

THE U. S. PRESIDENCY.

CLEVELAND ELECTED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY

What the Upheaval Means—Causes that Led to the Defeat of Harrison, and McKinleyism in the States.

The presidential election is over in the United States and Cleveland has received a majority of the votes for the electoral college, which should ensure his accession to the presidency by at least double the number of electoral college votes cast for Benjamin Harrison, the defeated president.

Harrison's defeat will probably be found to have been occasioned chiefly by the increasing poverty of the people of the United States, a poverty which has developed with a rapidity as amazing as the inflation that preceded it.

Twenty years ago, the working classes were the equals of all; and bossed by none. It was a common thing for skilled mechanics in the manufacturing trades to earn \$50, \$60 and \$70 a week. In the first mill the writer ever saw in the west, every bit of machinery in the engine room was nickle plated and the floor was carpeted, and the hands wore dandy specially made working clothes, and were as fastidious in their way as the duke in the drawing room of society. It was the rule all over the States.

In the farming districts he was a poor ornery sort of cuss, to use the flowery language of the country, who didn't drive to town from his farm behind a pair of high steppers and live in style; the boys were educated for the law and other professions, or for politics, and the girls were sent to the most expensive colleges.

For twenty years, skilled and unskilled workmen accustomed to labor for low wages, to be always in debt and to suffer severe privations, farmers, farmers' sons, and farm laborers poured into the States at an average of 4,000 to 5,000 souls, including wives and children, per week. The population rose from 40 to 65 millions; and in every trade competition for employment became overwhelming. The hungry mouths increased faster than work, the busy hands multiplied far and away beyond the needs of commerce.

Winter after winter, tens of thousands of honest toilers walked the streets of Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston and other large centers of population, shelterless, without food, or money or work, and we know what it means to be shelterless in the freezing winters of the Northern States.

When the supply of labor exceeds the demand, wages fall; that is an inexorable law that applies in the States as well as in England. Instead of finding it difficult to obtain skilled labor, manufacturers began to find skilled labor knocking at their doors for employment on any terms. Side by side with this tremendous industrial movement was a corresponding rise in the prices of many necessities of life. As the population felt the pressure, the cry for protection, more protection, increased.

Higher prices and lower wages mean a diminished purchasing power; your dollar does not go so far and you have fewer dollars. Volumes of figures have been printed to persuade the people that wages were higher and prices lower than ever, and nominally this was undoubtedly in some instances the case. But taking the whole country through, whilst figures may have told one tale—hard facts told another, and 99 men of every hundred found the purchasing power of his dollar reduced, and tending constantly downwards.

Then came the throes of labor struggling to emancipate itself from the shackles of triumphant capital, the shackled millions ground under the heels of the millionaire bosses. Strikes on a scale never before witnessed took place; and they were put down with the iron hand. The bosses were always victorious, the masses always beaten, and tens of thousands were flowing in all the time ready and eager to take the places of the strikers. The poor grew poorer and the rich richer. Then came the Homestead horror.

Can it be supposed these things have left no mark in the memories of the millions of laboring men whose votes elect presidents and office holders and overturn parties and governments? The victory of Cleveland is a rising of labor against the bosses, represented by Harrison and McKinley. Incidentally it carries tariff reform. In reality it is more than anything else a labor upheaval.

As labor went in the cities so went the hayseeds in the country. The price of every nail, spike, hammer,

plow, every bit of twine, bagging, lumber, boots, garments, protected from foreign competition, had been going up for a quarter of a century and prices going down. The farms under mortgage multiplied, and it has begun to be the rule rather than the example that it takes a farmer in Illinois, the richest agricultural community formerly in America, about all his time to earn interest to pay on his mortgages and keep soul and body together. Where the struggle proved too hard, the farmers have ceased to be landowners, and they have to hustle to pay rent to the landlords, and are getting deeper into debt every year.

Such being the situation, it is not surprising that Cleveland, who is the only candidate for the presidency who ever dared to advocate a reduction of duties on imports as the modernised and improved national policy, should have been put in and Ben Harrison and McKinleyism turned out.

ALBION LODGE NOTES.

TEN APPLICANTS FOR THE BENEFICIARY FUND.

