

first on the fact that last fall it gave Governor McKinley a majority of 500; second, that Democratic disaffection is widespread, and disaster has been lately overtaking that party everywhere; and third, that the candidate, Major E. G. Rathbone, was personally popular, and had the aid and sympathy not only of his party throughout the state, but to a great extent throughout the nation, Ohio elections being always interesting from a national standpoint, and this particular occasion being chosen as a fitting one for a supreme test of the strength of the parties, national issues being at stake and all eyes being on the contest. On their part the Democrats put up an exceptionally strong man, Mr. Paul J. Sorg, immensely rich but a workman, and an employer and friend of workingmen; and his own energy and cash were reinforced with the best Democratic aid that could be obtained. The result was his election by a majority variously estimated at from 1,500 to 3,000.

All the comfort that has been coming to local politicians lately from elections throughout the country has been appropriated—and with abundant reason—by the Republicans. On the day above mentioned there were many other events calculated to add to this feeling of satisfaction; but these two are singled out by way of a balm for local Democrats, and as an evidence that their party is still afield and on occasion knows how to get out and "hump itself."

GIVE THEM MORE LIGHT.

To say that the so-called industrialists who are heading for Washington from the western states chiefly consist of men with no other motives than a desire to get away from places where they can find no work, and to journey towards their homes in the East at the expense of the country, is probably to underestimate the situation. It will readily be admitted that some individuals may have joined the ranks for that purpose alone, but the movement itself owes its origin to far more serious conditions. Nothing is gained in either denying or misrepresenting the actual facts.

Among the laboring class there exists at present much dissatisfaction on account of the depressed condition of business. And this feeling is intensified by a deep conviction, bred and fostered by a partisan press, that the legislative and administrative branches of the government are largely to blame for it. It is astonishing to find how easily the great financial questions are disposed of in the minds of many. They seem to think that the key to the situation is in the hands of the executive and his advisers, and that the smallest effort on their part would lift the lid that covers the wealth of the world, just as easy as a lady turns the key to her jewelry box and lays its sparkling gems before the admiring gaze of her friends. That the government does not make that effort, they regard as a crime against the toiling masses, and their demonstration is undertaken to force it to do something. The existence of such notions among the people has caused these bands to move for Washington, and has aroused

the sympathy of thousands and thousands more, who do not actually join the marching ranks.

Only a few days ago a workingman, in every respect honorable and intelligent, voiced his sentiments in somewhat the following manner. The rich men have managed to deprive the vast majority of the people of almost every right except that of paying taxes. They are tools in the hands of politicians, led at the end of a string of high sounding phrases and empty oratory, like cattle. The laws are made for the benefit of the rich. This has prevailed so long that at last the worm has turned, and everybody feels that something must be done. The remedy is easily within the reach of the government. Let Uncle Sam pay, as continued, his debt to England in silver, and tell the bankers over there that if they would not accept silver in payment, their only chance would be to come with the whole navy and get it—if they could. That would soon bring England to terms and she would be pleased to get our silver. This would empty our treasury and necessitate its being filled again. Free coinage of silver being established, a wonderful activity would be developed in all our mines and the United States being free from debt could act independently of every other country.

Then the next step would be, he said, to stop pauper immigration for at least ten years, securing the employment to American workingmen. Add to this the closing of our shores to all foreign trade, since our country is rich enough in resources to supply the reasonable demands of everybody. We do not need anything we cannot produce ourselves. All this, he thought, would be easily secured by legislation, and he looked upon the leading men of the nation as little better than traitors, because they did not relieve the situation by some such means. These views, radical, chimerical and absurd as they are in some respects, are actually said to be the sentiments of thousands in this broad land; and if this is true, it shows plainly the nature of the soil in which Coxeyism is rooted.

The opinions and sentiments of the vast, toiling masses of the people are well worth studying, particularly in this country where the political power as exercised by the ballot is evenly divided between the citizen. The unification of labor is progressing at a remarkable rate, and the time seems to be near at hand when they must be counted as an enormous factor in the affairs of the nation. Coxeyism is but a small outburst of the volcanic fire already at work in the deeper strata. Its little smoke cloud will in all probability soon be cleared away, but as long as the conditions that brought it forth exist, the country is not safe. Something must be done by the leaders of the people and the voice of the majority must be heard, even if all the demands cannot be carried out, on account of their impracticability.

Political education is what the laborers need. If they had been fed in years past on political truths instead of on partisan misrepresentations, vilifications and promises made to be broken, there would have been no Coxeyites today. For it is evident

they are moving under false impressions, in the hope of obtaining impossibilities. Their ignorance may be pitied, but unless that feeling takes the form of an effort to spread light and knowledge and real information, it is wasted. An enlightened class of laborers is the glory and the strength of any country, while an ignorant mob is a danger ever present. Americans are naturally intelligent. They will seek information, and it should be given them instead of the husks so liberally supplied by partisan agitators. When rightly educated they will know what to demand of the government and what to expect of themselves.

THE TELEGRAPH'S BIRTHDAY.

Mayday has so many observances—some pleasurable, some ominous—that it is not singular if occasionally one of its greatest claims to commemoration is overlooked. We refer to the fact that on the first of May the first news dispatch was sent by telegraph. This was fifty years ago, and the dispatch was sent from Baltimore, where the Whig national convention was being held, to Washington, announcing the nomination of Clay and Frelinghuysen as presidential candidates. It is related that the crowd in Washington would not credit the telegraph until the first train arrived from Baltimore confirming the news.

Few of the anniversaries which the world celebrates is more deserving of the orator's eloquence, the gala procession, and even the rattle and roar of musketry and artillery, than the birthday of the telegraph, with its enormously beneficent record of revolutionizing the entire circle of modern life. That its agency in this direction is appreciated is evident from the recent assertion of a statistician, that there are 2,000,000 miles of telegraph wire in the world today, besides 150,000 miles of submarine cables; while experts say the future development of the telegraph service is "bound to be immense," as though, indeed, it were still in its infancy. Yet we read that in 1860, sixteen years after the first news message was sent, only one operator was required at Chicago to send out telegraphic reports of the convention which nominated Lincoln; the convention which nominated Cleveland in 1892, on the other hand, required the services of 125 operators in the convention hall. Newsgathering, from the four quarters of the globe, appears to have almost reached perfection in its completeness; yet who can tell what the next two or three decades may have in store by way of improvement, even in this perfected and completed line!

LIQUOR LAWS IN SWITZERLAND.

The different methods adopted by different countries for the regulation of the liquor traffic and the solution of the problem of drunkenness are interesting from the fact that every civilized people suffers to some extent from the effects of that vice and has found it necessary to engage in warfare against it. A recent report sent