

measures proposed by Mr. Coxey, but asserted that the right to petition had been needlessly and vindictively assailed. Senator Sherman replied to Mr. Allen by expressing his own willingness to introduce into the Senate the bills offered by his constituent, Mr. Coxey. In the House, fortunately, a good-humored treatment of the Army of the Commonwealth is being pursued. Mr. Coxey and some of his associates were last week given a hearing before the Committee on Labor. The hearing proceeded in a friendly and tiresome way until Mr. Coxey spoke of his movement as representing ninety-nine per cent. of the people. This claim, which ought to have been laughed at, was resented by one member in much the same way that Tammany officials in New York resent the statement that they represent nobody but their "boss." If the Coxey detachment at Washington were taken less seriously, as well as treated less harshly, it would have much less importance. During the week the newspapers have printed various reports concerning train-stealing and other depredations on the part of various Coxey detachments in the far West. However, as the Governors of most of these States are being arraigned for sympathy with this lawlessness, we must await the reports of local papers to obtain accurate information. The Kelly detachment of fifteen hundred men seems to have sustained at Des Moines, Iowa, the reputation it made for itself at Omaha. It left Des Moines in flatboats the middle of the week, expecting to reach Washington by July 4.

The hopelessness of suppressing lotteries without National legislation prohibiting inter-State traffic in lottery matter is brought out strikingly by the condition of things at Kansas City, Kansas. Not long since we reported in these columns how Silas L. Carr & Co. were sending over the country advertisements of the "Louisiana Lottery Company of New Orleans and Kansas City." The remarkable offers to agents made in these circulars gave the impression that the Company might be a "green goods" swindle rather than a lottery company doing an extensive business. To make certain, however, we wrote to one of its references—the Adams Express Company at Kansas City—and received the following answer:

This firm [Silas L. Carr & Co.] have an open drawing every month, and have paid all prize tickets when properly indorsed. They are paying many prizes every day drawn through our Company.

W. H. MONTAGU, Agent.

From a Maryland subscriber we have received word that another firm, known as the "Eli Whitney Company," is sending from Kansas City the advertisements of still another lottery company. This latter company seems to have its headquarters on the Missouri side of the river, and may explain Senator Vest's remarkable anxiety that no law shall be passed interfering with church raffles. The former company, however, has its headquarters in Kansas, the State of all others believed to be most aggressive in matters of moral reform. We are glad to notice that the Ministerial Alliance of Kansas City, Kansas, has taken hold of the question, and has issued a vigorous circular calling upon good citizens all over Kansas "to help rid their city and State of this growing and most corrupting evil." Yet the fact that the Police Commissioners of Kansas City, appointed by the Governor of the State, cannot be goaded to suppress lotteries which draw their revenues from distant parts of the country, shows how absolutely essential is the speedy passage of the Hoar bill now pending in the United States Senate.

As we go to press, a joint convention of coal-miners and coal-operators is in session at Cleveland, O. Fourteen

States and nearly every important bituminous coal district are represented. The operators from two great districts—one in Pennsylvania and one in Indiana—have refused to be governed by the decision of the conference, and it is feared that no decision will be reached. The operators of different districts are openly at war with each other. At the conference of Pennsylvania operators, held at Pittsburg on Friday of last week, the "river" mine operators argued vehemently against concessions, alleging that they could secure men at present prices, and that West Virginia competition made concessions impossible. The "railroad" mine operators, on the other hand, were unanimously in favor of concessions, and have since sent delegates to the Cleveland conference. The Ohio operators are in favor of granting the men the old rates, but the "river" operators in Pennsylvania accuse them of supporting the strike because these old rates discriminate in favor of Ohio mines and against Pennsylvania mines. The fact that different rates of wages have to be arranged for the various districts, because of the differences in the productiveness of the mines, greatly adds to the difficulty of reaching an agreement as to schedules. The chief obstacle the men have to contend with is the readiness of foreign and negro laborers to accept work at present wages. In some districts the only miners who have remained at work are of these two elements. The extreme poverty of the miners at the outset of the strike also adds to the difficulty of prolonging the conflict. Nevertheless, the one hundred and eighty miners' delegates who have gathered at Cleveland assert that they are fighting for the principle of a living wage, and are ready to endure weeks more of privation rather than to compromise.

From a correspondent in Washington we receive the following statement of what the Committee on Indian Affairs is trying to do to set back the hands on the clock, undoing the work inaugurated under General Grant and maintained by every Administration since:

It is now proposed by the Appropriation Committee, in the bill which I suppose will be reported to-day (April 30)—if it was not reported Saturday afternoon—to strike out the appropriation for the expenses of the Board of Indian Commissioners. As the law now stands, it is the duty of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to make purchase of Indian supplies under the supervision of the Board of Indian Commissioners, and subject to their inspection. Unless the Board is abolished, this duty still remains, but no provision will be made for discharging it. The practical effect of this will be to abolish the Board and restore, as far as possible, the old condition of things, in which there were partnerships between agents, traders, and contractors; a receipting for supplies never delivered; over-estimation of the weight of cattle delivered; taking vouchers in blank to be filled with fraudulent sums; carrying false names upon the roll; paying employees for whom there was no employment; reporting employees at higher or lower salaries than provided by law, and using the differences for other purposes; farming out appointments controlled by the agent; using annuity goods for the agents or employees; trading with the Indians; selling them their own goods; selling annuity goods to whites; conniving with others to swindle Indians out of annuities after distribution; in short, the many abuses which were so general that honesty and morality in the service were exceptional. Previous to the appointment of this Board there were not, perhaps, as many as a dozen (in 1870 there were less than forty) bids at the annual openings. Last year there were between five and six hundred, I understand, showing that there was free and honest competition.

