

Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

A BLOODTHIRSTY PRESIDENT

President Roosevelt in his recent extemporaneous speech at West Point gave expression to a sentiment which suggests an inherent barbarism that will have to be taken into account in weighing his purposes and predicting his future course. His address on "Strenuous Life," delivered some three years ago showed that he gave to virtue the ancient rather than the modern definition and placed physical courage above mental greatness and moral worth. But when in his West Point speech he laid aside all restraint and in a fit of animal enthusiasm said, "A good soldier must not only be willing to fight; he must be anxious to fight. I do not want to have anything to do with him if he is not"—when he said this he turned a light on his inner self and revealed a moral deformity which must shock such of his friends as are not wholly carried away with the bloody and brutal gospel of imperialism. If a "good soldier" must be "anxious to fight," then it naturally follows that an administration which desires to develop good soldiers should surround cadets with influences calculated to infuse into them a fighting spirit—an eagerness for blood-letting. If the president really means what he says we may expect that his second term—if he has one—will be made forever illustrious by the inauguration of a new regime at the military academy and in the army. The ten commandments and the sermon on the Mount will be discarded and the yellow-back novel substituted for them—for "Thou shalt not kill" and "Blessed are the peace-makers" could have no proper place in a school designated to train men to be "anxious to fight."

The president entirely overlooks the distinction between the exercise of force in defence of a right and the use of force for the creation of a right. All the force employed for government, under the American theory of government, is employed in the defense of rights previously ascertained. A small army is necessary to enable the government to protect the inalienable rights of its citizens and the academy at West Point is the training school of officers. It teaches those things which are considered necessary in war, namely, care of men in camp and on the march, and tactics. These cadets are not selected because they are by nature ferocious, they are not kept chained like savage dogs and let loose occasionally to gratify their passion for mischief; they are, on the contrary, men who are educated as a precautionary measure and kept in readiness for a possible contingency. It is no reflection upon the courage, the efficiency or the patriotism of an officer in the regular army to say that he hopes that the army will never be called upon to kill or even wound a single human being, any more than it would be a reflection on a fireman to say that he hopes that there will be no conflagration in his city.

It is unfortunate for the country that the president should have held before its embryo soldiers the lowest rather than the highest ideals of military life. There have been many great soldiers during the last fifteen hundred years—great christian soldiers—who have loved peace, and yet who have in an hour of peril won glory for their country and themselves. These should be eulogized and emulated; evil and only evil can come from idealizing the bloodthirsty soldier.

DON'T FEED HUMAN BEINGS
The Chicago Tribune, a republican paper, in its issue of Tuesday, July 29, printed the following dispatch: Charleston, W. Va., July 28.—(Special.)—Further blows were struck at the striking miners today by officials of the federal court. Federal District Attorney Atkinson secured warrants of arrest for about fifteen persons, charging them with contempt of court in violating the injunction issued by Judge Keller covering the Flat Top coal field, along the Norfolk & Western railroad. The clerk declined to give the names.

Federal Judge Keller issued another injunction against G. W. Purcell, a member of the national executive committee of the United Mine Workers; W. B. Wilson, national secretary; Chris Evans, national statistician; "Mother" Jones, and five others, at the suit of the Gauley Mountain Coal company. It is in the form as those heretofore issued.

It was charged that Purcell, Evans, Wilson, and the others were purchasing and distributing supplies to feed the strikers in this district.

It was thought that when Federal Judge Jackson imposed jail sentences upon a number of labor organizers because of their public speeches, the injunction proceedings had been carried to the extreme in the interests of the coal-miners, but now we are told that the court has ordered that certain persons "were purchasing and distributing supplies to feed the strikers," and on the presentation of this terrible accusation this federal judge issued an injunction!

It is indeed a most offense against the peace and dignity of the land for men to purchase and distribute food to human beings.

There was a time in the history of this country when such an injunction would have agitated the whole people, but it is significant that this remarkable proceeding does not seem to have disturbed the general public. In view of the Philippine bill, the descendants of the revolutionary fathers should offer humble apologies to the descendants of the English gentlemen who insisted on enforcing policies similar to those contained in the Philippine measure.

not be that any considerable number of people would uphold such an order. It is more reasonable to believe that the people have become so thoroughly accustomed to the abuse of the injunction writ that they are prepared for the most radical proceeding on this line.

Representatives of the trust system have had much complaint to make on the score that democratic leaders have sought to stir up discontent among the masses and to array class against class. But these representatives seem to be totally ignorant of the fact that the abuse of the injunction writ, as it is now being abused in the interests of the coal barons, can have but one result, and that is the creation of a chasm between the oppressor and the oppressed which all the ingenuity of American statesmanship will find it difficult to bridge.

GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION.
The democratic party aroused the opposition of the corporations by declaring against government by injunction both at Chicago and at Kansas City. The leaders of the party saw the dangers that lurk in that extraordinary process when invoked by corporations against their employees. Some of the laboring men recognized the fidelity of the democratic party to the rights of the people and supported our ticket, but many of them, blind to their interests, were misled by republican promises, while others yielded to the coercion practiced by employers. There is an old proverb which says that the wise man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself while the foolish pass on and are punished. This proverb in its condensed form reads: The wise man gets the idea into his head, the foolish man gets it in his neck. Judge Jackson of West Virginia is now diligently engaged in punishing those who a few years ago were too indifferent to consider their own best interests or to safeguard their own rights. He seems inclined to decree whatever the coal companies want, but in doing so he is more lawless than the men against whom he directs his stump speeches. A judge has no legal right to convert into a crime that which before his decree was lawful, and even if he had the power to legislate he would have no authority to suspend the constitutional right of the accused to a trial by jury. But Judge Jackson usurps the power (not the right) to make laws and to fix penalties, not according to the constitution, but according to his own warped and biased judgment. A lawless judge is a greater menace to free government than all the petty criminals who come before him in a lifetime. Impeachment proceedings have been suggested and it is to be hoped that the matter will be brought before congress that the people may see whether the republican party will stand by the people and their constitutional rights or by the corporations. The strike is a clumsy and inefficient remedy, hurtful to employ and to the public as well as to the employer, but until arbitration comes and makes the strike unnecessary it is the laborers' only means of defense and while it is employed the judge must be impartial and ready to protect the rights of both sides.

DEMOCRACY IN NEW ENGLAND
There is an earnestness about the New England democracy which bodes well for the future. Most of the gold democrats have returned to the party without demanding concessions or exacting promises. They realize that the Kansas City platform democrats saw farther than they did and they are anxious to assist in protecting the country from the commercial spirit and the trusts as well as from the Fowler bill and the arrogance of the financiers. Nowhere have democrats fought more valiantly or against greater odds than in New England and nowhere is the party making greater gains. The Maine democrats endorsed the Kansas City platform, put up strong state and congressional tickets and are going to make an excellent showing next month.

The presidential nominee of the democratic party in 1904 will be the choice of the democratic national convention, and the democratic national convention will be made up of democrats, not of republicans who wear the cloak of democracy in order to benefit the trusts, corporations, exploiters and land-grabbers.

The Chicago platform plank concerning government by injunction is worth reading again and thinking about in view of Judge Keller's recent injunctions. How do American workmen like the idea of being enjoined from giving food supplies to fellow workmen?

Every time a reorganizer makes a speech it is featured in the republican organs as the right sort of wisdom for democracy to pattern after. The amount of sympathy republican organs have in the success of the reorganizers continues to be one of the interesting features of political life.

If, as President Roosevelt says, a good soldier must not only be "willing" but "anxious" to fight, must a good physician be anxious to see people sick and a good undertaker anxious to have people die?

Administration organs that like to remark that the capital of the United States is now at Oyster Bay should bear in mind that Mr. Morgan is still in Europe. Where Mr. Morgan is there is the capital.

Mr. Roosevelt hit the "bull's eye" five times with a revolver—so the dispatches say—but his aim is not so good when he shoots at the beef trust.

The newspapers that are loudest in denouncing the offer of the Anti-Imperialist League to President Roosevelt are also printing the reports of reprimands given to its officers.

FREE TRADE IN MEN

HOW DOES THIS POLICY BENEFIT THE LABORER?

Immigrants in Hundreds of Thousands Brought to Our Shores and Used to Force Down Wages—Conditions in "Protected" Pennsylvania.

In 1872 the Hon. William D. Kelley of Pennsylvania, a protectionist leader in Congress, said:

"Yes, men are on the free list. They cost not even freight. . . . We promote free trade in men, and it is the only kind of free trade I am prepared to promote."

This has always been the policy of the protectionists—that is of the Republican party, which has ever been the dome of the protected manufacturers and the enemy of the laborer and farmer. Observe now how beautifully their system is working! J. P. Morgan and his coal, steel, railroad and steamship pals, encourage great strikes, when their steamships are dumping thousands of immigrants on our shores every week, willing to work for considerably less than the coal and other strikers have been getting.

For the year ending June 30, 1902, 848,743 immigrants reached our shores. Four hundred and fifty-seven thousand, seven hundred and eleven were from Italy, Austria-Hungary and Russia. They were driven out of these countries partly by a succession of poor crops, but more especially by the very high tariff and internal taxes which prevent the people from obtaining foreign goods except at prices almost prohibitive. Thus the lowest price for refined sugar is 11 cents in Italy, and 7 1/2 cents per pound in Russia and Austria-Hungary, although the same sugar is sold in England for 2 1/2 cents per pound.

