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CHICAGO AND CENTER.

Chicago had a good laugh a year and a half ago when Center, Neb., installed a bathtub. And today it is Center's turn to laugh.

It has just transpired that there are not twenty bathtubs in the seventeenth ward in the city of Chicago—a district in which there live 60,000 people.

And, more than that, the people of that ward refuse to patronize the public bath houses that have been established.

The people of Chicago laughed at Center's one bathtub. Chicago papers put the Center bathtub on the front page day after day. It was worth laughing at, Chicago insisted.

But there's this difference between Chicago and Center—the people of Center bathed before they had a bathtub, while the people of the seventeenth ward in Chicago don't bathe, even with two free public bath houses in their midst.

The people of Center may have gone about their bathing, prior to the bathtub's installation, in a rather inconvenient way. But they bathed.

And that's the vital point, after all. That's the difference between the country and the city. The country air is pure, without so much artificial equipment. The city may laugh at the rough lines of the rural district—but the country has the wholesome atmosphere, after all.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE BUSY.

While some of the Washington correspondents are scratching their heads wondering whether the statement of Mr. Bryan announcing that he will accept the democratic nomination, will call forth a statement from President Roosevelt as to his attitude on the third term, others assume to answer the query by the statement that the president's statement on the night of election in 1904 must stand.

"Raymond," for the Chicago Tribune, declares that the president has given not the slightest ground for believing he will issue any statement in the matter in the near future, and that there is every reason to believe he expects to stand upon his original pronouncement. Furthermore, this correspondent avers that the president has no thanks to offer those well meaning friends who, by insisting that the president break his word, attack his sincerity.

It is said that the president will not issue a statement now for the reason that if he considered it essential now to issue a statement, in fact of his original announcement, there would be no reason why he would not be forced to keep right on issuing statement after statement, whenever anybody doubted the truth of his former declarations.

But although the president is expected to keep his word in this respect, it is said that he does not intend to dictate the platform of the convention.

PURE MILK CAMPAIGNS.

The campaign for purer milk and less deaths among babies in particular, goes merrily on. In Chicago the health department has ordered dairies to be kept so clean that the city will be protected against the spread through this medium of infectious diseases, and as a result milk has risen to eight and nine cents a quart. Inspection found 155 out of 277 dairies to be in a bad sanitary condition.

It is being generally recognized all over the country that impure milk means disease and that tubercular cattle cause more tuberculosis among people than any other source.

In Montclair, New Jersey, recent health board agitation has prompted some of the dairymen in Montclair to go to great lengths to impress customers with the purity of their product.

Every cow in one herd is declared to be washed and groomed and rubbed off with a clothes brush just before milking. Then a man comes along with pails of water and cloths and washes the udder of each cow carefully. This operation is repeated by two other men, a third carefully drying the cows. These men are in charge of a bacteriologist.

Men who milk the cows are clad in snow white uniforms, and before performing their tasks must have their nails manicured. They also must pass inspection of the bacteriologist before they are permitted to milk cows.

WATTERSON ON THIRD TERM.

Henry Watterson's opinion upon national politics is always received with some interest by the entire country. His views are always given more or less attention because of his long-time experience and because as a prophet he has struck the nail on the head not infrequently. At this time, therefore, just when Mr. Bryan has announced that he will accept the nomination in the democratic convention, it is of

more than casual interest to note that Henry Watterson declares President Roosevelt will not succeed himself in the white house. It is Col. Watterson's opinion that Bryan could defeat Roosevelt in a third term race, and that Roosevelt is the only republican whom Bryan could defeat.

Either Hughes or Cannon will be the republican nominee, in the belief of Watterson. In case of a disagreement in the convention, he believes that "Uncle Joe" Cannon would be the compromise candidate. But Roosevelt could not in honor accept a third term nomination after his frequent emphatic declarations that he would not, says the Kentucky editor. This is Col. Watterson's way of sizing up the situation:

If people were to elect Roosevelt for a third term they would give up all gained by the 135 votes of republican government and Mexicanize the government. The same arguments could be used four or eight years from now and elections would be unnecessary, and the Diaz plan would be adopted. To accept a nomination for a third term would show that Roosevelt is a scoundrel and a traitor to his country, and prove that he had been planning all along to retain the presidency.

