

such. It would be very convenient could they be placed in a position like the negro who engaged to work at \$1.50 a day, and engaged another to do the work at \$1.75, being perfectly satisfied to pay the 25c for the honor of being "Boss".

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

The political gatherings of last week, which were supposed to represent the conservatives of Winnipeg, have done their work about as well as such gatherings usually do, by putting in nomination the choice of the blowers, strikers, wire-pullers and professional politicians of the party, and thus making another decided move towards machine politics, a state of affairs much to be desired by such people, as they would then have practically the power of nominating whoever they pleased, without fear of interference from the mass of the party they are supposed to represent. In any country where popular representation exists, there is always much to be feared from the caucus system, and it is almost impossible to avoid machinery politics altogether. A certain amount of the same must therefore be tolerated, but what in the name of all that is reasonable was the aim of any convention (?) which nominated C. R. Tuttle and Alderman Monkman as fit representatives for a city like Winnipeg? In the former we have an unsuccessful newspaperman, whose schemes and adventures, for the last two years have been as varied but by no means as daring as those of Munchausen, and some of them have been heralded with the modes of the great baron. In the latter we have an attorney whose legal fame is certainly not so great as the notoriety he has recently obtained in connection with the handling of city funds. It may be asked, where were the merchants and manufacturers of the city's conservatism when such are the candidates selected? We have not the slightest doubt as to the unquestioned conservatism of either of the nominees, nor do we care much about the same, but it does seem strange that the conservatives of a great commercial center like Winnipeg should choose for representatives, men who have not the slightest connection with commerce, and who have not a dollar's worth of direct interest in the commercial structure of the city. It is evident that the conservatives of Winnipeg, or rather that portion of them who took part in the nomination, have considered the interests of conservatism, and

entirely ignored those of the city, when they set up as figure-heads the nonentities that now ask the suffrages of the north and south divisions of Winnipeg. It now remains to be seen what timber the reform party will put forward. For the credit of the city it is to be hoped they will make better selections, and if they fail to, we shall conclude that the commercial elements of the city have resolved to let the coming election go by default.

AMERICAN TARIFFS.

A great effort is at present being put forth by the free trade advocates of Canada to prove that the recent Democratic victory at the American elections was due mainly to a growth of free trade feeling in that country. How these disciples of Cobden can arrive at such a conclusion is a mystery to any one who has given attention to American political feeling, and studied the discordant elements that have contributed to make such a change in the vote of that nation. Where the greatest democratic gains have been secured are as a rule where questions of trade protection have not been considered of any moment, and in states where these have figured, it seems that while democracy has made substantial gains, free trade has not made any headway. The most remarkable case of this nature is in the election of General B. F. Butler to the gubernatorial chair of Massachusetts. There are no states of the union more interested in the question of protection than those of New England, not excepting those of the South, and yet this many-sided politician who has carried Massachusetts, asserted since his election to a reporter of the *New York Herald*, that a free trade policy for the United States is a thing impossible at present, or for many years to come. In the south where a policy of free trade is considered advantageous to the country, democracy has made no material gains, but in Virginia the party of repudiation under General Mahone, has gained one congressman from the old line Democracy, and has reduced the majorities of several others below former figures. In New York no question of free trade was at issue, and the overwhelming majority of the Democrats in that state is purely attributable to unity in their own ranks, and discordance in those of the Republicans over the state and national spoils. Indeed some promi-

nent Democrats of that state have hinted that the death of Fernando Wood, and consequent shelving of his free trade policy was a lucky circumstance for their party in the Empire State, and if we are to judge by the manner in which free trade was forced upon the Democratic presidential candidate two years ago by the Republicans of New York, and the consequent gain of the state by the Republicans, there is reason to believe these hints are not idle talk. In the western states of Ohio, Iowa and Kansas a fight between prohibition and license of liquor selling has lost for the Republican party, who were pledged to prohibition, the vote of the German citizens, who were in bygone years a powerful element of the party, and this fact fully accounts for the Democratic gains in these states.

As stated in *THE COMMERCIAL* a few weeks ago, the United States has two great political parties, neither of which have a clearly defined commercial policy, and both of which are thoroughly dishonest upon the question of tariff or free trade, and each of which are prepared to cook its policy on this great question to suit the wants of the locality, and fix the planks of the different state platforms so as to leave the broadest standing room for the vote of the people.

Many theories have been advanced regarding the wonderful changes of popular opinion in the United States during the past two years, and those of a reduction of expenditure, and a reform of the civil service are the most generally accepted. Neither of these, we believe, have carried any great weight, and it is impossible to see how civil service reform could be expected from Democracy, whose great leaders were the authors of the policy of "To the victors belong the spoils." The Democratic victory we believe is the result of that desire for change, which develops so frequently in a nation like the United States, made up of so many different elements, with so many conflicting interests. The Republican party has served its day and generation, and in its early years accomplished great good for the nation. But in such a country no party can live upon its past deeds, and a policy of activity is absolutely necessary to retain popular favor. Of late Republicanism has been engaged wrangling over the feuds within itself, and the nation have wisely come to the conclusion to let them fight them out in the cold-