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# The Public

Third Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1900.

Number 138.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

In the unrestrained delight of the republican newspapers of Chicago over what they regard as a probability that the Democratic party of Illinois will "freeze out the Bryanites," there is much food for profitable thought. Why are the republicans delighted?

It's an ill wind that blows no good. The mess the Chicago election officials have made in counting the vote, of the 6th, which has delayed official returns until this late day, has created a strong sentiment in the city in favor of adopting voting machines.

An excellent idea has taken shape in Solomon, Kan., in the formation of a club for preserving the declaration of independence and propagating its doctrines. If clubs like this were organized in every village the spirit of Americanism would soon revive.

A new way of resisting strikes has been devised by the National Foundrymen's association. Representing an enormous aggregation of capital, this organization has decided to crush a local molders' strike in Cleveland by offering nonunion workmen two dollars a day premium to take the strikers' places. Should the experiment prove successful, there will be no more victorious local strikes. All strikes not national in trades in which there is an employers' organization of national scope will then be doomed to failure from the start.

Senator Helme, of the Adrian district in Michigan, a strong republican district, has been reelected by 46 majority. He will be the only demo-

crat in the next Michigan senate. Senator Helme, who is a single tax man as well as a democrat, was largely responsible for the passage through the Michigan senate last winter of a bill allowing local option in taxation. It is certain that his sensible fiscal views have done him no political harm, and there is reason to believe that they strengthened his vote. It should be added that his is a farming constituency.

When the portrait of Abraham Lincoln fell last week from the walls to the floor in the east room of the white house, the accident went without notice, because it happened after election. Had it happened before, said some of the superstitious ones, it might have been interpreted as an augury of defeat. But why may not the superstitious consider it as a possible expression of Lincoln's post mortem opinion of the result of the election? The popular endorsement of McKinley's policy of colonial empire must have been enough to have made Lincoln turn in his grave. What wonder, then, if for the same reason his portrait dropped in disgust from the white house walls.

Reported fears that a gold mine at Cripple Creek is worked out, develop a fact that throws additional light upon the balance of trade theory. It discloses one of the items that go to swell that export balance of which the administration is so boastful. Much of the stock of the mine in question is held in London. Consequently every dividend has enhanced our exports without affecting our imports. It was an outgo without corresponding income. This is a startling example of what excessive exports mean. Yet there are men who actually believe that statistics of these excessive outgoes to foreign countries rep-

resent increasing accumulations at home!

If those residents of Maywood (a suburb of Chicago) who voted this week to grant a perpetual franchise to a gas company upon a fixed charge for service were accused of dishonesty of the meanest sort, robbery of their children, they would probably feel aggrieved. Yet that is their crime. What right in common sense and common honesty have they to impose contracts regarding public service upon generations still unborn? What right have they so to tie up public functions that future generations must either submit to what may then be a gross injustice or pay ransom to its beneficiaries?

One of the rich men of Chicago is reported as about to pay an election bribe which he offered in behalf of McKinley. While in the east some of his friends begged for a hospital subscription, and he told them that he would make the gift if McKinley was elected. Probably he does not regard this as a bribe. To his obviously perverted moral sense it is doubtless a species of contingent philanthropy. But no more effective and ingenious method of bribing the workmen, traders, hospital attaches, etc., who might expect indirect advantages from such a contribution, could have been desired by the republican boss of the locality where that hospital is or is to be.