Apparently Col. Watterson has more faith in the president than some of the "reformers" throughout the country who, claiming to be fast friends of the president, are conspiring to force him to go back on his statement of Nov. 8, 1904, when he said:

I am deeply sensible of the honor done me by the American people in thus expressing their confidence in what I have done and what I have tried to do. I appreciate to the full the solemn responsibility this confidence imposes upon me, and I shall do all that lies in my power not to forfeit it. On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and a half years, and this three and a half years constitutes my first term. The wise custom which limits the president to two terms regards the substance and not the form, and under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination.

BASIS FOR CONFIDENCE.

It is really quite a remarkable fact, and a fact which tends to show that the west really is, after all, independent of Wall street, that grain prices in the west have remained almost unshaken by the recent flurry in New York, in spite of the fact that old established stocks and bonds in that vicinity were tottering and falling in a marked degree.

It shows conclusively that the products of the west, the products of agriculture which are held by this great granary of the world, are of most stable value and, that value being regulated altogether by supply and demand and not to any material extent by financial conditions, hold their own regardless of exterior influences.

With wheat and corn and oats falling but a few cents, and with the prospect of the immediate regain of that, there is every reason why the west should shake hands with itself over its condition of health. And that same condition acts as insurance for times in the future.

It is to be noted that Secretary Cortelyou of the treasury department has given notice to the New York banks that the west must have cash with which to handle the crops, and the west may rest assured that the money will come.

Commercial travelers out of Norfolk report that, while the temporary suspension of grain activity tended to slow down business to a certain extent, the announcement of the resumption of grain buying has caused the renewal of confidence and within ten days it is believed that things will be running in the same old way.

As a matter of fact there is every sane basis for unlimited confidence in the prosperity of this region during the coming year. This territory has the grain and live stock—the purchasing power with which to supply its demands. And these commodities are going to remain high priced because of the scarcity abroad, while many mill products from the east are going to take a down shoot. This will make the purchasing power of the grain holding west all the greater.

And with confidence, the west will never know that New York got sick. There is plenty of money in the country and confidence is all that is needed to make things hum in the business world so far as this territory is concerned.

And the crops and other farm products afford ample foundation for confidence plus.

OFFICE HOLDERS GIVEN A TIP.

It has leaked out that those office holders who have been openly and secretly working for another term for President Roosevelt, have just heard something drop which is likely to affect their actions. The thing which has happened to these energetic and patriotic people has been a message from the president himself, couched in such terms as to leave no doubt that he means business. This is not the exact language of the message but it is what it means:

"I cannot, of course, control the political choice of public servants, nor direct them in the efforts of their inherent rights as citizens. But there is one order coming within my province and that I will and do issue. It is this—No federal officer must go to

the next republican national convention as a Roosevelt delegate."

That this order is already bearing fruit is shown by the result of the convention in Alaska, where the president's wishes were respected and a solid Taft delegation elected, although the territory is practically unanimous for Roosevelt.

The same program will be carried out in the next states and territories to hold conventions if the president's influence is paramount, and among them may be cited the new state of Oklahoma. All the new federal officers there are understood to have their instructions, and it is expected with confidence that the state will elect a delegation as solidly for Taft as is that of Alaska.

If the result in Alaska is even a slight indication of the president's determination to lend himself to the election of a man as his successor who will stand by the Roosevelt policies, then the order quoted ought to be final.

While the president does not and cannot deny the right of Secretary Cortelyou or any other man to become a candidate, it is apparent that this order will have the effect of preventing the election of office-holding delegates who, under the cloak of being for Roosevelt, will be for some other man when the time comes for the president to declare himself out of it. The southern delegates are almost invariably federal officeholders, and the president's order will necessarily have the effect of compelling them to come out into the open if they propose not to come to the convention for Taft.

"IN GOD WE TRUST."

The striking from coins of the motto, "In God We Trust," at the order of President Roosevelt, promises to give ground for about as much discussion, one way and another, as did the president's famous proclamation in favor of reformed spelling some time ago. Public sentiment at that time, failing to fall in line with his reform spelling notion, forced him to retract and allow the old fashioned and established spelling to prevail.

