

its tendency is to reduce all profit to a common level, without the remotest reference to the character of the various elements of cost.

The monopolist adds the amount of the tariff to the price of his product, thus augmenting cost to the manufacturing consumer and correspondingly curtailing the purchasing power of the final purchaser—the public.

The tariff benefits the monopolist because it harms everybody else, including the "manufacturing consumer."

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg, Pa., June 19.—During tax assessment time this year the Pittsburg newspapers gave considerable space to the protests made by representatives of corporations whose holdings in franchises, such as the lighting companies, telephone companies, and others, have been subjected to a higher valuation for taxation. The demurrers of the corporations' legal representatives afforded a fine exhibition of squirming and word jugglery, and gave a new significance to the saying that language was invented to conceal thought. Over in Washington county, where many thousands of acres of coal lands are held out of use, the tax commissioners disturbed the serenity of the holders by raising the assessment on these idle acres to the same rate paid on operated land. Nearly all of the Washington county coal land is owned by Pittsburg capitalists, and in this city early in April the county tax commissioners gave a hearing to the attorneys of the different companies. The briefs of the lawyers showed how humorists had mistaken a calling and unwisely entered an already crowded profession.

A summary of all the arguments against the levy is that these thousands of back-lying acres, being far removed from the lines of transportation, and under ordinary conditions of supply and demand would not, for 10 or 15 years, come within the productive zone, the injustice of the new valuation would at once appeal to the honorable commissioners. With indignation running riot, the legal men told the commissioners that more clearly would be understood the real outrage of such an inequitable levy when they were informed that these lands "held in reserve" had been purchased at prices less than one-fourth paid for lands operated, and when one alert commissioner inquired why so much land was held "in reserve," he was told there

was no necessity for its being opened and made productive! The commissioners were really alarmed, it is believed, when they were informed that the imposition of this new tax meant the closing up of mines, throwing thousands of men out of employment, and the paralysis of Washington county's prosperity, and, further, that negotiations now pending for the purchase of several thousand more acres (also to be held in reserve) would be abandoned. As a final appeal, the legal humorists recited the injustice which would be done to a large number of "poor farmers" who were holding their coal land, and who would to a large degree be most sorely oppressed by the proposed tax. Widows and orphans and the poor farmer is the large shield in the armory of monopoly.

Apropos of Pittsburg's social condition, a circular letter issued to club women of this city and Allegheny City by the "Permanent Civic Committee of Women's Clubs of Western Pennsylvania," is certainly not optimistic, and not in accord with Congressman Olmstead, he who recently said on the floor of the House of Representatives, while the Quay collar rested heavily upon him, that there was not an able-bodied man in the State of Pennsylvania that could not command a wage of two dollars a day. The circular letter, in part, is as follows:

In every great city there is, of necessity, a large class of poor people, who live in filth and squalor, under most wretched conditions that are demoralizing alike to body and soul; conditions that affect not only those immediately surrounded thereby, but, to a lesser degree, but none the less surely, the whole community. In that amid such surroundings are generated contagious diseases that spread throughout the whole city, and among such people are found the bulk of our criminal classes. Pittsburg, being the great industrial center that she is, attracting to her doors day by day thousands of the lowest of foreigners, is necessarily the possessor of greater numbers of these poor and ignorant classes, of wider areas of filth, noisome plague spots, than most any other city in our country, and yet she has done less towards the correcting of such evils than almost any other city of her size in the land.

The well meaning women composing the organization with the high-sounding name believe that the only means of lifting up these "lowest of foreigners," is by means of personal cleanliness, and an appeal is made to the public for \$100,000 with which to build and equip public baths. It is presumed that these women have noticed that, according to the newspapers, 5,000 of "these poor and ignorant classes" from beyond the sea have but recently arrived and taken up their residence in this district.

In one of my former letters brief mention was made of the little regard in which human life is held in this district. The growth of crime in these

valleys (and crime and vice is rampant throughout the commonwealth) has simply appalled the authorities of Allegheny county. It is seldom that from the pulpit comes a warning voice, and because it is exceptional the following extract from a recent Sunday sermon, delivered by a leading clergyman, is noteworthy, for it was entirely devoted to the subject of "Why Pittsburg is Filled with Violence." Prefacing his discourse with the statement that "if our good people should get all the facts as to the evils that abound in Pittsburg they would be horrified beyond expression," the speaker continued:

Our laws for the suppression of crime are disregarded and the police act more as if they were heathen gods than men, for they have eyes and see not, and ears have they, but they hear not. The Lord's day is turned into a day of traffic and carousing. The saloon, that hotbed of every kind of vice and crime, is compromised with for a certain sum of money, and we compound with felony. As we sow, so shall we reap! It is amazing the indifference that prevails. Our boys and girls are regaled with the vilest of police publications and we wonder that they take to evil. Surely, there ought to be a decent effort, at least, to enforce good laws, if we have regard for the future of our city. I do not know that the situation here is worse than in other great centers of population, but it is frightful in the extreme. The record in this county since the beginning of 1904 is 11 murders in 15 weeks; 286 met deaths by violence, while the assaults and crimes in various forms would almost fill a volume. No amount of explaining will change the fact that a dreadful condition of society exists, and demands the attention of all serious people.

That's Pittsburg, a city where more beer and whisky are consumed in a year than in any other city in the world, excepting none. And it is in this same city, too, where Mr. Carnegie has established the headquarters of the commission which shall dribble out a pitiful dole of dollars and award trinkets in the name of athletic heroism. Out in Homestead is an army of heroes daily giving up their lives in sweat and blood, to make possible the payment of interest on Mr. Carnegie's bonds.

