

## Show This to Your Republican Neighbor

The following dispatch carried by the Associated Press ought to be read and re-read by every republican who yet imagines that relief from trust impositions may be obtained at the hands of the republican party:

"Washington, D. C., April 29.—John Sharp Williams today gave the republican majority in the house an opportunity to either permit or refuse to permit a vote on the Stevens bill to place wood pulp on the free list. In the course of a cleverly humorous and satirical speech he unrolled and held up to view the following petition to Speaker Cannon, bearing the signatures of 164 of the 166 democratic members:

"We, the undersigned, representatives in congress, request each for himself and each for each of the others, that you recognize one of us, or, if you prefer, some other representative, to move to discharge the committee on ways and means from further consideration of, and to suspend the rules and pass the Stevens bill, or any other bill having the effect to put wood pulp and print paper on the free list."

"Mr. Williams said that the two democratic members whose names were not appended to the petition were out of town, but efforts were being made to reach them by wire; when their signatures were added, only thirty republican names would be needed to swell the strength of the petition to the proportions of a majority request, which Mr. Williams said with good-natured sarcasm he felt sure the speaker would heed.

"After saying that only thirty republicans were necessary to make up the requisite number to pass the bill, Mr. Williams declared that it should be easy to get them because 'almost thirty republicans had introduced free paper bills,' he said, 'and I know every one of you who introduced a bill meant what you said.'

"Quoting the lines from the old hymn:

"While the lamp holds out to burn,  
The vilest sinner may return,"

Mr. Williams proceeded:

"If you have been in any manner bull-dozed why think for a second; think of what a short life we live here and how important it is we should be doing things while we live in this brief day of our time. I express a hope that at least thirty of you may sign a petition. If you do not like that petition because my name is on it and the names of Champ Clark and De Armond and Underwood and John Wesley Gaines and all these vile publicans and sinners on this side, get up one of your own. We can add the two together. If thirty of you sign, the speaker cannot refuse, because you together with us will then constitute a majority of the house of representatives. Early in the session when the rules were being adopted, the speaker was asked if a majority of the house made a request to the speaker whether that request would be heeded, and his reply, as I remember it, was 'a majority of the house of representatives will always be heeded by the speaker.' So if you put thirty names to our 166 and constitute 196, a majority of the house of representatives, I know that the eminently good natured man who presides over this house, who is so tolerant of opposition, so patient whenever there is a stumbling block athwart his pathway, will bow in his most elegant manner with the gesticulation that is peculiar to him and say: 'Gentlemen, a majority of the representatives of the American people have a right to have their way and I will recognize somebody.'

"A table had been placed on the floor in front of the stenographer's bench, and on it the petition was spread with flankings of ink bottle and pen, while the minority leader, simulating the voice and manner of a revivalist, exhorted the republicans to rise and go forward and sign up, pleading for 'thirty.' 'Only thirty!' and asked 'are there not thirty who will come forth?' He concluded amid hand-clapping and laughter, indulged in by democrats and republicans alike."

erally. Uncle Joe sagaciously devised the commission scheme to carry it over the campaign. This is the committee he appointed: Mann, of Illinois; Bannon, of Ohio; Miller, of Kansas; Stafford, of Wisconsin;—republicans, and every one well known as a standpatter; democrats, Ryan, of New York, and Sims, of Tennessee. It is quite evident that the paper trust will have nothing to fear unless the presidential and congressional elections of 1908 shall go strongly and decisively for the democratic ticket.

This paragraph from the Philadelphia Record deserves quotation: "Let the democrats of the country soberly ask themselves, before going to Denver, and while it is yet time, what figure they would cut before the country and the world with a ludicrous travesty of Jeffersonian democracy embodied in William J. Bryan. What prospect would they have of digging out tariff reform from the isms and fads with which he would overload it, and of making it the vital issue of the next campaign."

It might be said that the entrance of Mr. Bryan upon public life in a national way was his speech against the robber barons of protection in the house of representatives. And he is not a man in the habit of changing his views. Mr. Bryan at that stood with W. L. Wilson and Grover Cleveland. Though when another issue arose Mr. Bryan and Mr. Cleveland parted.

However, it is fair to ask about the Record. It used to be owned by William M. Singerley, was nominally democratic, defended the national honor in 1896, became bankrupt and its proprietor under most distressing circumstances committed suicide. Today it is owned by the proprietor of a republican paper in Philadelphia; a high protectionist paper and is apparently being used for the purpose of disrupting the democratic party as far as possible. No editor in the United States who understands what the ownership of the Philadelphia Record is, will take seriously anything it says concerning a democratic candidate.

Of course it is true that William E. Chandler is only an ex-senator. But that does not prove that he is not a very keen and a very capable observer of public affairs. His whole life has been spent in political controversies and there never has been a time when he was not regarded by his enemies with respect for his fighting qualities.