This order to erase the "In God We Trust" motto from coins is much of the same type of movement as the reform spelling, since both have to do with civic life rather than the life politic. Neither would affect the material well being of the people; both affect the non-partisan, abstract civic thought.

The president was probably satisfied as to the grounds for striking off the motto, before he gave out the dictation. It is not probable that he will retract, but it is likely that he will be called upon to spend some time in arguing his side of the controversy.

A number of religious organizations have protested that the motto should stay on the coin. The president insists that the motto, appearing on the coins, borders on sacrilege. He affirms that there is no warrant for the motto, in law, and the religious protesters come back with this clause in the "Laws of the United States relating to coinage," chapter 6:

And be it further enacted, that, in addition to the devices and legends upon gold, silver and other coins of the United States, it shall be lawful for the director of the mint, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, to cause the motto, "In God We Trust," to be placed upon such coins hereafter to be issued as shall admit of such legend thereon.

It is being further pointed out to embarrass the president that this act was approved by Abraham Lincoln March 3, 1865, only a little more than a month before his assassination. It is being argued that if Lincoln was willing to make the law to warrant the motto, Roosevelt ought to be willing, with the law standing, to allow the motto to continue in its position on the coins.

The controversy will be watched with that human interest which always manifests itself in a controversy, but the president's friends insist he will take his part of the fight to the satisfaction of his opponents.

THE PANAMA BONDS.

The issuing of Panama bonds by the government at this time will solve the financial situation in the east by attracting into circulation much money that has found a place of hoarding during the past few weeks. The government bonds are just as good as the gold itself. What's more, they bear interest and earn money for the investor. That being the case, and with the United States government behind them, many a man who has become frightened and hoarded his coin, will now invest his money in the bonds, for the sake of the interest and in view of the safety of the bonds.

With the money attracted by the bonds, the federal government will make deposits in the west and south, where money is now needed to move the crops.

And moving the crops is all that the west needs to make this the most active year in business that we have known.

New York, Washington and other centers consider that this bond issue solves the whole difficulty and that business will resume along normal lines quickly.

That portion of the president's letter in which he commented upon the

situation is worthy the careful reading of every man, woman and child. Coming from the white house, the reassuring word must carry weight that could be given it by no other authority. The statement, for its own sake is worth repeating here:

"What is most needed just at present is that our citizens should realize how fundamentally sound business conditions in this country are, and how absurd it is to permit themselves to get into a panic and create a stringency by hoarding their savings, instead of trusting perfectly sound banks. There is no particle of risk involved in letting business take its natural course and the people can help themselves and the country most by putting back into active circulation money they are hoarding. The banks and trust companies are solvent. There is more currency in the country today than there was a month ago, when the supply was ample. Fifty-five million dollars in gold has been imported and the government has deposited already \$60,000,000. These are facts, and I appeal to the public to co-operate with us in restoring normal business conditions. The government will see that the people do not suffer if only the people themselves will act in normal way. Crops are good and conditions are sound and we should put the money we have into circulation in order to meet the needs of our abundant prosperity. There is no analogy at all with the way things were in 1893. On Nov. 30 of that year there was in the treasury but \$161,000,000 in gold. On Nov. 14 of this year there was in the treasury \$904,000,000 of gold. Ten years ago the circulation per capita was \$23.23. It is now \$33.23. The steps that you now take, the ability of the government to back them up, and the fact that not a particle of risk is involved therein give the fullest guarantees of the sound condition of our people and the sound condition of our treasury. All that our people have to do now is to go ahead with their normal business in a normal fashion and the whole difficulty disappears; and this end will be achieved if each man will act as he normally does act and as the real conditions of the country's business fully warrant his now acting."

VON MEYER'S CAMPAIGN.

The Transmississippi Commercial congress, at Muskogee, I. T., is going to hear a number of speeches along current lines, including an address which will be delivered by a special government representative of Postmaster General von Meyer. This special representative will travel from Washington to Muskogee to tell the congress why the parcels post, advocated by the postmaster general, ought to be established.

This address will be in line with other measures which are being adopted by Mr. von Meyer to create sentiment in favor of his parcels post plan, and for which he is being very severely and not altogether unjustly criticized in many quarters.

