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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

DEMOCRACY'S BID FOR VOTES.

To say that the platform adopted by the democrats at New York is a declaration of principles does not state the facts. When a compromise plank on the klan is adopted by a bare majority of one vote in a count of 1,083 6-20 it speaks for itself as being anything but a principle.

That part of the platform which deals with the republican party was framed and adopted without friction or great effort. Taking a text from "Pat" Harrison's keynote speech, Mr. Cummings and his associates on the framing job merely wrote in lurid language the uttermost of denunciation, and let it go at that.

When the real issues, the League of Nations, the klan, and prohibition, were approached, the spirit of the drafting committee sank. No matter what the sentiment or conviction of any member might be, fear of the outcome sat above judgment, and only a compromise was sought where a ringing expression indicative of a firm stand for principle would have denoted true courage.

Once again the democratic party has sold its soul, this time to William Randolph Hearst. The promise of Hearst to support the nominee of the convention if it would throw over the League of Nations was too glittering a prospect for the lesser breeds who have again come into control of the party.

The Ku Klux Klan is peculiarly an issue within the democratic party. The home and the backbone of the democratic party, the south, is also the home and the backbone of the klan. The following of both in the southern states is about equal.

The party will enter the campaign badly bent on the League of Nations issue, and split wide open on the klan issue.

A new Mr. Bryan was present at the exciting session on Saturday night, a Mr. Bryan bent on compromise. Heretofore, the Peerless Leader has stood unwaveringly for the principle he might at the moment champion, and he has chosen his principles fearlessly.

Tariff, taxation, transportation, labor, agriculture are dealt with at length in the platform. As the speeches in and out of congress forecast, the promise is made that if the democrats return to power they will repeal the Fordney-McCumber tariff, which means a return to free trade, with its blessings of idleness and depression.

An entirely new conservation policy is promised, especially in the matter of reclamation. This will be good news to the farmers on irrigated lands, who saw their hopes go down when Key Pittman damned the stream of legislation by thrusting in a speech at the last moment, and so killed the reclamation bill.

Many of the delegates and visitors at the New York convention who cheered for 10 minutes at the mention of Woodrow Wilson are "dry" leaders and workers. Have they forgotten that Woodrow Wilson vetoed the Volstead act, and that his political last will and testament proposes modification of the Volstead act to allow states to decide for themselves how they want the Eighteenth amendment enforced?

COMPARING THE KEYNOTES.—VI.

One reads in vain the speech of Senator Harrison, looking for commendation or mention of the league of nations. Expressing the pious wish "that we had in the White House the spirit of him whose heart of gold melted in the sympathies of the world," the senator leads one to think he is going to extol the Treaty of Versailles, but he does nothing of the sort. He laments:

"How different were the foreign policies of our government under Woodrow Wilson and under the Harding-Coolidge administration. It is the difference between a keynote and a keyhole policy of statesmanship. In the good old democratic days we did not send spies to peep in, but diplomats to sit in; not observers without authority, but representatives with credentials."

Surely, Senator Harrison must have heard of the trip John Lind made to Mexico. Contrast that gumshoeing expedition with the mission of General Dawes to Paris, or the influence of the American diplomats at Lausanne. But Senator Harrison bewails the outcome of that convention, which brought peace and a new national life to Turkey. So long as only Greece was being licked, it did not matter who was doing the licking, according to the senator. Would he have voted for an appropriation to send an army to help put down the Turks? He voted against a bill to help the farmers in the middle west, but he weeps many tears over Armenia.

Representative Burton at Cleveland covered the situation very fully, and touched the spot accurately when he said:

"But the beginnings of peace must be in Europe itself. No nation of the New World can solve the problems of the Old. It is necessary that a calmer spirit prevail, that peace and not power be the goal and that co-operation based on the consciousness of common interest akin to that which exists among the 48 states of the American union should be recognized as essential. Unfortunately that which seems to be most desired in the settlement of discordant claims in Europe is not an impartial friend but a partisan ally."

And the New York convention acquiesced in the Harrison policy. It cheered madly for Wilson, but it also cheered the speaker who ignored the capstone of Woodrow Wilson's life work.

It would be interesting to have some sort of declaration from Senator Harrison which of the contenders he would have our country favor with its great power. He proposes to rehabilitate German industry at the expense of American workers, by lowering the tariff on German-made wares, but he does not say if France is right or wrong, and that is a question that might well be asked of him, in view of what he says.

LABOR HAS TOO MANY "LEADERS."

While one group of labor warns the democratic convention that the choice must be McAdoo, and another insists with equal vehemence that Smith is the man to name, a third division is planning to go to Cleveland to put a "nonpartisan" nomination back of Robert Marion La Follette.

This is an interesting and fair presentation of the situation so far as organized labor is concerned in the political campaign. The chances are that union labor will remain as it always has been, divided between republican and democratic parties, according to the personal views or leanings of its members. A few union men are socialists, and these are ready to follow the action of the Conference for the Promotion of Political Action, which is the high sounding title of a group that is preparing for the Cleveland gathering on Friday.

