

nates Colonel Bryan as a possibility and some go so far as to pronounce him a dead politician.

The Journal is inclined to regard Bryan as an improbability for 1912, but it is a great mistake to look upon him as a dead politician. There is not a democratic statesman east or west, north or south, of such commanding influence as William J. Bryan. So great is his power in the democratic ranks, it may be said that if he again sought a democratic nomination he could get it, despite his enemies and his three defeats. But at least this can be said: No man can be nominated without his assent or if nominated without his assent such candidate cannot be elected, if Bryan and his friends carried their opposition to the polls.

In this view of the situation the availability of several much talked of possibilities must be discounted if not wiped out. In this list the names of Dix of New York and Wilson of New Jersey may be mentioned. Governor Wilson of New Jersey is especially objectionable because he is the discovery and protege, so to speak, of George Harvey, the editor of Harper's Weekly. Any man particularly desired by Harvey will be bitterly opposed by the Bryanites, just as Bryan was opposed in the election contest of 1908 by Harvey. That opposition was so unmanly, unfair, untruthful and malicious that it cannot be forgotten or forgiven by Colonel Bryan and his admirers. Of course Governor Wilson is not responsible for Harvey, but it is apparent that in case of his election to the presidency Governor Wilson would be in gratitude bound to honor with high place this arch enemy of the Nebraska chief. It is a case of handicap Governor Wilson could not carry in the race as the case now stands.

If a democratic candidate is to be taken from the east he should not be either Dix or Wilson, but Mayor Gaynor or Congressman Sulzer of able on his record in congress. He

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is with the people and a faithful champion of the old soldiers.

It may not be possible or practical to nominate Foss of Massachusetts whose recent conversion to democratic principles might be a bar, but he has less antagonisms to overcome than any other of the eastern men who were so signally successful this year.

In the west Governor Harmon of Ohio is very strong. It is, however, to be regretted that he has had differences with Bryan that may make his nomination dangerous. The Journal hopes those differences are not serious and will be dispelled before 1912. But with Wilson, Dix and Harmon set aside there would yet remain Gaynor and Sulzer in the east, Governor Marshall of Indiana as also Champ Clark and Folk of Missouri in the west.

In thus commenting frankly on the situation as it stands now, and as it may present itself in 1912, the Journal speaks only for itself and without other authority. This is only a feeble warning against mistakes that might become fatal, especially if the republicans should have the wisdom to name their strongest man, Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin, a proceeding that is hardly likely. It is only just to say farther that what we have said is in all kindness to every one with the exception of the hateful and contemptible Harvey.—Hastings (Michigan) Journal.

CORRECT

I promptly and cheerfully make reply to the following, printed in The Commoner:

"Believing that democrats do not desire to engage in a sham battle The Commoner confidently lays down these propositions:

"The democratic party must be progressive.

"No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote.

"Democracy must go forward and meet present day problems boldly in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson.

The democratic victory of 1910 is the result of fourteen years of democratic fight for reforms.

"The party cannot retire now.

"It must go forward.

"What do the democratic editors of the country think about The Commoner's position? The Commoner will be glad to reproduce extracts from democratic editorials on this line. Let the weekly newspaper as well as the daily speak out. Send clipping of editorial in sealed envelope, addressed Exchange Editor, The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska."

I, for one, think The Commoner's position is correct. It is democratic. Under any other conditions we cannot hope to win and will not deserve to win. Even if allied with Wall Street and special interests, victory was achieved it would mean the early disruption and destruction of the party.—Ironton (Missouri) Register.

THE TARIFF BOARD

By a vote of 183 to 93 the house of representatives passed the bill providing for a permanent tariff board of five members. Democrats split on the measure. Champ Clark voted for the bill, but ninety of his followers voted against it. Mr. James of Kentucky tried to amend the measure by providing that two out of the five members should be chosen by the minority party in the senate and house of representatives. Mr. Barnhard of Indiana tried to amend the measure by allowing the president to appoint one member, the presiding officer of the senate two and the speaker, two. Democrats also sought to limit the expenditures of the board first to \$250,000 per year and then to \$500,000. All these amendments were defeated.



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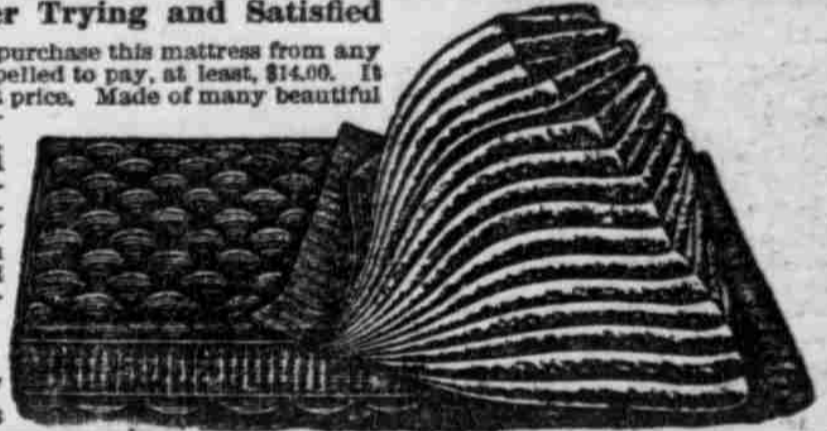
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