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NEW YORK POLITICS.

By the death of Mr. Patrick H. McCarren, which has just taken place at Brooklyn, the New York political world has lost one of its most picturesque figures,—and Tammany Hall an implacable opponent. There is reason to believe that the late Democratic "Boss" accelerated his end by too strenuous labour in the campaign which is now drawing to a head. In little more than a week the issue of the electoral fight will be known. The three candidates are each confident of victory, but so far as present information goes Judge Gaynor, who is avowedly a protégé of Tammany Hall, is considered to have the best chance. This fight is arousing more than ordinary interest among thoughtful New Yorkers. It represents an extraordinary effort on the part of Tammany to regain complete control of the great city's administrative departments, control such as it possessed absolutely in the days of Tweed the unspeakable, and in a less degree when "Boss" Croker was enshrined at Fourteenth Street. Certainly this organisation's magnificent strategy justifies an anticipation of success. As its candidate for Mayor, Judge Gaynor, we see a man of high integrity, whose judicial career awards no blemish to the sharpest-eyed opponent. His public and private record are alike without stain; he is, in fact, the antithesis of the usual Tammany candidate. But that Judge Gaynor, honest and straightforward as he undoubtedly is at the moment, will retain his bright reputation intact after wading through the mire of fraud, corruption, and chicanery upon which Tammany Hall is founded is a manifest impossibility. It is strange that we can find men who, after witnessing Tammany methods and their results for more than four decades, are ready today to defend the system and plead that the principles for which it stands are in the highest degree beneficial to the community. Yet such men there are, and only the other day we read in one of Tammany's subsidised New York papers an article by a clergyman—who had decency enough not to sign his name—eulogising Tammany Hall in terms permissible if applied to some philanthropic or benevolent society, but saturated with the worst form of cant when used in connection with a system which, in a great measure, has poisoned politics throughout a Continent.

There have been corrupt administrations ever since man first recognised the necessity of establishing collective control over a community, and in gradually diminishing degrees there will be corrupt administrations until the bright dawn of the Millennium, but history affords us few instances of the worst elements gaining such unchallenged mastery over the best and maintaining that mastery for so long as was achieved by Tammany Hall. But the world is continually in process of evolution, and although our ethical progress is tardy out of all proportion to our material advancement, the dictum still holds good. Indeed, one of the brightest portents that New York is emerging from her long and slavish subservience to a band of shameless plunderers may be seen in the very fact of Judge Gaynor's nomination. In the bad old days, Tammany's candidate might as well be an illiterate saloon-keeper or an ex-convict; it mattered not,—his election, if desired by Tammany, was a foregone conclusion. Decent citizens voted in the despairing knowledge that their opponents could at any moment nullify each decent vote by two cast for indecency. With the ballot-boxes at its disposal, Tammany need never fear defeat. But that condition of things could not last, and the end came in due course. Tammany, however, resembles the Turkish Empire in that it has never really been beaten. Its comparative impotence of late must be attributed to bad leadership. The "bosses" would not move with the times, they were too ignorant to realise the necessity of fighting for power with the same weapons used by their opponents. But the realisation has come at last, and an unquestionably honest figurehead had been planted at the prow of Tammany's pirate craft. When once that ship has managed to enter harbour, and disgorged its crew of cut-throats to pillage the deluded city, the sturdy figurehead will be chopped off and replaced by the skull and crossbones of brigandage,—always supposing that the rotten planks to which it was fixed have not transmitted their corruption to the sturdy oak. Unfortunately for the citizens of New York, they are momentarily placed between the devil and the deep sea, but we shall deal with other phases of the situation in a later article.



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AMERICA AND JAPAN. STRAINED SITUATION.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

According to reports from Washington, a graver consideration than the personality of Charles R. Crane as Minister to China has entered into the relations of the United States with China and Japan. It is stated that Mr. Crane was now only an incident. The real question is whether President Taft will instruct Secretary Knox "to make good" in the department's intention to hold up the piratical career of Japan in Manchuria. Among the dozen or more rumours last week was one that the United States could not now afford to send Mr. Crane to China and run the risk of having him declared objectionable. This rumour could not be verified at the Department nor from Mr. Crane. On the contrary, Mr. Crane still asserted, after a talk with Secretary Knox, that he was to sail on the steamship Corea on the 20th. It has become known to Japan that the United States intended to protest against Japan's new treaties with China, which are in violation of the open door. There are the best reasons for stating that the Department holds this protest ought to go on to Peking, either through Mr. Crane or his possible successor as Minister to China. The result of such protest will be either that Japan will recede or precipitate a very acute situation. There does not appear to be any middle ground, and the United States cannot afford to be put before the nations as "bluffing"; it must go on with the protest.