It is being argued that Mr. von Meyer abuses his position in spending government funds to create a sentiment in favor of any scheme which he may wish to see enacted into law.

The postmaster general has been sending out no small amount of franked matter whose printing was paid for by the people and whose postage is paid for by the people. For he is said to have had the printing done in the government printing office at government expense, and the franked envelopes show that the people themselves are paying the cost of transporting this matter.

It is argued that the postmaster general has no more right to spend government money creating sentiment in favor of his pet plan, than would the president have in spending government money to create sentiment in favor of his own political party.

It is argued that if parcels post is a good thing, the people themselves have sense enough to reason it out, without any extravagant assistance from the postmaster general. And it is further argued that if it is not a good thing, the people themselves will see it and act without his assistance.

It would seem to be rather a delicate matter for the head of a government department to use his office and the funds of the government to create sentiment for or against any political plan. If the plan has merit, it ought to be adopted without such an abuse of position. And some of those who are bitterly opposed to the parcels post, argue that Mr. Meyer would hardly be so aggressive and so willing to spend government funds in this campaign, unless he had some personal motive to back him up in the movement.

NEW MARKET FOR FLAX.

American farmers devote some 4,000,000 acres to flax raising, solely for the seed crop. The flax straw, out of which linen fibre is made, has always been burned up or thrown away for the reason that there was no labor in the United States cheap enough to warrant its use by the antiquated methods pursued abroad.

Now a Massachusetts inventor, Benjamin C. Mudge of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has perfected a process that in the space of twelve hours transforms flax straw into pure linen fibre ready for spinning. The Mudge process in its first stage is mechanical, the fibre being wrested from the woody portion of the straw by means of machines that accomplish in a few hours what the old-world method of rotting the straw in water takes weeks to perform. When this part of the work is done, chemicals are re-

sorted to for degumming and bleaching.

The immediate result of this invention is to make a market for the millions of tons of flax straw wasted each year and which, according to a recent bulletin of the department of agriculture (Farmer's Bulletin, No. 274), "in quality and length for the production of fibre far exceeds the average straw from which the Russian peasants make the fibre which chiefly supplies the linen fabrics of the world." The Oxford linen mills of Gardner, Mass., are already preparing to enter the market for flax straw.

Instead of sending \$22,000,000 a year to Europe for linens, this fibre and fabric will now be manufactured in the United States at a cost considerably below that of foreign linens, and besides making a new market for the product of the American farmer, will add enormously to the profits of cotton fabric production which is now valued at over half a billion dollars a year. At anything like the present prices for linen, the mills operating under the Mudge process can earn enormous profits.

The Mudge method does not sacrifice the seed crop. The entire plant as it comes from the field is put into the mechanical apparatus and the seed separated before the straw is crushed. The Oxford mills will handle the seed and straw crop or the straw only, as may suit the convenience of the farmer. The value of the seed crop alone is \$19,500,000 annually. This will of course be greatly increased when there is a market for the straw.

THE FEDERAL CONTROL ISSUE.

Some of the president's democratic enemies, as well as a certain portion of the self-styled "progressive reformers" who deserted the president when he launched the federal control theory which would rob them of a portion of their demagogic power, have accused the president of playing into the hands of the conservatives in this matter. But there is apparently room for a disagreement in the charge. A speech by former Senator Spooner the other day affords the basis for dispute.

It is hardly probable that former Senator Spooner would be styled a radical by anybody. And yet, amazed though it may those who have been calling the president names because of his centralization attitude, Senator Spooner is very emphatically against any such theory as that recently advanced by the president looking to greater federal authority at the cost of state authority.

It was in New York the other night that Senator Spooner made known his views. And it was long after midnight when newspaper reporters had left the banquet hall.

The speech of the evening had been made by George W. Ross of Toronto, Can., a member of the Dominion parliament, who had declared that "England is a republic with a hereditary president, while the United States is a limited monarchy with an elected king."

At the conclusion of Mr. Ross's speech ex-Senator Spooner arose quietly from his seat and began:

"Have all the newspaper men gone?"

"Yes, the last one just left," responded the toastmaster.

