

put a new ticket in the field or indorse Bryan and Stevenson.



Election Frauds in Pennsylvania

The "Union Committee for the Promotion of Ballot Reform and the Merit System in Pennsylvania" is not permitting its work to be interfered with by the presence of a National campaign. It has just issued a singularly effective leaflet prepared by the Hon. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, a Republican legislator, showing the seriousness of the evils against which it is contending. This leaflet begins by noting that the Committee's estimate of the fraudulent votes cast in Philadelphia in November, 1898, was pronounced too low by the Philadelphia "Press," a stalwart Republican paper. The Committee put the fraudulent vote at from 30,000 to 50,000; the "Press" reported that 80,000 would be nearer the mark. The source of these appalling frauds, the leaflet points out, is the failure of the Pennsylvania law to require the personal registration of voters. In the Twelfth Division of the Fifth Ward, the Committee and its allies were able to probe the frauds to the bottom, and disclosed such facts as these:

That the major part of the more than 200 names on the assessors' list were registered from brothels, badger-houses, gaming-houses, and other places of revolting wickedness.

That the election was held in the house of prostitution maintained by the assessor.

That the man named as judge had also a criminal charge for a like offense pending over him.

That 252 votes were returned in a division that had less than one hundred legal voters within its boundaries.

In this particular precinct the election officers were convicted and are now in jail, but the law under which such outrages seemed safe is still on the statute book. The Union Committee reports that auxiliary committees have been formed at Pittsburg and Scranton, and that everywhere public-spirited citizens seem ready to give active support to the proposed reforms. Such work is pre-eminently needed during the present campaign, because the machine responsible for the continuation of the abuses hopes to divert the entire attention of the voters to National issues. Unfortunately the complete separation of National from State issues is made difficult by the fact that a United States Sen-

ator must be chosen by the Legislature elected in November, but there is some hope that an anti-Quay Legislature may be secured through the general readiness of Democrats to support anti-Quay Republicans in districts where men of their own party cannot be elected. The Republicans who oppose Senator Quay this year will doubtless be denounced in Pennsylvania as traitors to their party, but outside of Pennsylvania they are a strength to their party. In the country at large the Quay machine is becoming almost as much of a load to the Republican party as the Tammany machine is to the Democratic party.



The Goebel Murder Trial The trial of Caleb Powers, Secretary of State under Governor Taylor, upon the charge of conspiring with others to assassinate ex-Senator Goebel, was begun in Georgetown, Kentucky, on Monday of last week. Judge Cantrell, before whom the case came, compelled every person entering the court-room to submit to a search for concealed weapons. Some of the attorneys protested, but the Judge insisted upon obedience to his order. Ex-Governor Brown, the anti-Goebel Democrat, who is now the chief attorney for the defense, asked for a postponement in order that more witnesses desired by the defense might be summoned, but this step only occasioned a temporary delay. By Friday a jury had been secured, consisting of eight farmers, three merchants, and one blacksmith. The political prejudices of the jurors are not definitely established, but it is reported that eight are regular Democrats, three are anti-Goebel Democrats, and one is a Republican. The attorney for the prosecution in opening the case told the jury that he would prove that Secretary Powers had predicted Goebel's death a few days before it occurred, had known in advance that the fatal shot was to be fired from his office, and had collected desperadoes there to protect the assassin from arrest. The first witness examined was the civil engineer who extracted from the tree the steel bullet supposed to have killed Goebel. There are a hundred and twenty-seven witnesses to be examined, and the trial will certainly be a long one.

The Boston and Albany Lease Ratified

The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week ratified the lease of the Boston and Albany Railroad to the New York Central by a vote of 124 to 50. Inasmuch as the Senate had previously sanctioned the lease by a vote of 25 to 5, the action of the House ends the conflict unless Governor Crane interposes an unexpected veto. A few days before the final vote was taken in the House, that body voted that the lease should be referred to the voters of the State for their approval, but this amendment was finally stricken out by the efforts of the friends of the lease. The latter urged that the lease could not secure consideration from the voters during a Presidential campaign, though the prospects were that its submission would have given the entire State an elementary education respecting the public obligations of the great Massachusetts thoroughfare. The most zealous friends of the lease were conspicuously the most zealous opponents of its submission to the people for ratification. The friends of the lease claim that the State gives up none of its previous rights to regulate the rates charged over the Boston and Albany lines. So far as the letter of the ratification act is concerned this claim is good, for the State expressly reserves all its existing rights. When, however, it sanctions a lease under which the New York Central obligates itself to pay the stockholders of the Boston and Albany over 8 per cent. a year upon their stock for ninety-nine years, the State cannot easily take any subsequent action to make the execution of this contract burdensome. Unlike private corporations, the State respects its implied obligations, and refuses to enforce the letter of its contracts if there are any considerations of equity against it. The amendment limiting the lease to twenty-five years was rejected by a vote of 62 to 146.

The United States Treasury

The end of the fiscal year 1899-1900 finds the finances of our Government in particularly satisfactory condition. The excess of receipts over expenditures for the fiscal year amounts to about eighty million dollars. Another cheering

feature of the year's business has been the remarkable reduction of annual interest on the public debt—by the refunding operations the annual interest charge on the public debt has been reduced by nearly six million dollars. Of Government receipts for the year, about two hundred and thirty-three million dollars were derived from customs duties, but nearly three hundred millions from internal taxes. However, there was a greater increase over last year in customs receipts than in internal taxation. The customs-revenue receipts verify in remarkable degree the estimate made by Mr. Dingley three years ago concerning the revenue-producing qualities of the bill now known as the Dingley Law. The condition of the Treasury at this time reflects the great prosperity of the country.



Foreign Commerce The figures of the foreign commerce of the United States for the fiscal year ending on the first of July are the most impressive of any for the past six years. The increase in the total trade during that period has been nearly one-half; it is hardly necessary to add that during a like period there has been no such advance in the history of the United States, and perhaps none in the history of any other nation. In the following table will be found totals of our exports for each of the six years, together with the excess of exports over imports:

Years.	Exports.	Excess Exports.
1895.....	\$807,538,000	\$75,568,000
1896.....	882,607,000	102,882,000
1897.....	1,050,994,000	286,263,000
1898.....	1,231,482,000	615,432,000
1899.....	1,227,023,000	529,875,000
1900.....	1,394,479,000	544,765,000

It will be noted by this table that six years ago the total foreign commerce of the country reached only a billion and a half; this year it reaches in round numbers two billions and a quarter. This increase is largely due to the abundant crops with which this country has been favored, and to the particularly active demand for those crops in the world's market. The increase is also due to our great industrial expansion. We may congratulate ourselves, however, that these advantages have not been neutralized by a wrong course in regard to the public