We are glad to learn that our remarks a few weeks ago in regard to the Beneficiary Department and the members of Old Albion No. 1, is having the desired effect. At their last meeting not fewer than ten applications were received. This is the largest number applied for in one meeting, since the institution of the Beneficiary. We trust that Old Albion will long keep up her reputation of being first in point of members in every department of the Order.

ANNIVERSARY DAY.

At the last regular meeting of Albion lodge a committee was struck off to make arrangements for holding the 18th anniversary of the lodge and founding of the Sons of England. We are not able to say yet in what manner it will be celebrated, but we hope it will be the best ever held. Every member of the lodge should make it convenient to be present, as well as members of other lodges. This should not be an ordinary affair, but an extraordinary one, as the eyes of the members all over the Dominion as well as their thoughts will be upon the lodge and interested in this event.

WHITE ROSE DEGREE BENEFITS

Albion Lodge Raises the Benefits of the Second Degree for the Small Sum of 5 Cents per Week More.

We are glad to hear of the progress of the White Rose Degree throughout the Order, and the inducements some lodges are making to encourage members to join. Good news comes the old mother lodge Albion that she has decided to pay to her sick members two dollars per week when sick. The members have been paying in the past ten cents per month for \$1.00, and now they are going to pay \$2 for fifteen cents per month, so that a member belonging to both degrees will receive \$5 sick pay per week.

We are pleased to hear since this change has been made members are beginning to realize the great benefit, and are joining at the rate of five and six every meeting. We understand that Albion's W. R. Degree meetings are very interesting, for they combine pleasure with business. Half an hour is set apart for singing, recitations and speech-making. This is as it should be, and we must congratulate old No. 1 on their effort to make it a pleasure for visitors to attend their meetings.

Obituary.

We were sorry to have to record the death of another noble worker for the S. O. E. B. S., that of Bro. Fred. Brooks, late secretary of Sherwood lodge, Eglinton, Ont. The late Bro. Brooks was a native of London, Eng. He was a comparatively young man, and was thought very highly of by the people of Eglinton. He held the position of secretary to the school board. He was also a member of York Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and the A. O. U. W., also the Beneficiary Department of the S. O. E. He was a printer by trade. His remains were interred in the Masonic plot, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the funeral being attended by the Mayor, members of the council, the school trustees and many other fellow-townsmen.

Bro. Thos. Moore, P. P., conducted the services of the S. O. E. at the grave. Deceased leaves a young widow and two children, whose wants will be in a measure provided for by \$2,000 insurance in the Workmen, and \$1,000 in the S. O. E.

We trust the members of Sherwood lodge will all see the necessity of belonging to the Beneficiary. Bro. Brooks succumbed to that dread disease typhoid fever.

CHEAP ENGLISH LABOR.

A BUGABOO CONJURED UP TO FRIGHTEN U. S. VOTERS.

Englishmen Compared to Chinamen as Rushing in to Take the Places of that Suppositiously Highly Protected Person the U. S. Workman.

The week previous to the presidential elections in the United States a large number of United States papers printed a series of articles predicting that in the event of a Republican victory, re-electing President Harrison to the Presidency, the result of a continued system of McKinleyism would close up an immense number of English factories and compel the operatives to come over to the United States and replace United States labor at pauper wages. The following, which we take from the New York Herald of the 4th inst. is a fair sample of the articles in question:

ENGLISH CHEAP LABOR.

Republican success next Tuesday means supremacy of protection. Supremacy of protection means an inundation of English cheap labor.

What an inundation of English cheap labor will mean to the vast skilled labor population of the United States is foretold by the familiar story of Chinese cheap labor.

Here is a page of that story taken from the plea of Senator Miller, of California, made to Congress for the enactment of a law to suppress and avert the evil of Mongolian immigration:

While thousands of white men and women were walking the streets, begging and pleading for an opportunity to give their honest labor for any wages, the great steamers made their regular arrivals from China and discharged at the wharves of San Francisco their accustomed cargoes of Chinese, and within three or four days after arrival every Chinaman was in his place at work and the white people unemployed still went about the streets.

This continued until the white laboring men rose in their desperation and threatened the existence of the Chinese colony; but now since business has revived and the pressure is removed the Chinese come in vastly increased numbers, the excess of arrivals over departures averaging about one thousand per month at San Francisco.

