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ISSUED WEEKLY

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MR. BRYAN ABROAD

Mr. Bryan has completed his tour of India and a cablegram reports the safe arrival of himself and family at Cairo. He expects to spend a week or more in Egypt, going from there to the Holy Land, where he will probably remain two of three weeks. It is now his intention to go from Syria through Turkey and on to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, where he will arrive shortly after the convening of the douma. Sweden, Norway, England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and Germany—this is about the order in which he will visit the countries named, reaching the United States about the middle of September. Immediately after the November election he expects to visit Australia and New Zealand, which he was compelled to omit from his present trip to enable him to visit India and Egypt before the warm season was too far advanced.

It begins to appear that Mr. Jerome exhausted his initiative in his prospectus.

An observant public will note that the miners, not the operators, offered to submit their differences to arbitration.

The czar's idea of representative government seems to be to allow the people to elect their representatives and then throw the representatives into jail.

News of Mr. Hadley's illness and Mr. Rockefeller's reappearance appeared with considerable and remarkable simultaneousness.

Mr. Carnegie declares that he has extracted much profit from the reading of poetry. If he will divide the profit with those who write it he will be doing a really philanthropic work.

Mr. Baer asserts that he and his fellow coal barons are merely protecting the public. But just the same no shepherd is going to be foolish enough to follow the Baer precedent and employ a lot of wolves to look after his sheep.

The Houston Daily Post has just celebrated its twenty-first anniversary. The Post is a great democratic newspaper, deserving of all the success it has achieved, and in line for even greater work for democracy in the future. The Commoner wishes it many, very many, happy returns of the day.

A Youngstown, O., readers asks for the name of the author of the poem containing the line, "Let me live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." This poem was written by Sam Walter Foss, author of "Poems of War and Peace" and other verses. It has been widely quoted and is one of this favorite poet's best productions.

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WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

Washington, D. C. April 16.—The indications are that the national publicity bill will be acted upon this session by the house of representatives. The measure was referred to the house committee on the election of president, vice president and representatives in congress. The committee have granted several hearings on the bill. It was introduced in the house by Representative McCall, of Massachusetts; in the senate, by Mr. Patterson, of Colorado.

The leaders among the laboring people are conspicuous this year in communicating the intelligence to those who have looked into the situation that the working men of the country will have numerous candidates of their own running for congress. For two months or more they have been formulating plans to obtain directly and definitely from both republican and democratic candidates their position on questions which the labor leaders regard as being either in favor of or against the wage-earners of the United States. And it is stated by these same leaders in the most positive terms that the inquiries will be pressed as fast as candidates for congress are nominated by the political parties. As one of the labor representatives stationed here to watch the progress of events put it they propose to run candidates of their own in certain districts should it be found that the democrats or republicans have in the field men whom the labor organizations can not support. In speaking of the departure that is to be made, one of the well known labor leaders said substantially: "The working men of this country will have more to do with politics this year, in my opinion, than ever before in the history of the country. Heretofore our organizations have been backward in coming out openly and running candidates for congress in districts in which have been nominated men who are objectionable to us. We want our people to take a hand in the elections in districts in which none of the regular political parties have brought out men upon whom we can depend to see that labor has its rights protected. In years gone by the labor vote has been manipulated, and I regret to confess too often so called leaders supposed to have the welfare of the toiling masses at heart have played fast and loose with us, and I fear they have, in many instances, profited by using their influence to swing voters into line for candidates who did nothing for the cause of labor after being sent to Washington."

Nearly all the labor representatives who have been in Washington during the present session of congress complain bitterly that the republican managers have been promising them many things asked for in the way of legislation, but they are painfully slow in carrying out the promise. They talk as if the republicans have not kept faith with them and, according to the frame of mind they are in just now, there is a general disposition to have a reckoning with the "grand old party" candidates next November. One of the most serious complaints heard almost daily in the corridors of the capitol against the high officials of the administration is that the republicans have failed to carry out their promises regarding the eight hour law on government work. They cite, as one notable instance, the construction of the mammoth filtration plant in the District of Columbia, which was completed last year and which required several years to put in working order. It is charged that the officials worked the mechanics and laborers ten hours a day instead of eight, as the force had been made to believe would be the case. In the fifty-eighth congress Hon. William Hughes, of Patterson, N. J., was a democratic member of the house committee on labor. Mr. Hughes was most active in trying to have the regulations observed. Labor representatives state that during his term in the house he kept right after the officials for violating the eight hour regulations, and he had a large number of letters from these officials on the subject. Mr. Hughes has all the correspondence, it is said, and it has been copied for use by labor organizations to show that the officials referred to did not treat the mechanics and workmen right in compelling them to work over-time on the Washington city filtration plant. It is asserted that this is but one of the many instances that could be cited.

