



WM. C. PENDLETON, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

AN UNLUCKY ADMINISTRATION.

It seems that the administration of Mr. Cleveland is destined to be an unlucky one throughout. Being elected Chief Magistrate of the Nation upon the high-sounding battle cry of 'CLEVELAND, HENDRICKS AND REFORM,' both parties, the victors and the vanquished, alike were prepared to receive a successful if not brilliant administration of affairs at the hands of the man of destiny.

At the very outset the President was unfortunate in the selection of his Cabinet. This was made up of political hacks, political tricksters and friends of monopoly. The President, essaying to be extremely careful in appointments, early in his official career, through ill advice, placed men in office who were notoriously dishonest. Some of these were removed, but others still fill places of trust, to the disgrace of the Nation.

Then the President was most unlucky in the position he took upon the silver coinage question. He has insisted that the silver dollars shall not be increased and that gold shall be the standard money. On this vital question he is being antagonized by a large portion of the ablest and best men in his own party. This does not seem to make him swerve from the line of policy he has marked out, but he adheres to it with a dogged persistence.

Another fatal mistake he has made is to either rely upon his own judgment or to consult only a favored few as to how the party patronage shall be dispensed.

Pretending to be thoroughly committed to Civil Service Reform he very soon after his induction into office, published to the world that officials, whose terms of office had not expired, should be removed only where it was proved that they were 'offensive partisans.' This pledge or promise, given unmasked, he has violated when it suited his whim, and has kept in instances where it did not suit the whims of other office seekers, who were backed and urged by men of standing and influence in the party.

So ridiculously inconsistent has he been in this particular, sometimes playing cold and sometimes hot, he has given the Republican majority in the United States Senate a fine opportunity to expose and hold him up to be ridicule of the world. This has produced another unfortunate complication for Mr. Cleveland. He gave out that he intended to receive suggestions from Senators irrespective of party; and in that way failed to place himself in a position that would cause the Democrats in that body rally to his support when a serious necessity should arise. Now that such a necessity has come, he declines to ask aid from the Democratic Senators, and at the same time he shakes a red flag in the faces of the Republican Senators. In other words, he has about provoked war with the majority and has no united, cordial support from the minority, his own party Senators.

But the most serious misfortune that has fallen upon Mr. Cleveland is the recently exposed 'telephone scandal,' which has connected with it members of his Cabinet, and others in high official position by his appointment. We publish elsewhere a brief history of 'The Pan Electric Telephone Company,' taken from the New York World and an editorial from the New York Sun on the same subject. It seems that Mr. GARLAND, the Attorney General of MR. CLEVELAND, has tried to use his official power to further the interests of himself and partners in what was to prove a disgraceful swindle with out the assistance of the government could be successfully invoked; and what would in any event be a job as questionable and dishonorable as the Credit Mobilier or other jobs which Democracy was so horrified at. This scandal in any event, is bound to cast a stain upon the administration of MR. CLEVELAND. If he fails to properly punish the offenders it will be disgraceful and ruinous to him.

Under these conditions eight local companies were formed: One for Pennsylvania, with the Hon. Robert Klutz, formerly in Congress, as the principal promoter. Gen. Frank Armstrong, now Indian Inspector, being the secretary; one in Baltimore, the Hon. Eli J. Henkle, formerly in Congress, being the promoter, to which the States of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Colum-

bia were sold; one in St. Louis for Missouri; one in Wisconsin; one in Tennessee; one in Alabama, of which Gen. Upham, now Chief Clerk of the Indian Bureau, was the promoter; one in Texas and one in Louisiana. The two first named companies were not required to pay any bonus, but in all their contracts the Pan Company agreed to defend its patents at its own expense.

When the first local company paid its bonus of \$10,000, the directors proceeded to pay back the sums expended by themselves in paying for patents, experiments, &c. This amounted to \$275 for each of the five, showing that of the \$5,000,000 capital stock there never was paid in but \$1,375, being a little more than one fortieth of 1 per cent.

After this money was paid back the directors next proceeded to divide the remainder of the \$10,000 as a dividend to the stockholders, the amount received by each holder of one-tenth of the stock being little less than \$600.

supporters. Even among those who have studiously applied themselves to the science of political economy a diversity of opinions will be found to exist.