The Springfield "Republican" holds Mr. Holman, of Indiana, responsible for this proposition—a proposition to re-establish fraud under pretense of maintaining economy. Along with it is the proposal to reduce the salary of the Superintendent of Schools—we judge that public sentiment was too strong to admit of the abolition of the office—and the salaries of the already underpaid Indian Agents.

Such saving at the spigot only to waste at the bunghole is unworthy the American Nation. It is not a Nation of niggards, and Mr. Holman does not truly represent it. Write to your Representative and tell him so.

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In local politics the sensation of the hour is the resignation of Mr. Richard Croker as a member of the Executive Committee and as the Chairman of the Finance Committee of Tammany Hall. We believe that Mr. Croker has been at the head of Tammany Hall for nine years. By those who are familiar with him, political enemies as well as political friends, he is said to possess many of the qualities, as well as something of the personal appearance, of General Grant. He has unquestionably shown himself an able organizer and leader. Under his administration Tammany Hall has become a greater political power than ever, in both city and State, and, whatever may be said of its corrupt methods—and they cannot be too severely condemned—the actual administration of municipal affairs, under Mr. Croker's control, has been in many respects efficient, and, as compared with that of other cities, not extravagant. That Mr. Croker has amassed great wealth by reason of his position cannot be doubted; that he has amassed this wealth by directly sharing in political corruption there is little or no reason to believe. The incidental opportunities for making money by the rise of real estate, as a result of improvements planned by him, or anticipated as a result of his special knowledge, are quite sufficient to account for the increase of his wealth, without supposing him guilty of the methods of Mr. Tweed. The reasons for his resignation were not stated in his letter. We judge that several causes conspired to bring this resignation about: his increased private business interests; his weariness of the perpetual detail involved in the leadership of Tammany; some dissensions in Tammany itself, with some lack on the part of his subordinates of that unquestioning loyalty to him personally which has been characteristic of Tammany in the past; some warnings given to him, not to be ignored, that he must, in the interest of health, lessen somewhat his cares and activities; and possibly also the prospect of a very severe and somewhat uncertain political conflict this fall, with divisions in his own camp and with the possibility of a united front against him. We doubt very much whether Tammany has any one capable of taking his place. We judge that the election of ex-Police Justice John McQuade is little more than a temporary makeshift.

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Steadily diminishing majorities in the House of Commons seemed to indicate last week that the Liberal Ministry was nearing its end, and it is evident that its future is, at the best, very uncertain. Lord Rosebery, who knows how to be frank when it is wise to be frank, took the public into his confidence at a meeting of the National Liberal Club last week, and declared that the Government was in a critical condition owing to the possible defection of the Irish party. He pointed out that the Irish would have nothing to gain by putting the Liberals out and bringing the Conservatives in, and it is not unlikely that his apparent indifference to defeat contributed not a little to the reinforcement of his position. The crisis came the following night, when the Budget Bill came up for its second reading. The House of Commons was packed long before the hour for the division, members' seats, galleries, lobbies, and all approaches to the House being filled with a great crowd of eager spectators. The character of the budget has already been explained in these columns. Mr. Balfour attacked it as a class budget, and, therefore, as inconsistent

with Liberal traditions. He protested against it on behalf of large properties. Sir William Harcourt, who had made an admirable speech in introducing the bill, made an equally admirable one in defending it. He declared that the opposition to it came entirely from land and liquor interests. At the close of his speech the House filed into the lobbies, and when the tellers announced the vote it stood 308 for the second reading against 294. A majority of fourteen is not a very secure bulwark against Irish defection and Conservative attack, but it marked a decisive victory at a critical moment. There is very little probability, however, that the Government will be able to carry through the budget, the Welsh Disestablishment Bill, and the Evicted Tenants Act.

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There is a good deal of uneasiness in England with regard to the situation in India, where the native population is showing many signs of restiveness under the English rule. A series of incendiary fires last autumn destroyed large quantities of military stores at a very important point in the Punjab, and it is said that attempts were made to destroy similar stores at other points. At the same time there was a notable increase of incendiary pamphlets which were scattered broadcast through the country, there was a series of sudden riots between the Mussulmans and the Hindus, and a great increase of crimes of every sort. During the winter a number of incidents, insignificant in themselves, but ominous in their significance taken together, attracted the attention of careful observers, and have deepened the feeling of uneasiness with which a good many English officials and residents in India are regarding the situation. The London "Spectator," which is sometimes given to a rather vague and imaginative treatment of Oriental matters, thinks the situation distinctly alarming, and this opinion receives unexpected confirmation from Colonel Malleon, an eminent authority on Indian affairs. Those who have given attention to the matter think that the English Government has been pressing its reforms too rapidly, and that, in attempting to regulate marriage, the sale and use of opium, and other matters, the Government has intensely irritated the Hindus. The English, although great administrators, are never notable for tact in dealing with other races, and this defect has been specially unfortunate in their relations with the Hindus. The prejudices and beliefs of the latter have been constantly offended. The government of two hundred and fifty millions of people by a small company of foreign officials and a very small body of foreign troops requires eminent discretion and tact. Moreover, the industrial condition of India is just now so precarious and involves such widespread suffering that popular discontent could hardly have been avoided under the most favorable circumstances. Altogether, the situation is one to give England cause for serious anxiety.

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France, as well as other nations, has had to revise her taxes in order to avoid a deficit, and, like England, she has endeavored to do this without increasing the burdens upon the lower middle classes. Indeed, the burdens upon these classes have been actually lessened by the final abolition of the door and window tax. That such a tax upon light and air should have survived in France to the present day is but one of a hundred illustrations of how far the Latin nations are behind the Anglo-Saxon in the development of just systems of taxation. In the United States no such tax was ever tolerated, while in England it was condemned half a century ago—though not, indeed, until a whole