The C. P. P. A. is presided over by William H. Johnson, president of the International Association of Machinists, who is a socialist of long standing. Its chief support comes from the Federated Shop Crafts, who are a distinct division of railroad labor, or were before the disastrous strike of 1921. Between this body and the "Big Four" brotherhoods there is little love lost.

"Big Jim" Holland, who spoke for Al Smith at New York, is a staunch supporter of Samuel Gompers, as well as a strong adherent of Tammany.

Just as well to keep these things in mind when listening to the fulminations of any so-called leaders who are now telling what labor is going to do in the coming campaign. Intelligent working men long ago found out that their real hope for success and improvement lay along economic lines, and they know that the economic policy of the republican party is the one that has kept the furnace fires burning, smokestacks belching, and wheels turning in the factories. No red lines have been formed or soup houses opened under republican administrations.

The democrats will name their candidates, regardless of what labor may say, and the Cleveland conference on July 4 will proceed just as its promoters have calculated. Whether La Follette will accept his nomination is yet to be determined.

High above the democratic storm clouds hovering over the New York convention may be seen once more, as always, the battered tip of one certain lightning rod, branded "W. J. B."

Among other elegant samples of laws that are not observed is the one prohibiting the sale or shooting of fireworks before July 3. Young America gets his first lessons in disrespect for law at a very early age.

It is to be feared that Peggy Joyce gets her language twisted. When she declared that she was "married for the last time" she probably meant that this was the last time she married.

General Dawes announces that he will give demagogues no quarter. You have just one guess as to what he will give them. That's the correct answer.

The fact that Charley Dawes plays the violin should not influence the New York convention to nominate a saxophone player.

Speaking of some presidential "dark horses" convinces us that their supporters ought to study up on pedigree.

Passing the buck is so much easier than passing needed legislation that buck passing is usually the rule.

Homespun Verse

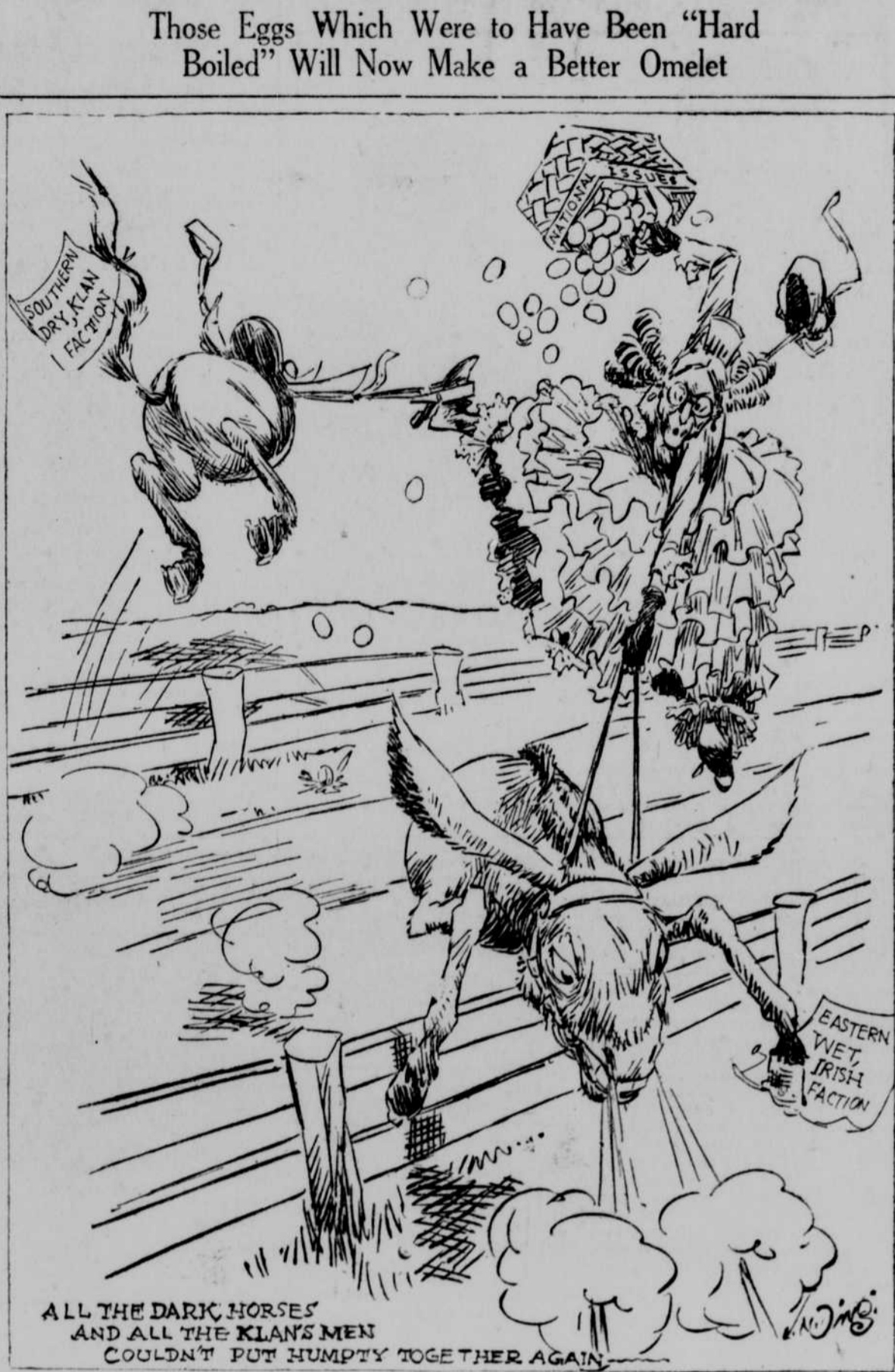
—By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davis

WHAT IS PERFECTION?

