

CURRENT TOPICS

REPRESENTATIVE Champ Clark has issued a statement outlining his platform as the prospective speaker of the democratic house of representatives in the next congress. He proclaims himself in favor of the appointment of committees of the house by a committee rather than by the speaker, and he states his belief that the tariff should be revised schedule by schedule rather than in one single bill. These two subjects, says Mr. Clark, are the ones upon which he has been continually importuned to make some statement.

REFERRING TO Mr. Clark's statement the Associated Press says: "The democratic members of the house sent out a call for a caucus January 19 of the democratic members of the next house of representatives. Mr. Clark's statement is both an explanation of the call and a declaration of his own platform as the probable speaker of the house. The caucus will select a ways and means committee and a rules committee somewhat larger than the present committee of seven. Mr. Clark believes one of these committees should then be empowered to select the committees of the house. 'There are two theories of tariff revision,' says Mr. Clark in his statement, 'revision by one general bill and revision by separate bills for separate schedules. This is a matter not of principle but of method. Individually I prefer the scheme of separate bills for separate schedules, taking the schedules with the most obnoxious features first, perhaps in certain cases having separate bills for particular items.' The statement proceeds to say that whatever method is decided upon a full hearing, as comprehensive as that which preceded the framing of the Payne-Aldrich law, will be had by the new ways and means committee. 'The assumption growing out of ignorance in certain quarters,' says Mr. Clark, 'that President Taft or Senator Cummins or any other republican has discovered something new in tariff revision by the separate schedule scheme is preposterous. As far back as the Fifty-second congress Mr. Chairman Springer introduced separate bills for separate schedules, and even for particular items which were derisively denominated 'Springer's popgun bills' by ribald republican speakers and writers,

and several years before Mr. Springer was chairman of the committee on ways and means, Mr. McKenzie of Kentucky achieved great renown and the sobriquet of 'Quinine Jim' by the securing of a bill putting quinine on the free list and touching no other item whatsoever in any tariff schedule.'"

MR. CLARK declares that he is heartily in favor of inviting to the caucus all the democratic members-elect. He goes on to say that his efforts for the past two years have been directed to the unification of the democrats in the house, and for that reason the members-elect should be given every opportunity, if that unification is to be maintained, to express their choice in the naming of the members of the committees. Two questions, Mr. Clark says, interest the country, how the democrats will select their committees and what the party will do with the tariff. This last question has been answered, and proceeding to the first he says: "As to the mode of selecting committees in the event of my own election to the speakership, I would not care the snap of my finger to exercise the power of appointing them. I have stated that to every democratic member who cared to inquire my opinion. The exercise of that power would undoubtedly have certain unpleasant features." Of the two plans for the election of committees by the democratic caucus, or directly by the public itself, Mr. Clark favors the last named. This is based on the fact that in the debatable states the independent voters appear to favor it, and the future speaker of the house frankly acknowledges that it may be adopted because of the influence it would have in returning a democratic president and a democratic congress in 1912.

THE NEW YORK World is hot after Senator Aldrich. It says: "The books of the United States Rubber company show that 340 shares of preferred stock are held in the name of Nelson W. Aldrich, United States senator from Rhode Island, and that the names of four other Aldriches appear as stockholders of record. In replying to the charges made by Senator Bristow, Senator Aldrich emphatically denied

that he or any member of his family ever had any pecuniary interest as to whether the rates on manufactured rubber were 30, 35 or 300 per cent, or whether crude rubber was on the free or dutiable list.' The proved facts are that Senator Aldrich and his son are heavily interested in the Inter-continental Rubber company, which is the chief importer of crude rubber; that Senator Aldrich's son is vice president and executive head of the concern; that Senator Aldrich as chairman of the senate finance committee kept crude rubber on the free list; that Senator Aldrich and his family are also stockholders in the United States Rubber company, commonly known as the trust, which is the chief manufacturer of rubber in this country; that Senator Aldrich as chairman of the senate finance committee arbitrarily raised the duty on manufactured rubber from 30 to 35 per cent. The Aldrich family imports rubber and the Aldrich family manufactures rubber. The Aldrich family sells crude rubber to the Aldrich family to manufacture and resell to the public. In both cases the duty is adjusted by Senator Aldrich to the financial benefit of the Aldrich family."