The charge against Japan is more specific than the mere indefinite phrase, "You have violated the principle of the open door." A high diplomat called the attention of the press to the fact that what Japan has done in China is a flagrant violation of the articles agreed on in writing between Secretary Root and Ambassador Takahira. These were approved by Secretary Taft when he was at Hot Springs, before he assumed the office of President. It is not the intention of the United States, however, to make a direct protest to Japan. China is to be utilised because it is the territory of China to which the open door applies, and China was the first Power to agree with the United States that her territory should not be colonised by a foreign nation. When China agreed to respect the principle of the open door she bound herself necessarily not to enter any treaties (as she has done in the case of Japan) which would violate the open door. The State Department must find some way out of the unprecedented situation. Japan occupies for the present ground of vantage, because she has merely to sit still and wait for the protest through whatever channel it may come.

The United States would be clearly within its rights even if it protested direct to Japan against the Manchurian treaties, and Japan knows that the United States, as the leader in the fight to sustain the open

door, will not accept an evasive answer when the issue is made. Altogether the diplomats do not like the look of things. The plight of Mr. Crane appears to be this: He was summoned by Secretary Knox to Washington to discuss the new and dangerous state of affairs between China, the United States and Japan, and "for further instructions." Immediately reporters, East and West, began guessing as to the cause, and raked up all possible things that could be said against Mr. Crane as a diplomat, stating that they were the cause of Mr. Crane coming back. That put Mr. Crane in bad odour with China and Japan, and opened the door for his rejection if they saw fit. Mr. Crane is now, naturally, explaining to Secretary Knox what he said and what he didn't say. He has already repudiated the interview attributed to him in a Chicago newspaper.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

The Tsar of Russia arrived at Racconigi on Saturday afternoon and was met by the King and Queen of Italy, who greeted their distinguished guest with great cordiality. From the station the Royal procession, escorted by a veritable army, drove straight to the castle, where a banquet was given in the evening. On Sunday morning the Tsar and his host went shooting, and in the evening a state banquet took place in the great hall of the castle. Fifty-nine covers were laid. The Tsar and the King sat next to each other; on the right of the Tsar was the Queen, and to the left of the King sat Princess Laetitia. Other guests were the Duke of Genoa, the Russian Ambassador in Rome, Ministers of State, members of the Imperial and Royal suites, and the mayors of Rome, Turin, and Racconigi. Music was provided by an orchestra under the baton of Signor Pietro Mascagni.

Proposing the health of the Tsar, the King of Italy greeted him as the guest of Italy, whose visit was regarded as strengthening the sincere friendship and unanimity of aims which united both Houses, Governments, and countries. The feeling of common sympathy had been newly revived by Russia's attitude during the great earthquake disaster. "Russia and Italy," said the King, "have learned to know and esteem one another, and our Governments have expressed that friendship and esteem by their activities for the maintenance of peace. I have complete faith in my ability to work with Your Majesty for the conferment of this visit and express a regret at the absence of the Tsarina, to whom I wish a speedy recovery. I drink to the health of Your Majesty, Your Imperial House, and the great and striving Russian Empire."

The Tsar replied as follows: "By this visit to Italy I am fulfilling a long-cherished desire. My only regret is that the Tsarina was unable to accompany me. My sympathetic reception in Italy corresponds to the sincere friendship and unity of interests between our Houses, our Governments, and our countries. Russia's participation in alleviating the catastrophe which befell Italy last year and the response which my reception will find in Russia are results of the growing sympathy between our countries. I am firmly convinced that our Governments will work together for the maintenance of this sympathy, and that our mutual co-operation will not only draw Italy and Russia nearer together, but will also have a beneficial effect on Universal peace." The Tsar then drank to the Health of the King, the Italian Royal House, and Italy.

At the conclusion of the banquet the two monarchs held a levée, and later visited the concert hall where a musical performance took place.

ROME, Monday.—In several towns of Italy the Socialists and Anarchists held meetings on Saturday and Sunday protesting against the visit of the Tsar. None of the meetings, however, was largely attended, and no serious disturbances took place. The attempt to bring about a general strike at Ancona, Sienna, and Ravenna failed completely owing to the attitude of the people, who plainly demonstrated their determination to tolerate no outbreaks against the peace.

A glance at the map of Europe will show the immense detour made by the Tsar on his journey from the Crimea to Italy. From Livadia he crossed the Black Sea to Odessa, then proceeded to Kieff, Warsaw, Leipzig, Frankfort, Besançon, Turin, and Racconigi. This route is at least two thousand miles longer than the direct route—via Roumania, Buda Pest, Vienna, and

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