Treasurer Washburn, of the people's party national committee, makes a tactical mistake of the first order when he proposes that Bryan, and those who support Bryan, shall abandon the democratic party forthwith and form a new one. His idea that a union of the reform forces can be

manufactured is not only unsound as a matter of political common sense, but its unsoundness has been frequently demonstrated in political experience. The explanation is that reform leaders and reform organizations are not the reform forces and do not direct the reform forces. These forces are the aggregate of that reform sentiment in the community which is vague and indefinite until some great occasion crystalizes it. No paper organization, however completely it combines the various factions of reform agitators, ever did, or in all probability ever will make such an occasion. There is one way and only one which gives any promise in the present condition of politics of an effective reform party. It is involved in the efforts of the democratic reactionaries. They will make a struggle to regain control of the democratic party and to turn it back in its course. If they fail, there will be no need for a third party in the interest of reform, nor would such a party cut any figure in politics if organized. But if they succeed, after a hard and bitter fight, such as ought by all means to be made against them, then there is more than a fair probability that out of the bitterness of the fight, which will surely attract the deeply interested observation of democratic republicans, a third party will spring up which will have within it all the possibilities of success. A party so born might jump at once either into first place or second, it would make but little difference which, and after that the lines of battle would for the time be clearly drawn between democracy and plutocracy. But they would be drawn just as clearly if the reform forces, in a hearty fight for supremacy within the democratic party, were to succeed in defeating the attempt of the plutocratic elements to regain their power of determining its policy and nominating its national candidates.

The beneficial effects, to some people, of the McKinley victory at the polls continue without abatement.

The stock of the Pacific Mail Steamship company has risen in price in expectation of a subsidy, and the trust stocks generally are "on the boom." And while it is announced that steel rails are to be put up to \$28 a ton, the government has awarded a contract for armor plate which is expected to swell the output of the steel trust by \$15,000,000. Moreover, prices are higher all along the line. But the employes of the steel trust at Milwaukee and at Mingo Junction have been forced to accept a reduction in their wages, as have the iron workers at Youngstown, while the night workers in the Newburg steel mill at Cleveland have been laid off; and in Chicago the first flurry of snow discloses many cases of pitiful and undeserved destitution. A grossly material interpretation of the text: "To him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath," seems to describe the vital principle of McKinley prosperity.

It is from the northern state of Colorado and not from the south, that news of the latest horrible torture of a negro comes. This negro was a mere boy of 16. He had committed a crime upon a white girl of 11 which caused her death, and for this he was justly amenable to punishment—to precisely the same punishment that ought to be inflicted upon a white boy of equal responsibility for the same kind of crime. But this boy was not treated as he would have been had his skin been white. It is true that a white boy would have been arrested, as the negro was. It is possible that in a Rocky mountain state he would have been lynched, as the negro was. But it is certain that nowhere would he have been tortured at the stake. Yet that is what was done to the negro boy. He was seized by the mob—with the consent of the sheriff who had him in custody, and who ought to be most severely dealt with for his share in the crime that followed; he was chained to an iron stake; wood was piled about him and

saturated with kerosene; and slowly, deliberately, fiendishly, he was tortured with fire until consciousness left him, and then he was burned to ashes. This was not for his crime. Such an outrage upon a white man however villainously criminal, would be impossible in Colorado or anywhere else. It was because, in addition to being a criminal, he was a negro.

In Colorado this extreme expression of race hostility is a worse blot upon the public conscience than it would be in the south. For in the south public opinion regarding negroes has been perverted by a long history of false race relations. The people of Colorado have not that excuse. They are allowing race prejudice and hatred to possess them as a new evil. They will be doing so, that is, if they adopt this crime by allowing the leaders of the mob who participated in the devilish orgie to go unpunished. And that they will do so is almost a foregone conclusion. With but few exceptions only faint expressions of condemnation have been made even in Denver. Nor is this apathy confined to Colorado. Astonishing interviews from other states, even from women, have appeared condoning the lynching. Out of four well-known members of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs interviewed at Albany, N. Y., the day after the occurrence, only one denounced the lynching as a crime. The others found palliation for it in the boy's offense. Of the magnitude of that offense too much in condemnation cannot be said. But if we are to have social order at all, it is vital that the criminal law and not mobs, shall deal with criminals; that punishment shall be expressive of the necessity of punishing criminals and not of the brutish instincts of infuriated men; that in administering punishment there shall be no distinction with reference to race; and above everything else that the sober second thought of the people everywhere and under all circumstances