Mr. Chandler has been openly and vigorously hostile to Taft. But it was supposed until today that his plan was to support Roosevelt rather than Taft. Today he appears as champion of LaFollette. While Chandler has no official position, he has a record of strenuous devotion to the republican party. While it is not probable that under existing conditions he could control a state delegation or perhaps even the delegation from his own town of Concord, N. H., yet the vigor of his attack upon both Taft and Roosevelt shows somewhat of the feeling within the republican party against those twin statesmen.

Senator Chandler declares that the Roosevelt administration has abandoned all its endeavors to protect the people against the corporations. He insists that the changes urged by the president and the railroad rate law and the anti-trust law are intended to ingratiate the republican candidate, whoever he may be, with the railroad and Wall Street forces. He declares that when the president asked that the interstate commerce law should be amended so as to give railroads the right to make traffic agreements it was a mere bid for railroad support for Taft. In brief Mr. Chandler says at some length, that now when an election is approaching Mr. Roosevelt will hark back to his position when he was a candidate once before and invited Mr. Harriman to call and discuss politics with him as one practical man to another. As Ex-Senator Chandler, who has always been a republican, puts it, "the biggest and highest bid for the next presidency is so plain that he who runs may read. The republican party organization in the south is to continue destroyed; the colored voters are to be excluded from the polls and from republican caucuses and conventions; the anti-trust law is to be annihilated and "good trusts" invited to lift their heads and flourish; the railroads are to be allowed to pool their earnings and destroy all competition; existing prosecutions of trusts are to be instituted because all the trusts are to be made to appear reasonable; the officeholders are always to control the conventions; no publicity laws are to be enacted; and political contributions for nominations and elections are to be as many and large and secret as they were in 1904."

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

## May Conclude the Price is Too High

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Inter-Ocean (rep.) issue of April 26:

### Why Mr. Taft May be Nominated

To the Editor—I do not quite understand your leading editorial this morning. It seems that a combination has been fixed up by which the trust magnates, in return for promises of immunity, have agreed to support Mr. Taft and contribute to his campaign fund. Can this be possible? Circumstances make me only an occasional reader. I must have missed something. Please explain. J. B. M.

Chicago, April 23.

Probably the editorial referred to was defective in assuming that its readers had in mind a number of political and legislative incidents of the last five or six weeks, and particularly in assuming that they had read the Washington dispatch published the day before.

A Washington correspondent of the Inter-Ocean noted that the attitude of what may be called the "Wall street interests" toward Mr. Taft, which hitherto had been indifferent, frigid, and even openly hostile, was gradually and even rapidly becoming tolerant, pacific, and even cordial, and that the attitude of organized labor, as represented by Mr. Samuel Gompers, hitherto openly hostile to Mr. Taft, was visibly shifting toward benevolent neutrality.

He also noted that these changes began about the time that the Hepburn amendment to the Sherman act—avowedly framed at the White House in conferences between the president, a New York representative of the great financial interests, and Mr. Gompers—made its appearance in congress. He also noted that men who figure constantly as the representatives of the great financial powers were now in favor of the Hepburn amendment.

He further noted a cessation of announcements from the White House and from the department of justice as to investigations and prosecutions of trusts about to be undertaken, and that the only anti-trust prosecution that was not languishing was that directed against Mr. Harriman's Union Pacific-Southern Pacific combination.

In a word, there was given by this correspondent a picture of how immunity was being

traded off to the so-called magnates in return for Taft support, both financial and moral.

The Inter-Ocean correspondent's picture of the situation merely anticipated by some forty-eight hours that suggested by Mr. Arthur I. Vorys, one of the accredited lieutenants of the Taft campaign, when he said in Washington on Wednesday: "We feel that the battle is over."

From certain viewpoints it may be agreed that the battle is indeed more than half over—that the present embodiments of governmental power, of financial power, and of labor union power having agreed on Mr. Taft—having formed an alliance and exchanged pledges of amity and arranged for the delivery one to the other of valuable considerations—the battle is more than half over so far as the nomination of Mr. Taft is concerned.

It remains, of course, to be seen how the American people, who are naturally put upon inquiry whether the only result of their present hardships is to be the nomination of Mr. Taft, will regard this arrangement if they come to pass judgment upon it at the polls in November.

It may happen that the people will not regard it as sufficient compensation for their sufferings that they thereby have promoted Mr. Taft's nomination. It may be that they will conclude that the "price is too high," despite all assurances to the contrary. That remains to be seen."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

### WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, D. C., May 4.—The trusting newspaper publishers, headed by Mr. Herman Ridder, who thought that they would get any relief from the exactions of the paper trust from either the Roosevelt administration or the present congress received a most enlightening shock when the Cannon bill putting over any action until after the election, and creating a commission to study the matter was passed. The newspaper publishers wanted the tariff taken off wood pulp and paper. Congress shied at that lest it should open the tariff issue gen-