Undoubtedly, also, many immigrants came over after reading the glowing promises of high wages in America made in the advertising pamphlets of Morgan's railroad and steamship lines. Certain it is that hundreds of thousands of them are here to flood the labor market and keep wages down and to increase consumption of goods and thus enable the trusts to give prices another lift. It is a beautiful system for the protected manufacturers, mine operators and railroads. As Senator John F. Miller of California said, in 1882:

"The average manufacturer is interested generally in two things—namely, the highest protective tariff and the cheapest labor. . . . The admission of servile laborers into this country without limit . . . means high prices for the products of manufacture and low prices for the labor that produces them."

Is it any wonder that the coal operators refused to arbitrate and that they are but little worried about the outcome of the strike? They are in no great hurry to begin to operate the mines because they are getting from \$7 to \$10 per ton for the surplus coal which they had stored up in anticipation of the strike.

Unquestionably, the mine owners (railroads) could, even in ordinary times, sell anthracite coal at present prices. But they are afraid of the public. They need an excuse furnished by a strike and a pretended shortage of coal. The longer the mines are left idle, the better the public will become accustomed to high prices of coal and the less reduction in prices will have to be made when mining is resumed.

Protected Pennsylvania is the state of great strikes, great riots, low wages, servile laborers, protected mills, tariff-made millionaires and political bosses of the most obnoxious type. It is a great mill, into the hopper of which are poured ignorant foreigners and out of which runs a stream of tramps. A new and large crop of tramps will be supplied by the unfortunates in the present strike, already doomed to failure.

Should times get better in Europe and Immigration from there stop, the protected manufacturers and mine operators could draw on China's horde of cheap laborers. The new Chinese exclusion act, passed at the urgent request of all the labor organizations in the country, to take the place of the expiring Geary law, was punctured so full of holes in the Senate that, in the opinion of able lawyers and the American Federationist, it offers no opposition to the importation of Chinese laborers through our colonies. The lobbies of the steamship companies headed by Mr. Schwerin of the Pacific Mail Co., were on hand in the Senate and spent thousands of dollars to make this bill look like the hoop in the circus after the acrobat had jumped through it, and the Republicans performed the feat, and disregarded the requests of millions of workmen.—Byron W. Holt.

BABCOCK'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Tells Republican Orators to Be All Things to All Men.

The extraordinary division in the ranks of the Republicans in congress on Cuban reciprocity and other political questions is to be carried into the campaign for the election of congressmen.

That reliable organ of the administration, the Washington Star, in its issue of July 21 quotes an interview with Mr. Babcock, the chairman of the Republican congressional committee on the plan of campaign which he is about to inaugurate, in which, after saying the literary feature would be subordinated to the speechmaking, he says:

"The party has new doctrines and new policies. Of course, the people know what they are. They have been

reading about them. But what they have read for the most was the newspaper reports of our doings in congress and President Roosevelt's utterances. While these reports were accurate, newspaper space is so limited they could not explain many questions as intelligent speakers can explain them. . . ."

Commenting on this, the Star, with partisan zeal, waxed enthusiastic on the opportunity this plan offers to fool the voters, for it says:

"One advantage recognized in this plan of campaign is the latitude which will be allowed orators in discussing the issues best suited to particular communities. For example, in the east, Chairman Payne and Representative Dalzell of the ways and means committee will shout for no tariff changes and will whoop it up along that line for all there is in it, with the serene indorsement of the campaign committee. Out west the revisionist orators will demand reduction of some of the higher tariff schedules, such as steel, iron, glass, tin, etc.—still with the serene indorsement of the committee. In Minnesota Mr. Towney will berate Cuban reciprocity, while south of him in Kansas his colleague on the ways and means committee, Mr. Long, will defend that policy.

"There will be labor orators for New Jersey and Pennsylvania, depicting the benefits accruing to labor under Republican policies; there will be anti-trust orators for agricultural districts who will make the welkin ring with denunciation of the octopoli and threats of their extermination. There will be German orators, and Scandinavian orators and Italian orators, each appealing after his own fashion to people to whom he talks in the interests of the Republican party and for the election of a Republican house of representatives."

Here we have the home organ of the administration taking evident delight in this attempt to mystify the people of the United States, and deliberately, through the irresponsible mouths of a lot of trust-paid spellbinders, make the Republicans of the country believe their political aspirations are to be adopted by the men they are invited to elect to represent them. Such an audacious plan has been in part attempted before, but never openly advocated by the newspaper organs of the party "with the serene indorsement of the campaign committee."