Is it not likely that all the business distress, all the poverty and suffering that are now prevailing can be traced to the imperfect laws and customs of our country, they being so framed or formed as to produce a most unjust and unequal distribution of wealth? Does it not look like labor hasn't a fair showing? Is not the constant tendency to reduced wages? We fear that these who employ laborers are trying to convince themselves, and the laborers as well, that natural wages do not mean the wages a laborer should receive as a just compensation for his work, but mean, what is the least wages the laborer can get along with? Hence we see here, in the United States of America, the model Republic, a condition of affairs that may well startle philanthropists and cause serious doubt as to the merits of our modern civilization. Vast fortunes are amassed by speculators that are not honest and proper. The bulk of what is called the wealth of the nation is rapidly getting into the grasp of a small number or class, who as bondholders, railroad magnates, and land monopolists are trying to dominate in everything. This they do in utter disregard of the welfare of the great mass of our people, the wage workers, who are the wealth producers. These monopolists of wealth and power are grinding the masses to death. Though the production and accumulation of wealth is annually on the increase it is not so distributed as to be of equal benefit to all classes, or to reduce the poverty and suffering of the country, but rather to augment them. Rents are advanced while wages are reduced. The larger part of the products of labor is consumed or eaten up by monopolists in the shape of what they term profits.

May this not be the primal cause of the great business stagnation? Can labor, the wealth producing part of society, be oppressed without just such a result?

THE TELEPHONE SCANDAL.

An Interesting Contribution to its History.

[From the World.]

The Pan Electric Telephone Company has \$5,000,000 capital stock, divided into shares of \$100 each; these shares were held originally by the following named gentlemen:

Table listing names and share amounts: J. E. Johnston, Isham G. Harris, A. H. Garland, Cassey Young, J. D. C. Atkins, J. Harris Rogers, The Company.

It will be observed that these five gentlemen each held one-tenth of the stock, but knowing the vagaries of inventors, they required that another tenth, making a majority, should be put under their control, so that they could have the business in their own hands. This \$400,000 worth of company stock belonged to the holders of the other shares in proportion their holdings, but was controlled by the directors.

The Board of Directors of the company was composed of Joseph E. Johnston, Isham G. Harris, A. H. Garland, Cassey Young, J. D. C. Atkins and J. Harris Rogers. The officers were: Joseph E. Johnston, President; Isham G. Harris, Vice President; Cassey Young, Secretary and Treasurer; A. H. Garland, Attorney.

The company was chartered by the State of Tennessee, with its principal office in Memphis and another in Washington city. Under the laws of that State as to corporations, all that was necessary to be paid in of the five millions capital stock was the fee to the Secretary of State for using his seal, amounting in this case to \$4.50.

In November, 1883, the directors determined to issue licenses to local companies, that is, sell territory in which the Pan Electric instruments were to be used.

The terms upon which these sales were to be made were agreed upon and are as follows: 'Forty per cent of the capital stock of the local company to be held by the Pan Company; all instruments to be furnished by the Pan Company at a stated price. A royalty of \$10 per annum to be paid by the local company on each instrument; a bonus in cash to be paid by each local company.'

Under these conditions eight local companies were formed: One for Pennsylvania, with the Hon. Robert Klutz, formerly in Congress, as the principal promoter. Gen. Frank Armstrong, now Indian Inspector, being the secretary; one in Baltimore, the Hon. Eli J. Henkle, formerly in Congress, being the promoter, to which the States of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Colum-

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The \$500,000 of company stock had in the mean time been partially distributed, one hundred shares going to ex Gov. John C. Brown of Tennessee, now resident in St. Louis, and principal attorney for what is known as 'the Gould system of Southwestern railroads.' Other sums were given or sold to other parties, having or supposed to have either local or national influence, Senators, Vest, of Missouri and Vance of North Carolina each getting a portion. At the beginning of the first session of the Forty-eighth Congress a brother of Senator Vance, Mr. R. B. Vance, then a Representative from North Carolina, introduced a bill in the House of Representatives giving the Attorney General power to bring suit upon application to vacate patents. This bill was referred to a committee, which reported in favor of a passage, saying in its report that since 1836 the Attorney General had not been instructed with this power. The bill passed the House of Representatives almost unnoticed, but was never reported from the Senate Committee on Patents. Contracts continued to be made in the spring of 1844 until eight local companies, as before stated, were organized. As these companies paid in the required bonus, the money was paid out to the stockholders as dividends, two being declared in July of \$1.50 per share, giving each of the original promoters, Garland, Johnston, Harris, Young and Atkins, \$750 at each division, or \$1,500 in that month. Another dividend of the same size was declared later, aggregating about \$4,000 profit to each of these gentlemen within eighteen months upon an investment of \$275 each.

To fully understand the interest which Attorney General Garland had in breaking down the Bell patent it will be necessary to recapitulate a little.