Another thing that is said to anger the labor people is that the senate interstate commerce committee is holding up the railroad liability bill. Mr. Elkins, of West Virginia, is chairman of this committee, which is the same one that had the railroad rate bill in charge. Senators

Aldrich, Kean, Foraker, Crane and other republicans constitute the majority of the committee. They held up the rate bill, it will be recalled, as long as they could, and finding they could no longer resist public sentiment fixed up a scheme to have Senator Tillman report and manage the rate bill on the floor of the senate—a task that the South Carolina statesman did not shrink from. Indeed, he was anxious to assume the responsibility. Nearly two months ago Senator Daniel and other democrats tried to get the senate to act on this railroad liability bill in the interest of the 600,000 railway employes of the United States who have been asking for the legislation for many years. The labor leaders say that all these men are watching the congressional proceedings closely and are noting from time to time the attempts being made to prevent legislation on the subject. The house passed the bill after a great pressure had been applied at that end of the capitol. There was but one democratic vote against it in that body. If the committee over which Mr. Elkins presides does not hurry matters it is understood that Senator Daniel, of West Virginia, will offer the liability bill as an amendment to the railroad rate bill. Labor leaders who have reached the conclusion that the interstate commerce committee will not act are strongly of the opinion that the amendment will be adopted unless it should be ruled out on a point of order. However, they say that if Mr. Elkins and his republican associates on the committee persist in holding the liability bill back and no action is taken on it this session the workmen of the country will know where to place the responsibility. They will see to it, they declare, that every labor organization in the United States shall be acquainted with the fact that there has been no democratic opposition to a measure that the railroad employes have demanded for the past ten or more years. Quite a number of the prominent labor leaders whose duties require them to be stationed here in the interests of legislation affecting the welfare of the wage-earners are not a bit mealy-mouthed in admitting that during the past decade the labor vote was cast heavily for republican candidates at the national elections. In consideration of this support, and without which the republicans would undoubtedly have been badly defeated, some of these labor representatives do not hesitate to proclaim publicly that the managers of the republican party are not grateful to the classes that contributed so much to their success.

Few of the senators look for a vote on the railroad rate bill before the end of April. It seems to be the policy of Mr. Aldrich to keep the measure hanging in the air until he can arrange deals to strengthen the opposition to the general proposition. The Rhode Island senator continues his policy of saying very little as to his plans. That he still hopes either to defeat all legislation on the subject no well posted person for a moment doubts. If he fails in that purpose the next move on the part of Mr. Aldrich and his followers will be to incorporate in the measure a court review amendment that will be objectionable both to the majority of the senate and house democrats. Mr. Aldrich appears to be confident of defeating the Bailey amendment. He is probably correct in his ability to do this, for quite a number of the senate republicans want the Long amendment placed in the bill. Senator Tillman and perhaps a majority of the democrats of the upper branch of congress do not sanction the Long proposition, even though it is presumed to have been prepared at the White House.

ALFRED J. STOFER.

NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC EDITORS

The Nebraska Democratic Editorial association will meet in annual session in Lincoln May 22. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways and means for the furtherance of democratic principles, to become better acquainted and to outline a plan of action for the campaign that will soon open. Democratic newspapers are not numerous in Nebraska, but the average is more than enough to make up for any lack of numbers. The democratic weekly press of no other state numbers better papers, more thoroughly democratic editors or more faithful exponents of Jeffersonianism. In season and out of season, through stress and storm, the democratic editors of Nebraska have been found at their posts doing double duty, and their influence has been felt beyond the confines of the state.