For some weeks a reign of terror existed at Garrett, a little mining town in Somerset county, this State. Outrages upon human rights were being perpetrated and the laws were temporarily prostrate. The idea of the authorities appears to have been to let the parties to the conflict fight it out between themselves, subject to subsequent responsibility for their acts. There was an armed force guarding the mines and an armed mob on the outside threatening attack. The army of invasion was reported to be in possession of the town, and men armed with rifles and shotguns were patrolling the streets. In the mining regions of this State this condition of affairs has become chronic. The only special feature of the Garrett insurrection, which for the hour attracted gen-

eral attention, was the firing of a striking miner's little home and the death in the flames of the miner's wife, three of her children and two grandchildren. The crime is charged to some of the imported workmen who have taken the strikers' places.

At Garrett was enacted the same tragedy witnessed almost yearly in this State.

It is a simple matter to trace the cause. Every large corporation in this Commonwealth, with rapacious greed, has steadily encroached upon the just demands of workmen. The organization of labor in self-defense has furnished excuse for employers to fill strikers' places with imported laborers. For, while the swarms of immigrants who have come to this State in the past 15 years have not been under contract to work in mines and mills, their presence has been availed of with the greatest eagerness by mine operators and the beneficiaries of the Protective system. The freedom with which thousands of the so-called pauper labor of Europe have been admitted to our shores gave to such immigration a greater impetus than would have existed under a free right of contract. Fifteen or twenty years ago it was the exception to find other than American-born men engaged in mining coal and in varied industries. Now the rule is reversed, and the payrolls of mine operators, where the number or check system is not used, read like the pages of a Slav directory. In this studied employment of the foreign laborer the protected industries especially have shown their wonderful solicitude for the protection of the American. And so 'tis a truth that Protection has proved an open Pandora's box. Here in Pennsylvania, perhaps, is the real falsity and infamy of the whole system of Protection more apparent than in any other State of the Union. Only because of the mental enslavement of men could such a monstrous absurdity exist. Absolute Free Trade in men who must compete with others for a day's wage; for the products of labor barriers erected against their admission because our great industries must be protected! It is, then, clear why a steady influx of a cosmopolitan flood into this State and into other States is causing with greater frequency the signs of a great social disease. These natives of Italy, Hungary, Bohemia, Poles, Russians and all branches of the Slavonic race soon turn against corporate greed, and there is re-enacted, with greater intensity, the revolt of humanity against injustice. In view of the complacency with which the administration views the proposition to import coolies to dig the Panama canal, it would not be surprising to have Baer et al. requisition the government for the services of the Asiatics, should any survive the pestilential climate of the Isthmus.

In this great center of human activity,

where might rise an imperial city, a city whose name, synonymous for all that made for civic righteousness and true happiness and prosperity, would be known wherever the American flag is floated, the great tragedy of life as we know it in our present state of civilization is presented in all its hideous forms. It is not always a pleasure to record the truth, and if this crude picture of existing conditions is shaded darkly, it is for the reason that the palette has been scanned in vain for pigments of a brighter hue.

JAMES A. WARREN.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, June 23.

The event of the week is the Republican national convention (pp. 157, 171), which opened at Chicago on the 21st.

Prior to the convention's meeting the national committee prepared the roll of delegates for the temporary organization, and for that purpose passed preliminary judgment on contests. In a Delaware contest the committee decided in favor of the followers of J. Edward Addicks (vol. v, pp. 312, 378), usually distinguished in newspaper reports as "Gas" Addicks. This decision was sustained by the committee on credentials, afterward appointed by the temporary organization of the convention. In the Louisiana contest between the organization of white Republicans ("lily-whites" as they are called by their rivals) and the organization of white and black Republicans ("black-and-tans" as they are called by the other faction), the national committee decided against the "lily whites," but the credentials committee of the temporary organization partly reversed this action by admitting both delegations with half a vote for each delegate.

The most important contest was that from Wisconsin (p. 119)—most important alike in magnitude and political significance and possibilities. This fight is between the supporters of the old Republican machine or "stalwarts," led by Senator Spooner, and the followers of Gov. La Follette, whom the "stalwarts" call "half-breeds." The contestants were the "stalwarts," and they were accorded on the 17th the Wis-

consin seats in the temporary organization by the unanimous vote of the national committee. When the contest came before the committee on credentials on the 21st the La Follette delegation submitted a written statement of their case, which contained the following declaration:

The national committee did not examine our record or appoint any sub-committee to do so, but at the close of the argument, immediately decided the contest upon the conflicting and wholly contradictory oral statements of counsel for the respective parties. An examination of these records and evidence "would at once have disclosed the fact that every material claim advanced by the attorneys of said contesting delegates was without any foundation in fact." The conduct of the committee in deciding the contest immediately without examining the records or any of the credentials of delegates made it clear that the case had been determined by them in advance of its presentation. We now find on the credentials committee a number of gentlemen who as members of the national committee were most active in their support of the cause of the contesting delegates. Other members of said credentials committee, as we are credibly informed, have expressed themselves in favor of the contesting delegation, while every member of the credentials committee, as we are informed, has been approached in advance of the hearing for the purpose of securing a determination of the contest in favor of the contesting delegates. Believing, in view of the foregoing, that it would be futile to present our cause before this committee, we prefer to rest it with the Republican voters of the State of Wisconsin for their determination.

Thereupon the La Follette delegation returned to their homes. A sub-committee of the credentials committee entered, however, upon an investigation of the case and in accordance with its report the whole committee reported to the convention rebuking the La Follette delegation for impeaching its integrity and declaring in favor of the regularity of the "stalwarts." Only a small scattering vote against this report was heard in the convention. In an interview on the 22d, Lieut.-Gov. Davidson, of Wisconsin, stated that the question will be carried to the people of Wisconsin, who know that—

the influences which combined to shut out the representatives of the majority of the party in Wisconsin were: First,