First, there was his \$500,000 stock in the Pan Telephone Company—one-tenth of the whole company was his. Then there is the \$40,000,000 capital stock of the license companies, of which 40 per cent, of \$16,000,000, belongs to the Pan Company—one-tenth of that, or \$1,600,000, belongs to Attorney General Garland. But that is not all, nor even a small part of what would result from the breaking of the Bell patents. In that event there would not be eight, but at least fifty companies, with capital stocks averaging \$5,000,000 each, that would seek licenses from the Pan Electric Company. Two hundred and fifty million dollars is an exceedingly small estimate of the amount at which the companies using the Pan Electric telephones would be capitalized if the Bell patent was invalidated. Forty per cent, or \$100,000,000, of this stock would belong to the Pan Company—one-tenth of that, or \$10,000,000, would be the property of Attorney General Garland. Paying only 5 per cent, and this is a small allowance—he would have an income of over \$500,000, without being out one dollar.

There was another potent reason the laws of the country are particularly severe upon bogus corporations which obtain money without giving an equivalent, and, though corporations are without souls or bodies, the men who compose them are not, and hence, unless the Bell patents could be broken down and declared invalid, the men who had invested their money in the 60 per cent of the local companies which had been licensed by the Pan Company, which had paid bonuses, built plants, bought telegraphs when were without value, would apt to call upon the parties who had induced and profited by these expenditures, made upon false statements as to law and facts, to make good the losses.

The war, both in fortune and fame, upon the one side and almost unbounded wealth upon the other, it was worth stretching the law and the power of the Government to secure the one and prevent the other.

The list of the names of the leading stockholders and officers in this company reads almost like a page from the Blue Book:

- A. B. Garland, Attorney General.
Joseph E. Johnston, Railroad Commissioner.
J. D. C. Atkins, Indian Commissioner.
Isham G. Harris, U. S. S., Tennessee.
George G. Vest, U. S. S., Missouri.
Zebulon G. Vance, U. S. S., North Carolina.
Robert Klutz, ex-M. C., Pennsylvania.
Eli J. Henkle, ex-M. C., Maryland.
Cassey Young, ex-M. C., Tennessee.
M. Upham, Chief Clerk, Indian Bureau.
Frank Armstrong, Indian Inspector.
John C. Brown, ex Gov. Tennessee.

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THE CENTURY.

FOR 1885-86.

The remarkable interest in the war papers and in the many timely articles and strong serial features published recently in the Century has given that magazine a regular circulation of MORE THAN 200,000 COPIES MONTHLY. Among the features for the coming volume which begins with the November number, are: THE WAR PAPERS BY GEN. GRANT AND OTHERS. These will be continued (most of them illustrated) until the chief events of the Civil War have been described by leading participants on both sides. Gen. Grant's papers include descriptions of the battles of Chattanooga and the Wilderness. Gen. McClellan will write of Antietam. Gen. D. C. Buell of Shiloh. Gen. Pope, Longstreet and others of the Second Bull Run, etc. Naval combats including the fight between the Kearsarge and the Alabama, by officers of both ships, will be described. The 'recollections of a Private' special war papers of an anecdotal or morous character will be features of the year. SERIAL STORIES BY W. D. HOWELL, MARY HALLOCK FOOTE, AND GEORGE W. CABLE. Mr. Howell's serial will be in lighter vein than 'The Rise of Silas Lapham.' Mrs. Foote's is a story of mining life, and Mr. Cable's a novelette of the Acadians of Louisiana. Mr. Cable will also contribute a series of papers on Slave songs and dances, including negro serpent worship, &c. SPECIAL FEATURES Include 'A Tricycle Pilgrimage to Rome,' illustrated by Pennell; Historical Papers by Edward Eggleston, and other Papers on Persia, by G. W. B. Hunt; 'Jule U. S. Sanister,' with numerous illustrations; Astronomical Articles, practical and popular, on 'Sideral Astronomy'; Papers on Christian Unity by representatives of various religious denominations; Papers on Manual Education, by various experts, etc. SHORT STORIES By Frank R. Stockton, Mrs. Helen Jackson (H. J. Mrs. Mary Halleck Foote, J. O. Chandler Harris, H. H. Boyesen, T. A. Janvier, Julian Hawthorne, Richard M. Johnston, and others; and poems by leading poets. The Department, 'Open Letters,' 'Bric-a-Brac,' etc., will be fully sustained. THE ILLUSTRATIONS Will be kept up to the standard which has made THE CENTURY enjoying famous the world over. PRICES A SPECIAL OFFER Regular subscription price, \$4 00 a year. To enable new readers to get all the War Papers, with contributions from Generals Grant, Beauregard, McClellan, J. E. Johnston, Lew Wallace, Admiral Porter and others, we will send the 12 back numbers, November, 1884, to October, 1885, with a year's subscription beginning with November 1885, for \$2.00 for the whole. A subscription, with 2 numbers bound in two hand-some volumes, \$7.50 for the whole. Back numbers only supplied at these prices with subscriptions. A free specimen copy (back number) will be sent on request. Attention! This paper All dealers and postmasters take subscriptions, and supply numbers according to our special offer, or remittance may be made directly to THE CENTURY CO., NEW YORK, N. Y.

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