

Washington Letter.

BY TAVENNER.

Washington, April 23.—Senator Aldrich's announcement that he will not be a candidate for re-election is being regarded with increasing suspicion here in Washington as a manifest political trick.

It is doubtful if a single one of the genuine progressive republicans really believes that the Rhode Island boss intends to relinquish his control of legislation a moment sooner than he has to. Even a few "regulars" have privately expressed the belief that Aldrich might consent to a re-election, basing this conclusion upon what they characterized as the "enormous pressure" which will no doubt be brought to bear upon Aldrich to cause him to change his mind.

Because of his record of underhandedness and trickery in dealing with the Senate and the public, everything Senator Aldrich does or says should be carefully analyzed before accepted on its face value.

Aldrich does not say anywhere that he will not accept a re-election. He says he will not be a "Candidate." It would be no surprise to Senators who know Aldrich if "I am not a candidate" for re-election should turn out after the fall congressional elections to have been but another of his famous "jokers" with which the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is overloaded.

The ship subsidy bill is beaten so far as this session of Congress is concerned. It goes to destruction on the rocks of scandal.

"The Democrats are nearer to electing a President of the United States than they have been since 1892," says Governor Claude A. Swanson of Virginia, who recently completed a tour that extended to the Pacific coast. "Not in years have the Democrats shown so much activity, so much desire to shake off lethargy, to hold harmony banquets, and to get together as is manifested in all sections of the country at this time. With such a spirit pervading the leaders and the rank and file of Democracy, taken together with the dissension among Republicans, I can see no other result than a Democratic house and a Democratic president in 1913."

President Taft still refuses to relent in his opposition to a Congressional investigation of either the sugar underweighing frauds or the sale by the government of valuable sugar lands to the sugar trust.

Our Lincoln Letter

Lincoln, Nebr., April 25.—Special Correspondence.—Mr. Bryan arrived in Lincoln Thursday evening of last week, looking hale and hearty. He reiterated his former declarations that he was not a candidate for United States senator, but further than this declined for the time to discuss the future plans he may have in mind. He expressed the belief that the democratic party occupied an advantageous and strategic position, and pointed to the recent congressional elections in Massachusetts and New York as proof that the people have rebelled against the iniquitous Aldrich-Cannon tariff law and the party responsible for its enactment.

Peter Sturdevant of Furnas county has announced himself as a candidate for state treasurer on the democratic ticket. Mr. Sturdevant wears the distinction of being the only democrat ever elected to the office of state treasurer. Every state treasurer with the exception of Mr. Sturdevant and J. B. Meserve, populist, has been a republican. Mr. Sturdevant was elected in 1884, defeating Loran Clark of Boone county. The Omaha Bee bolted Clark's nomination and succeeded in defeating him. No one has ever been able to explain why the elder Rosewater refused to support Clark, and the cause of the "bolt" must remain a mystery forever.

Addison E. Wait, deputy secretary of state, announces his desire to be nominated for the secretaryship by the republican party. Mr. Wait is an old soldier and has been connected with the public service for many years.

Ex-Congressman Pollard, after reading the returns of the special congressional election in the Rochester, N. Y., district, immediately reached the conclusion that his private business was such as to prevent him from seeking the congressional nomination in the First Nebraska district. Those same election returns, too, seem to have taken the "snap" out of several other near-aspirants for the republican nomination. Will Hayward of Nebraska City, and George Tobey of Lincoln, are the only avowed candidates in the race. Hayward, who is secretary of the republican national committee, pretends to be anti-Cannon, but a great many people fear that his intimate relations with the "big wigs" of the g. o. p. have influenced him the wrong way. Tobey is anti Cannon, and is seemingly counting on county option support rather than upon any political policy he may espouse other than anti-Cannonism.

In the current issue of the Commoner Mr. Bryan takes occasion to deny that he will start either a prohibition or a county option paper.

When Mr. Bryan arrived at Lincoln last week a large crowd of friends and neighbors met him at the depot. A reporter asked him: Do you consider the fauna of South America equal to that of Africa? "I can't answer that definitely, but I can say that everything I brought back is alive." In base ball parlance that one was "too hot to handle."

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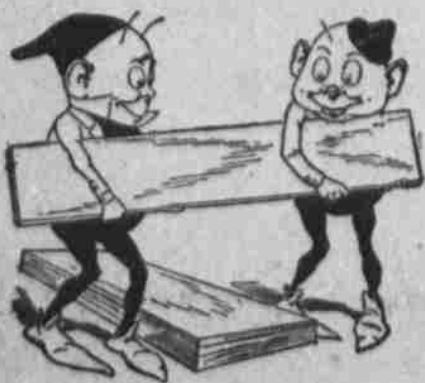
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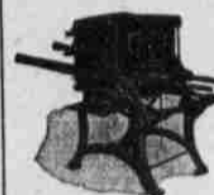
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