"Then let's be a little free with ourselves. Let's have a little heart to heart talk. But we must keep our talk to ourselves."

"Go as far as you like," shouted several diners.

"Well, to begin with, I think I can agree largely with our friend Mr. Ross. There is entirely too much centralization of power in Washington. You know where the power is and you know who the power is."

"What is this present government of ours coming to, anyhow? It is federal control of this and federal control of that. They are all the time making federal control center around the executive head, that he may have the right to take such initiative as he thinks best."

"I don't believe in the original state rights' proposition, but I do know that there are many things that the states can and should control. And I do know that they should be allowed to continue to control them."

"Will Roosevelt be a candidate for president again?" the ex-senator was asked.

"The Lord alone knows. He has said he won't be a candidate. He is impulsive. He is erratic. And, although he is perfectly honest in his desires, the man does not live who can say whether he will again or not."

As Mr. Spooner resumed his seat he was greeted with a storm of applause.

And now, with Senator Spooner on their side of the question, wouldn't it be consistent for the "reformers" who deserted the president in this issue, to flop over to the other side?

BRYAN IS WILLING.

Mr. Bryan has broken the silence. He will accept the democratic presidential nomination next year if it is offered. And the chances seem very strong that it will be offered.

The twice defeated Nebraskan, after today's statement by him in his weekly paper, is all odds ahead of any other

democratic possibility and his announced willingness to take the nomination if it is offered practically precludes the selection of anybody else. With Mr. Bryan's announcement, printed in another part of this paper, Governor Johnson of Minnesota fades away as one of the probabilities in the race. And there is nowhere another candidate to wrest the coveted honor from Mr. Bryan.

For some months there have been stories going around as to whether Mr. Bryan would or would not accept the nomination, or as to whether or not he would be an active candidate for the place. And there have been frequent reports that Mr. Bryan would consent in the near future, at this place or that, to make a definite statement as to his position in the matter. Once Lincoln was going to have the honor of hearing the statement, once it was Omaha and again Washington people were to hear the precious words fall from the Nebraskan's eloquent lips. But Mr. Bryan has swept all of these fictitious stories aside and, discriminating in favor of no locality, has made his announcement through the press. He has realized the value of a story for his paper and the Commoner once again has gained a bit of publicity that otherwise would not have been available.

And, now that the manner of announcement has been determined, the next most important feature of the incident is the fact that Mr. Bryan will accept. Like Barcus, he is willing to try, try again. Although he has twice led the democratic party to ignominious defeat, he is willing, should the party's interests demand it, to once again take up the battle and make an aggressive campaign. Once again he would cover the country in a speedy train, delivering democratic doctrine from the rear platform in an effort to gain the goal which has twice been beyond his clutching fingers.

There are a number of significant points in Mr. Bryan's statement. In the first place he has apparently laid aside all of his own pet theories and is willing to make the race on any old kind of a platform that the convention frames. The rank and file of the party, he says, are the "supreme court" when it comes to making the nomination as well as to framing the planks in the platform. In other words he is willing to forget that he ever launched a disastrous government ownership theory, he is willing to forget all about free silver, he is willing to forget anything and everything of his own personal views in order to buckle on the party armor and venture into the fray at the head of the army.

Apparently Mr. Bryan has concluded that he made a mistake when returning a year ago from his trip around the world, he launched in his Madison Square Garden speech that wild government ownership dream which at once created such furore among democrats and republicans alike. And willing to cover up his own idea in the matter, he will take the words of the party as his platform and upon that platform go into the campaign.

In other words, Mr. Bryan has agreed to subordinate his personal self for the sake of the nomination. Whether or not his radical dreams would stay down, once he had started his campaign, is quite another question and one which need not be given a prominent place in the Commoner at this time.

Mr. Bryan, in his statement, both gives a little ground and indirectly taps Roger Sullivan on the wrist. For it was only a few days ago that the Sullivan faction of the Illinois democratic party wrote a letter to the Nebraskan leader urging him to forget himself for the time being, to lay aside his government ownership theory and get back to the democratic principle of "equal rights for all and special principles for none." They pointed out that if his own ideas were carried out it would be enough to cause the shade of Alexander Hamilton to arise and dance on the grave of Thomas Jefferson.

