with such much success this year. It is an interesting concerto by an interesting composer, Christian Sinding, the Norwegian.

The concerto shows an originality of conception and a breadth of comprehension, and was played with understanding. The vigorous style of the first movement, the melodious, dignified rhythm and elegant phrasing of the second and the captivating jig-like theme of the third movement were interestingly interpreted. The concerto has been heard once before here, when Waldemar Lind mastered the work, but it is comparatively little known.

The second group included a beautiful "Heathen Song" with the composer's characteristic simple melody; Saint-Saens' "Havannaise," with its Spanish dance measures, and a violin and piano duet, which, like all that old violinist's music, has just the right swing for the violin and shows off its possibilities.

In response to a request, a Neapolitan serenade by Scamberti which was delightful.

His concluding number was Hubay's "Scene de la Casca," which gave an interesting glimpse of gypsy life. As an encore he played the Hubay "Zephyr," which never fails to win the audience with its incomparable daintiness.

Miss Berthe Roy, the pianist, was forced to give up her work for today because of illness which incapacitated her Thursday evening had grown. Miss Ada May Tuttle of this city appeared in her place on the program and played beautifully. Her first number was a prelude by Rachmaninov, and her second the "Revolutionary" étude in C minor of Chopin, with a Chopin prelude as encore. Her work was well received. Herr Ludwig Schwab again established himself as one of the most artistic and satisfying accompanists ever heard in Portland.

## LABOR LEADERS ASK CHANGES IN BILLS

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 11.—Champions of the labor cause in the house of representatives today made a fight on the floor to have a clause inserted in the new codification penal law providing that labor leaders cannot be punished under the old "Kluxer" statute on the ground of conspiracy to injure citizens enjoying their constitutional rights.

Representatives Smith, of Missouri, and Hughes, of New Jersey, who introduced amendments with this end in view, demanded that congress grant labor "some relief from the manner in which it has been hounded by injunctions."

Representative Shirley, Kentucky, a member of the committee that framed the new law, opposed the amendments. Various amendments to bills affecting the cause of labor were defeated today by about 18 votes on the average.

## INDIAN DROUTH IS BROKEN BY RAINS

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
Lahore, India, Jan. 11.—The drouth which has prevailed here for the past six months has been broken by copious rains throughout the Punjab, and the long-continued repetition of an acute state of famine which had caused such terrible mortality in recent years has thus been averted.

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## U. OF O. TRYOUTS IN DEBATE AND ORATORY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)  
University of Oregon, Eugene, Jan. 11.—The preliminary tryout for the intercollegiate oratorical contest, which was to have been held yesterday afternoon, was dispensed with, as there were only six candidates. The final tryout will be held January 31, and one of these six will be chosen at that time to represent the U. of O. at Monmouth, March 4. The six are: Miss Moselle

Hair, '08; Bert, Prescott, '08; Jeanne, '08; H. K. Davies, '10; Clarence Wheelon, '10, and Harold Rounds, '10. The preliminary tryout for representatives at the Interstate debate will be held today. Seventeen men will try for places on the teams and from these eight will be chosen. The final tryout will occur January 24 and six men will be selected for the two teams, one of which will remain at Eugene and the other will debate at either Seattle or Monmouth against the state interest at those cities. The subject of the debate will be "Japanese Immigration." One team from each university will take the affirmative and the other the negative. The affirmative of the question.