

The Commoner.

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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

The president of the university of Chicago says people do not become old until their minds stop growing. What an aged lot the tariff standpatters must be.

Several vessels grounded in New York harbor when a high wind blew the water out. The wind, however, couldn't do a thing with the water in Wall Street.

Ex-Governor Black's nominating speech and ex-Governor Black's Boston Home Market club speech make interesting reading when printed in parallel columns.

Ex-Governor Black belongs to some club now, but whether it is the "Ananias," the "Nature Fakirs," the "Undesirables" or the "Malicious" we have not yet ascertained.

A lot of republican newspapers that praised ex-Governor Black for his nomination speech are finding it difficult to form phrases sufficiently denunciatory of his Home Market club speech.

"I do not care to take the public into my confidence," remarks a present-day Vanderbilt. A little bit smoother, but not a bit more expressive, than the remark of a former Vanderbilt.

The Syracuse Herald says that Public Printer Stillings "failed to deliver the goods." There is a suspicion that quite the contrary is true. Too many goods at a price entirely too high.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger advocates a "sliding scale of wages." That will be all right, providing the Public Ledger will guarantee a scale that will slide up as easily as it slides down.

A number of exchanges in different states are trying to explain "where the peaches come from." The Nebraska peaches remain right here at home and help increase the crop of Nebraska pairs.

Chairman Gary of the steel trust directorate, expresses himself as being well satisfied with the president's policies. And why not? Isn't the steel trust doing as it has always done since its organization?

The Pittsburg Gazette-Times, referring to Mr. Bryan, says: "There is lots of room for improvement." The same might be said of the Gazette-Times, with the addition of the fact that there seems very little prospect of it.

THE "SYSTEM" AT WORK

The movement on foot to eliminate Mr. Bryan from the democratic nomination has been secretly planned for some time. It came into the limelight at the meeting of the democratic national committee in Washington last month. The people engaged in it bolted Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900, and wouldn't vote for him if he was nominated in 1908. Ninety per cent. of the democratic party is in favor of the nomination of Mr. Bryan at the democratic convention in July. In our judgment he can poll from one-half million to one million votes more than any other democrat. If Mr. Bryan cannot be elected, in our humble judgment, the democratic party cannot elect anyone.

The same tactics are being pursued as were pursued in the preliminary campaign in 1904. The "system" or interests desire to nominate the candidates of both parties. They believe it to be cheaper to select the nominees rather than have the democratic party nominate a man like Mr. Bryan, whom they cannot control and who if nominated, the chances at present are very favorable to his election. What troubles them is not the defeat of Mr. Bryan, but the fear of his election.

The rank and file of the democratic party will never again submit or surrender to the conservative or reactionary element who care nothing for principle and are in politics for what they can make out of it. The malcontents having come to the conclusion that they are unable to secure a little over one-third of the delegates to the democratic national convention and that Mr. Bryan will be nominated in spite of every thing they can do, are now sending out an appeal to the good nature and patriotism of Mr. Bryan to withdraw from the nomination in order to save the party.

The people engaged in this movement are not the friends of the democratic party or Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan is not seeking the nomination, and if two-thirds of the delegates assembled in the national convention, vote for him, it is a duty incumbent on him to accept the nomination and make the fight. The loyal men of 1896 and 1900 demand this of him, and the enemies of Mr. Bryan from within and from without, should have no influence whatever upon him in deciding upon what he considers to be the right, and when he has made up his mind in doing it regardless of consequences.

The schemers having been foiled in their attempts to force him out are now endeavoring to coax him out. Mr. Bryan's duty is plain, and that is to abide by the decision of the representatives assembled in the national convention. There are but two things that will prevent his nomination: First, death; and second, his refusal to accept it. The nomination is a foregone conclusion, and the chances for election are better than they have ever been and many of the republican leaders are already conceding it.

Mr. Bryan can be trusted to do the right thing and his enemies and his pretended friends will not be able to force him out or coax him out of what he considers is his duty.—New Haven (Conn.) Union.