And so, apparently as a concession to the Roger Sullivan faction, Mr. Bryan has carefully omitted any reference to his own drastic theories, at the same time giving assurance that he is perfectly willing and anxious to put his hobbies in his pocket if he can only be entrusted with the nomination.

But in another place he takes a decided shot at Mr. Sullivan. "He takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance that a victory, if won, will not be a barren victory." There can be no getting around the point involved and it is not a difficult matter to read between the lines and understand that it is Roger Sullivan who must get out of the organization. This will be a severe blow to the Sullivan people who, in their letter to Mr. Bryan the other day made an appeal for harmony within the party.

Mr. Bryan by implication, and not at all by any definite statements, seeks to make it appear that the republican party has promised to bring an end to certain evils and has turned and worked with the evildoers. But more

than this implication will be needed to discredit the republican party with the people at large.

By subordinating his personal ideas for the sake of the nomination, Mr. Bryan, in his statement of today has practically clinched the next democratic presidential nomination. For a third time he is to lead his party in the national political campaign.

AROUND TOWN.

How many Panama bonds for you?

The new Panama bonds are already talking cents.

There are thirteen automobiles in Norfolk. How would you like to be one of the lucky thirteen?

The Randolph Reporter says the animal most dear to man's heart is the dog. Rather hard on womankind.

It's funny how an invitation out to dinner affects a woman doing her own work.

Miss Indian Summer hears Mrs. Winter knocking at the door, but lingers still.

The northwest is going to eat a sumptuous turkey dinner and its stocking is going to be filled to overflowing at Christmas time.

There's one consolation for people living on streets that are dug up with sewer trenches. They're immune from automobiles.

There is little excuse for any Norfolk woman wearing a last year's hat, considering the millinery sales that are now on in this town.

The north Nebraska lawyers took continuances on their picnic until summer adjourned and the outing was outlawed by the statute of limitations.

There's something wrong with our team work. Norfolk allowed a tramp to get out of town with \$163 in his pockets, bound for Sioux City. Sioux City never did as much for Norfolk.

As we've remarked before, a Norfolk girl is generally able to take care of herself in any emergency. One Norfolk girl this week had a time getting back her timepiece in Lincoln, but the police came through to her way of thinking in the end.

A Norfolk man who went to Los Angeles seeking the ideal climate, says it rains too much. Six months from now it will be too windy. But it isn't hard to imagine that the Los Angeles folk are telling him they haven't seen such weather in fifty years.

It doesn't look as though the Norfolk U. C. T. boys were going to be disappointed in reaching the 120 mark for their lodge by May 1. To tell the truth, you never saw the Norfolk commercial travelers start after anything yet that they didn't get.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

How good cooking is appreciated!

Being a "good fellow" has cost many a man a good job.

The apple worm that has steady employment is the real aristocrat this year.

There are a lot of misers in the world, from the spendthrift's point of view.

What an uncommonly fine article of common sense a man has the day after he has made a fool of himself.

There is so little excuse for some lies that they can only be explained on the theory that they are told for practice.

One reason there is so much room at the top is because people are always trying to down the ones who get there.

There are many good people, we have noticed that people everywhere claim they have the best neighbors in the world.

"We not only had company yesterday," said a man to a reporter today, "but he had long chin whiskers and said grace at the table."

It doesn't make so much difference to a woman if her husband still loves her or not; the important thing is that he loves no one any better.

When an elderly woman begins a conversation by saying: "I raised my children without help," it is an intimation that she is tired taking care of grandchildren.

It must be a great strain to a woman's powers of self-restraint to invest eleven dollars in a switch, and then keep quiet about it in the effort to prove it grew there.

There is no guaranteed cure for the tobacco habit. However, there are certain brands of cigars which would probably do the work all right, if it were not for the danger of driving the users to drink.

Here is a suggestion: A French princess announces in the papers of Paris that her wedding tressouze will be on exhibition at a certain dry goods store for a period of ten days, and all are welcome to see it. And why not? Goodness knows such gowns and other things cost enough to be put on show, and there is nothing in which the women take greater interest. They would rather see such an exhibit than attend a dishpan sale.