The importers of Chinese find no difficulty in securing work for their cargoes now, and when transportation from California to the Eastern States is cheapened, as it soon will be, they will extend their operations into the Middle and Eastern States unless prevented by law; for wherever there is a white man or woman at work for wages, whether at the shoe bench, in the factory or on the farm, there is an opening for a Chinaman.

No matter how low the wages may be the Chinaman can afford to work for still lower wages, and if the competition is free he will take the white man's place.

In San Francisco the Chinese began to enter the manufacturing establishments as operatives, then operated entirely by white people. They were dexterous and apt, and the work of displacement of the whites went steadily on.

Wages were cut down and still the Chinese underbid the white men and in some of the factories the whole number of white employes were supplanted.

If the Republicans win and protection is maintained the tide of English cheap labor must inevitably set in. Instead of the sixty-four thousand British immigrants who landed here in 1891 two hundred thousand will come next year, and every month will witness steady and rapid increases. The great proportion of them will be English cheap skilled laborers thrown out of employment at home and seeking the work at lower wages of our skilled workmen.

What will be the inevitable result? What was the result of the influx of Chinese cheap labor? The answer to the last question is given in the words of a Senator of California, above quoted. The answer to the first question may be furnished by these same words, with slight paraphrase, to be spoken by a Senator of New York or Pennsylvania, depicting the ruinous consequences of English cheap labor to the skilled wage earners of the Eastern industrial centres, as Senator Miller depicted the evils of Chinese cheap labor.

"In New York the English skilled laborers began to enter the manufacturing establishments as operatives then operated entirely by American operatives. They were dexterous and apt and the work of displacement of the American went steadily on.

Wages were cut down and still the English cheap laborers underbid the American and in some of the factories the whole number of citizens employes were supplanted.

No matter how low the wages may be the English cheap laborer can afford to work for still lower wages, and if the competition is free he will take the American's place."

To avert this danger of English

cheap labor Congress will be forced to pass "an act to prohibit the coming of English cheap laborers to the United States," as to suppress the evil of English cheap labor it was compelled to pass "an act to prohibit the coming of Chinese persons to the United States."

Such a law with its stringent penalties must be the inevitable consequence of an influx of English cheap labor, as English cheap labor must be the inevitable consequence of a continuance and increase of protection through republican success at the polls.

Its enactment will be demanded as loudly and persistently by the East in the name of skilled wage earners as the Chinese cheap labor law was demanded by the Pacific coast in the name of common laborers.

A Coming "At Home" at Galt.

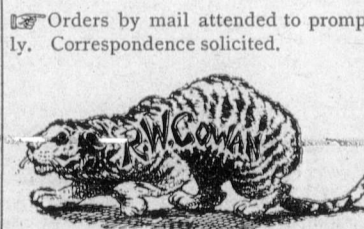
Bro. Charles Squire, Secretary Lodge Royal Oak, Galt, is getting up an "At Home" of the Daughters and Sons of England, to take place tomorrow the 16th inst., when he hopes Bro. James Lomas will deliver an address. Bro. Squire is a veteran in lodge work, and one of the most active members in the Order. He was chiefly instrumental in getting up the Daughters of England at Galt, and has done a great deal to extend the movement among the fairer and better half of our people. It is an interesting fact that Bro. Squire's father came from the same neighborhood as Lady Stanley. Mr. Squire, sr., was a boot and shoe maker and used to make her ladyships boots.

British Doings in Burmah.

The work of settling the Kachin hills, in which considerable progress was made last year, will be continued on similar lines during the coming cold season. Our officers will, however, probably not go so far afield. Addressing the Kachin chiefs at Bhamo, Mr. Fryer sketched the policy which it is proposed to pursue regarding slavery and tribute. Hereditary slaves and those who voluntarily surrender to satisfy debt are at present well treated and will not be interfered with, but the Government will not assist a master in capturing runaway slaves, while slavery by capture is absolutely prohibited. Hitherto tribute has been levied at the rate of from 8 annas to 2 rupees 8 annas per household at the discretion of the civil officer, but for the next 5 years the rate has been fixed at 2 rupees 8 annas per household.



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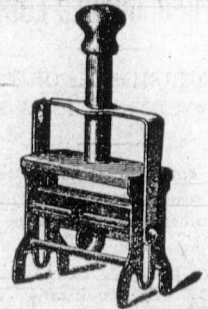
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