

1894 over 60 per cent are set down as snub. That is, of 896 strikes only 350 succeeded. It would therefore appear that the time is approaching when strikes must be discarded as a weapon, either for defensive or offensive purposes.

FREE LANCES IN THE SENATE.

Time was when the destinies of the nation were swayed by leaders of one or the other of the great parties in Congress, but that era seems to have passed away for the present at least, and the representatives of a comparatively new and small party exercise more influence, although partly in negative form, in many respects than do leaders of either of the great political parties. This is especially the case in the United States Senate, and will be for the next few years. The reason for this is that a number of the senators are not bound by either of the great parties, and holding the balance of power, are both feared and courted by a more numerous body of political associates. Neither Democrats nor Republicans having an absolute majority for deciding all disputes, the Populists and Independents are free lances in the Senate to dictate almost at will many matters of important legislation which do not particularly involve special party issues, but have great influence on the nation.

It is this fact that gives to Senator Allen of Nebraska the important position he now holds, and which causes him to be regarded as "the storm center of the United States Senate." It is not his personal appearance that affords him prestige, although that is commanding; for he is six feet two inches high, weighs 230 pounds, is thick-limbed, deep-chested and broad-shouldered, with no extra fat, and has a clear, penetrating voice that in conversational tone reaches to every part of the Senate chamber. But he has influence with all those not strictly under the domination of regular discipline in the other parties, and to antagonize him or his friends in any ordinary legislation means a counter-antagonism which is dangerous to measures befriended by those who invoke it; hence the deference shown him, as well illustrated in an incident of last winter, related by the *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*. It was when the Omaha people wanted some assistance for their exposition, which opens next fall. Senator Thurston, energetic and eloquent, was given charge of the bill for an appropriation, but nothing was heard of it. Then the story goes:

Thurston was bombarded with letters and telegrams. He could do nothing; could not get recognition; special orders, etc., blocked him out, and all that, were the discouraging replies made. Finally, in sheer desperation, they happened to ask an old eastern senator what on earth they could do so as to secure action before the Senate adjourned. That veteran sentimentally inquired, "Why don't you get Allen to work for you?" "Allen? How can he do anything near as well as Thurston? Why, don't you know that he is a Populist? Those Populists have no standing with either the Democrats or the Republicans," replied the sapient Omaha manager. "Well, all the same," retorted the veteran, "I advise you to

make a clean breast to Allen, and drop Thurston." After much fearful confabulation they did so. Allen put that bill through in less than a week after they got down on their knees to him? Why? Because when he got up with that measure no man dared to object for fear that anything that he might want thereafter would in turn be surely and effectively blocked by Allen, even if this man had to talk a month against it to beat it, and sit up every night to catch the chance to so beat it.

And this very element has a notable bearing on the financial question. The advocates of the free coinage of silver have determined to disregard everything that their party lines call for except the silver cause. Populists, Democrats and Republicans alike contribute to the "free lance" column; there are also with them the international bimetallicists, and together they constitute a majority over the gold-standard advocates. The out-and-out free silver men do not have control yet, but things are coming their way, and if bimetallicism by international agreement is not secured at an early date, then the international bimetallicists must seek union with the friends of independent coinage, and the administration which opposes the latter will have more antagonism than it can cope with before two years more have passed away.

BE NOT ENVIOUS.

A young man writing from a town in Morgan county asks the NEWS if it is in harmony with the order of the Church "for one man to hold several ecclesiastical offices in the same ward, for instance, superintendent of the Sunday school, leader of the ward choir, and president of the Deacon's quorum, when there is a number of other men in the ward holding the Priesthood, and just as capable of filling the offices as the one referred to, but who are not holding an ecclesiastical office."

The question is one which properly might have been submitted to the Bishop of the ward, where the inquirer could have received a more thorough explanation than can be given in a short newspaper article, to enable him to comprehend the principles connected with his inquiry; for every Bishop or other presiding officer ought to be ready to reply to such questions in the way of imparting kindly instruction, without sharp reproof. In reply to the correspondent, we will say that the holding of the offices named is not inconsistent with the Church order; and sometimes the placing upon one person even more offices, may be a necessity of circumstances in a ward. When there is sufficient available material it is always better to distribute the offices so as to get as many workers as possible and to give everybody a fair chance to improve on the talents possessed; but in small wards circumstances sometimes make an extended distribution impracticable.

In the inquiry there seems to be a spirit of complaining because one person holds two positions—those of Sunday school superintendent and choir leader—in addition to an ecclesiastical ordination which is also possessed by others. Those two positions are not

inconsistent with each other, and doubtless when the appointments were made the presiding officers considered the appointee the most suitable person for both places. Other suitable persons may have been there or may have come in since, but the one selected and acting will not be removed unless overburdened, or for other good reason; certainly a mere whim for change or to gratify an ambition of someone else for office ought not to be a moving cause. It is always a policy of ward officers to give worthy, energetic persons responsible positions where they can be useful to their fellow-believers; but such persons rarely feel jealous of others in position—their disposition being to help to success those who have a presiding responsibility rather than to seek the place themselves. Experience has shown that persons who are envious of others in positions such as those referred to, and would like to supplant them, either are not aware of the fact that there is more work and worry than temporal reward and glory in honoring such callings, or they are not competent of filling the places aspired to, no matter how high the estimate they place on their own ability.

People who allow themselves to grow envious of another's progress in places like those referred to pursue a mistaken course; they bind themselves and others. It is better to cultivate the feeling that nothing is too good for the faithful, earnest worker in doing good; no matter if he holds a dozen positions and magnifies them; they should extend to him their aid, bear up his hands in noble work, and help him in every way as they would be helped themselves in a similar position. If they do this faithfully they may be sure their own light will not be hid under a bushel; but their talents and energy will be appreciated, and, whenever they are ready to occupy it, a higher place will be open for them. It is by helping and bringing success to others that we achieve a like result ourselves; but the envious person who would supplant or retard another for his own advancement, or who builds on the ruins of that other's fall, will meet with defeat in the end. Help, and be helped; bless, and be blessed; measure encouragement and brotherly preference to others, to receive like measure in return—this is the safer rule.

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA.

The action of the Senate committee on foreign relations, in reporting favorably a resolution for recognizing Cuban independence, brings the United States closer to a foreign war than it has been for a long time. It makes the probability very strong for a brush with Spain, and perhaps for more serious trouble before the affair is settled. As matters now stand there is the possibility that President Cleveland will take a firm stand and prevent this nation from becoming involved. But the temper of Congress seems to be to recognize Cuban independence whether or not President Cleveland favors such action at present; and if that is done then the President may bow to the popular will as expressed by Congress, al-