IN THE EAST

The Chicago Public, Louis F. Post's paper, prints the following letter:

New York, February 12.—The past week has brought a great revival of Bryanism to New York and New Jersey, stirring democratic democrats to the highest pitch of enthusiasm and provoking many a wise and approving shake of the head from those to whom Bryan has always been a "perfect fright." One noticeable departure from olden times has been the demand from rock-ribbed republicans for a chance to hear him; another, more portentous, is the weakening attitude of the democratic bosses and sub-bosses who have in the past been either passive or openly hostile toward him; and especially has he completely disarmed the combined political and financial interests that were planning demonstrations against him. Wherever the test has been applied opposition has vanished. His avowed enemies have quickly seen that they had not the sympathy of the rank and file.

Bryan's speech at the Economic club dinner was his greatest triumph. He was there pitted against three financial heroes and an audience logically adverse; but these circumstances spurred him to such flights of satire and eloquence and such logical argument, that he carried his audience completely with him in spite of itself. Such an enthusiastic demonstration of

democracy in the stronghold of plutocracy has never, in my opinion, been seen in our history.

There were 800 present, largely members of this club, which is composed mainly of the wealthier financiers and business men of New York. Victor Marowitz, banker, and chairman of the Santa Fe directorate, delivered a dreary discourse. Andrew Carnegie followed with a characteristic flamboyant outburst, and Lyman J. Gage delivered a real speech. Bryan then followed with an hour of sarcasm, statement, argument and humor that kept his audience spellbound when not convulsed.

In a semi-circle of leading bankers and high financiers, he submitted point after point to them for approval and got it; and then he chided them for the ignorance or dishonesty that had permitted them to support for decades a condition, knowing it was wrong, yet declining now, and for political reasons, to make a change.

In contrast with their impotency, he submitted not only a broad scheme of rehabilitation, but specific measures which were recognized by his hearers as constructive. While instructing his kindergarten in the elements of finance he frequently stopped to refer to himself as only a Nebraska farmer and to the many delusions they had supposed him guilty of but which they now perforce admitted as sane. His rotund good humor, frankness and earnestness, took the sting of offense from his pointed and almost personal references, and his "class" continued to back him up to the finish.

There was no waver from his radical viewpoint—that of the common people; and he drove home a dozen times the point that that finance is not to be tolerated which serves only the financiers. In the role of a popular campaign orator we are all familiar with Bryan, but only relatively few have seen him plead the common cause so eloquently and effectively to the money changers themselves.

C. H. INGERSOLL.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Continued from Page 5)

insurance to depositors, and therefore will not maintain confidence. This is of course an endorsement of Mr. Bryan's insurance plan which has been adopted in Oklahoma.

State banks, trust companies and savings banks which hold two-thirds of the banking capital of the country will not benefit by the measure.

Railroad bonds should not be used as security for emergency circulation.

The bill makes no provision to prevent improper loans by active bank officers to themselves. In view of the recent exposures of the methods of Morse, Heinze and E. R. Thomas, this seems to be a vital objection.

The bill does not provide for the maintenance of actual cash reserves, but permits the present reserves which are a mere matter of bookkeeping.

Senator Owen's speech attracted attention in the senate, and should attract attention throughout the nation. It is well worth getting and reading as a progressive democratic document.

When Representative Henry T. Rainey of the Twentieth district of Illinois, addressed the house a few days ago he gave most of his attention to the duty upon petroleum and its effect upon the Standard Oil company. But there was one feature of the speech which is of interest to those who turn occasionally from the economic issues which underlie a campaign to what the politicians call the practical figures. He was calling attention to the meaning of the negro vote to the republican party and its candidates. I quote: "There are 32,000 negroes of voting age in the state of New York; there are 19,000 negroes of voting age in the state of Indiana; there are 32,000 of them in Ohio; there are 29,000 of them in Illinois, and I might go through all these other northern states that at times are considered doubtful. These would rarely be republican states were it not for the negro vote. You must take care of the negro vote, and you can not do it when you turn down Foraker. The republican party making a campaign without money and without negroes would be a pitiful spectacle in this country."

The applause which greeted Mr. Rainey showed that his associates remembered that in 1896 money, negroes and that portion of the foreign vote which was so debased as to be purchaseable, were the factors which then defeated the democratic national ticket.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.