What is perfection? The craftsman may try To polish his technique and, laboring, die, And reap the reward that so frequently tends To bring forth the words of his rivals and friends. His merit is doubted; his efforts are flouted, And over his bier palliation descends.

Here dwells his apostle—a capable one— Accepting as flawless the work that's been done; There, picking to pieces with critical hands, The rival; by reason a prodigy—stands. Whose word is delusion—is either intruder? O, God give an answer,—wise God intrusions!

What is perfection? The critical rave Till grass heightens at the edge of the grave,— Till Time the Misanthropist to nothingness cools, And other men come to be prophets and fools.



"From State and Nation"

Democracy and the Klan.

From the New York Herald-Tribune. The democratic convention continued to yawn the other day while another official spellbinder denounced the hated enemy, Senator Walsh did not talk the unmitigated claptrap that fell from the lips of Senator "Pat" Harrison—he is a far shyer man. But he attempted to paramour the same issue, the wickedness of all republicans, and the attempt fell flat. Then, without warning, the klan was mentioned before the convention and the delegates showed clearly enough where their real interest lies. The sudden anti-klan demonstration included fights over two state standards—Colorado and Missouri—and there was an excellent demonstration of how swiftly and violently the flames of religious hatred can be fanned.

There are basic reasons why the klan issue should be more active in the democratic convention than it was in the republican. The klan was organized in the south and directed from the south. It is, in its origin, the product of democratic territory, and it is still far more widely organized in the south than in the north. In the north its successes are still largely local. In New York City its one stronghold is Suffolk county. The only northern states where it is widely organized are Indiana and Ohio.

The issue is accentuated in this democratic convention because of the

Abe Martin



Next t' pickin' up a safety razor blade, th' hardest thing is findin' a drink o' water in a hotel. Look out fer long hairs on your shoulders after your wife gets her hair bobbed. (Copyright, 1924.)

NET AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION for May, 1924, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 73,980 Sunday 76,373

blitter personal contest between McAdoo and Smith. Klan and anti-klan has become the center of this personal struggle. Inevitably, the controversy has gained in heat and perspective has been lost. The klan has received a fictitious importance out of all relation to its spread or power. The republican platform adopted at Cleveland did not mention the klan by name, but it included this broad declaration: "The republican party affirms its unyielding devotion to the constitution and to the guaranties of civil, political and religious liberty therein contained."

This has the clear merit of being a positive affirmation of what the great mass of Americans earnestly believe. A denunciation of the vicious practices of the klan might have been coupled with it, but could have added nothing to the scope of the declaration. There was no occasion for elaborating the point in a republican platform.

The klan issue is thus chiefly a fratricidal issue within the democratic party. Its capacity for arousing bitterness and hatreds has always been demonstrated. As for the reaction at

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large, we do not believe that the historic tolerance of Americans for all religions and races has been seriously disturbed. We think it would be a dangerous and an unfortunate episode in the life of the nation if the present struggle between candidates within the democratic party should result in fastening upon the voters the bitterness and passion of a religious issue, for which the facts of the nation's heart and mind furnish no sufficient cause.

Wet But Temperate, Is Province of Quebec. From a Letter to the New York Times. The following item, taken from Le Soleil, the evening paper of Quebec,

Illinois Central System Dollar: Where It Comes From and Where It Goes

Because railway statistics are confusing to many, we have attempted to tell the story of the receipts and expenditures of the Illinois Central System for 1923 and 1922 in terms of the cents which make up a dollar; that is, to show the source from which the Illinois Central System obtained each dollar it received in 1923 and 1922 and how it paid out each dollar it received, as follows:

Table with columns: WHERE THE DOLLAR CAME FROM, WHERE THE DOLLAR WENT, 1923, 1922. Rows include Transportation of freight, Transportation of passengers, Sources related to freight service, Hotel, restaurant, dining and buffet service, etc.

This statement is made for the purpose of keeping our patrons informed about the Illinois Central System. Similar statements were published in 1922 and 1923. Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited.

C. H. MARKHAM, President, Illinois Central System.

SUNNY SIDE UP Take Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet. History has a habit of repeating itself. That fractional vote over the klan plank in the democratic national convention reminds us of what happened in Nebraska when a half vote in a republican state convention nominated a candidate for governor. Old-timers who remember the republican convention of 1894 will recall the incident. It changed the current of political events in Nebraska for several years.