SENATOR NORRIS BROWN of Nebraska makes important suggestions with respect to the election of delegates to the national convention and members of the national committee by popular vote. Senator Brown says: "I hope the legislature will amend the Nebraska statute in three respects: First, it should be amended so that no party can have a voice in the selection of candidates of any other party. The integrity of all party organizations should be protected. The only way to do that is to protect the integrity of the primary itself, where each party may attend to its own business without interference from the outside. Second, it should be amended so that the rank and file of all the parties may select delegates to the national conventions and may vote their preference for president and vice president, such vote to operate as an instruction to the delegates. Third, it should also be amended so that the rank and file of all parties may at the primary election in the year preceding the national convention select their national committeeman."

THE OHIO SENATORSHIP

Editor Post, Cincinnati, Ohio.—Dear Sir: The question uppermost in the minds of the people of Ohio at present, is the selection of a United States senator. While you have not advocated the selection of any particular candidate, you have very strongly advocated against the selection for the senatorship of men like McLean, of Washington, D. C., and Hanley of Dayton, Ohio, and you deserve the commendation of the people for your stand in this matter.

On November 16, the Enquirer published an article from the New York Journal, advocating the election of John R. McLean.

The Journal starts off by stating, "John R. McLean is to be the next United States senator from Ohio," and "the announcement will gratify those who believe the senate should be made up of competent, energetic, intelligent and honest men."

Who gave the Journal this "inside information?" Have the "interests" got it all fixed up who is to represent Ohio in the senate? I do not believe that McLean ever will be senator from Ohio, but if such a thing should happen, there will be a deep snow in July before Ohio ever again goes democratic by 100,000 or any other plurality. The result of the recent election shows a protest by the people of Ohio against being "sold out" by their public servants, and they had no intention of substituting "Democratic" McLean, the representative of the "interests," for Republican Dick, the representative of the "interests." The Journal speaks of McLean's competency, energy, intelligence and honesty. The first three are certainly desirable attributes for a senator, but are not necessarily associated with honesty. There are probably no men in congress more competent energetic and intelligent than Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon, yet the people all over the

country at the recent elections seriously questioned their honesty.

Another recommendation of the Journal is that "McLean usually gets what he goes after." The Journal might as well have substituted "interests" for "McLean" and told the same story. However, as much can be said for political pirates the country over, be they called democrats or republicans. The name does not signify much to a machine politician. McLean's democratic Enquirer has not supported a democratic candidate (except McLean) for fifteen years or more, while the republican Commercial-Tribune, formerly controlled by McLean has always consistently and persistently advocated the selection and election of republican machine candidates.

I am opposed to Mr. McLean for senator—
First—Because he is not a real democrat, has not for years supported the democratic candidates, but to the contrary has opposed them; he has not advocated the progressive reforms, and his selection would be a step backward.

Second—His competency, energy and intelligence would be exerted in the interest of the favored few, instead of for the whole people.

Third—If the people of Ohio are not good enough for McLean to live among, I know of no reason why Ohio should honor him with a seat in the United States senate.

JOHN JAMES.

Cincinnati, Ohio, November 24, 1910.

SMITH IN THE RACE

Former Senator James Smith, Jr., has announced that he will be a candidate for the senate before the New Jersey legislature, opposing James E. Martine, who received a majority of votes in the democratic primary.

More power to your elbow, Dr. Wilson.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

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worthy of perpetual celebration—but all these added to the matchless majesty of a perfect life and the inspiring influence of an all-pervading love, are turning the eyes of an ever-increasing number to the path that He trod from the manger to the cross.

Love was the dominating force of His life, and love is today the overmastering impulse whose ebb and flow mark the retreat and advance of civilization. And love, too, sanctifies the Christmas gift. With it the merest trifle swells into an object of importance; without it the most expensive present dwindles into insignificance. Love is the alchemy which invests with priceless value all that it touches—the magic wand that converts the humblest cottage into a palace and gives to earth's pilgrims a glimpse of paradise.—(From an editorial by Mr. Bryan in The Commoner.)

VIGILANCE IS NECESSARY

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," is a motto which needs to be remembered at this time. In several of the states democratic legislatures have been chosen where the state was conceded to republicans. In such states the corporations are now at work trying to secure the election of their tools. West Virginia is a case in point. In that state the Standard Oil, the railroads and the mines exert a large influence and as they have employes in both parties they are prepared to furnish a candidate, no matter which party wins. But is it not time for the people to have a senator from West Virginia. Is it not possible to find an intelligent, aggressive and progressive democrat in West Virginia—one who would be the incorruptible representative of the common people?