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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1897

TWO CONTEMPT CASES.

The trial of Sugar King Havemeyer, in Washington, D. C., is a fine illustration of the working of our judiciary system. Havemeyer was arrested for contempt in refusing to answer questions put to him by the senate committee concerning the sugar trust. This alleged contempt was committed in 1894 three years ago, and is now only brought to trial. Why has this delay occurred? There is but one answer—"through the wealth and consequent 'pull' of the defendant." Yet after three years the proceedings are only a farce, and it can be read between the lines that Havemeyer is to be discharged. The judge has refused to admit the senate journals in evidence, and the original stenographic reports have been "lost." So that between the "unfortunate losing" of the court notes and the ruling of the judge there is absolutely no evidence that can be produced against his majesty of the sugar ring.

We have a very distinct recollection of another contempt case that occurred in Chicago about the same time that Havemeyer was snapping his fingers at the senate committee. It was that of Eugene V. Debs. Now we have no particular liking for Debs, but we do have the utmost veneration for justice, and the principle that all men are equal before the law. Debs was the leader of a lot of working men. He was guilty of contempt, and he was promptly tried without any legal quibbling, and as promptly sent to jail. Why? Because he did not have great wealth, and consequently did not have the pull.

It is one of those cases in which it is plainly shown that there is at least two interpretations of the law in this country; one in favor of the rich, another invariable against the poor. Since civilization began this has been, in a measure, true, but never to such an extent as at present, and it is one of the rocks upon which the good ship of state is sooner or later to wreck. With power to cause legislation in favor of their class and pull to influence the courts in the interpretation of the laws, the aggressiveness of a certain class becomes daily more bold, and its contempt for the masses greater.

This will continue until the people get tired unto sickness of it, when there will be an uprising that will make certain judges wish they had never been born, and that will strip the Havemeyers and the Rockefellers, the Collis P. Huntingtons and the Spreckels of lives and millions. History shows that wealthy classes become arrogant, and unmindful of the rights of the toilers. The classes are numerically as 1 to 1000, and the result of a conflict between them can be easily foreseen.

And yet in the face of history the classes will not take warning of the danger that lies around them. Their ships float easily upon the placid waters of the sea, upborne by the tide of humanity; but there is going to be a vast wreckage when that sea is swept by a storm. Corrupt legislators and dishonest judges, both the creation of the Havemeyer class, will stir up the storm.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

The past week has added materially to the previously strong position of wheat values, viewed from the position of supplies and demand.

The crop prospect as a whole retrograded, but more particularly in California, where drought and hot winds have caused a reduction in expected yield of at least 25 per cent, as compared with last year. Foreign crop prospects are much poorer, especially in France, where the estimated yield is 75,000,000 bushels smaller than last year, and conservative grain-dealers predict large importations during the coming crop year. Values have been firmly held, and, while no material advance has occurred, the market has gained in strength, and receives better support than during the previous week.

The tariff debate has begun, but no one can tell when it will end. The silver men have seemingly united upon a plan of action, which is calculated to hinder the passage of the bill, it being neither more nor less than an indorsement of the Lubin idea, of giving a bounty on exported agricultural products. The amendment proposed by Senator Cannon of Utah is to pay a bounty of 10 cents per bushel on wheat, 50 cents per barrel on wheat flour, 5 cents a bushel on corn, 1 cent per pound on cotton, 2 cents on hops, and 2 cents on tobacco. They do not expect this amendment to pass, but will use it to delay and defeat the Dingley bill, and for that purpose only.

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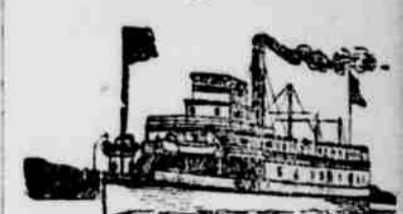
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