With what delight will the Intelligent Republican voter who is fortunate enough to be apprised of this deliberate attempt to deceive them, hang on the words of the orators who assure them that black is white. How enthusiastic he will be for the congressional candidate, who has pledged himself to a platform that is being openly ridiculed and derided just over the border in the adjoining congressional district. What will be the feelings of this intelligent voter when he reads the speech of President Roosevelt and hears the next evening the candidate of his party or the trust-paid spellbinder openly contradicting the president and promising an entirely different policy. The ultra partizan may close his eyes to the consequences and vote the straight ticket, there are others who may be disgusted with the evident insincerity of his party and stay at home. What a picnic it will be for the Democrats. They will jibe and jeer at their unfortunate Republican brethren and ask them, "Where are they at?"

If Mr. Hanna should venture outside of the confines of Ohio, into the wilds of Wisconsin, for instance, where several Republican congressional conventions have declared for tariff revision, will he talk in unison with the platform or with that of his own state and congressional district?

How will the cabinet officers fare under like conditions? For it is stated the president has requested them to take the stump like himself. All doubtless, "with the serene indorsement of the campaign committee," will follow the injunction of being all things to all men.



The tariff ties the consumer's hands while the trusts pick his pocket.

Attorney General Knox is to take the stump with the rest of the cabinet officers at the request of the president. Whether Knox will talk for the trusts or against them is not stated; whether he will be for leaving well enough alone or for revising the tariff will probably depend on the section of the country he visits.

Major Glenn has been found guilty of administering the "water cure" to Filipinos and was sentenced to one month's suspension from duty and fined \$50. Torturing Filipinos is a cheap amusement in the Philippines.

Philosophical Observations

By BYRON WILLIAMS

It was the colored brother who said with philosophical intent, "The world do move!" Turning the horoscope retrospectively we are inclined to agree with the gentleman of Afro-American tendencies. The world do "sutenly" move. Proof of this may be seen in comparing the rulers of countries to-day and ages ago. In the olden days men may have believed as Shakespeare says in "Measure for Measure:" "It is excellent to have a giant's strength, but tyrannous to use it like a giant." With such men as McKinley, for instance, this axiom was accepted as a sentiment which should not alone be recognized but lived. From the nation's capital, the ganglion of the republic, presidents have ruled with honor and credit to the constituents who exalted them. Their suns have set in love despite the bark that bore them over the river, their records clear, their names illustrious and their deeds criterions for Young America to emulate.

Not so the lives, deaths and memories of rulers of olden times. History is replete with stories of sin and shameful deeds committed by the heads of the people. In the reign of Tiberius, Christ, condemned by Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, was crucified. Where is the ruler of to-day who would crucify Christ? Nero applied the torch to Rome and while the shrieks and cries of the tortured swept the air, he sang verses accompanied by the music of his lyre. Later, that his gluttonous eyes might see a chariot race, he smeared the bodies of Christians with pitch and nailed them to poles in his garden, their burning flesh a torch to light the course. In all the civilized world where is there another Nero?

Albion, the Lombard, moved from central Germany and fell upon the Teutons on the north bank of the Danube. The king was slain and Albion marrying the king's daughter, made her publicly drink from the skull of her father, for which she afterward killed him. Imagine if possible, such an act by a civilized ruler of to-day. The mind cannot conjure with one iota of likeness such a comparison.

Treachery rather than love ruled the older rulers. Inca, captured in the conquest of Peru by Pizarro of Spain, offered to fill his cell with gold for his ransom. The offer was accepted and when he had compiled he was choked to death. Fancy America, when the Sultan had paid that debt, grasping the old gentleman about his epiglottis and squeezing the breath of life out of him.

Compare ancient rulers with Lincoln, of whom it was said, "He was a great man, sealing his life with a great cause." Tamerlane of Turkey, a demon and a savage, whenever he took a city, raised a trophy of his success in the form of a pyramid of bleeding hearts. Mahomet II caused his infant brother to be drowned while the baby's mother was congratulating him on his accession. The history of Germany tells how Frederic, during the war with the protestants, butchered and ordered men to be tied back to back and thrown into the sea. Louis XV, the shameful ruler of France, died in 1774, and dying said, "After me the deluge."

William McKinley, a typical representative of the nations at this day in history, dying said, "It is God's way; His will, not ours, be done." Contrast the signs of the times.

The student of history can recall many more unworthy acts of a character which by comparison incline them to the belief that the world moves, and that civilization and brotherhood increases above and beyond such ignoble leadership.

But all men of the days of long ago were not tyrants. Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, prosecuted and told to defile his belief by cursing God, said, "Eighty-six years have I served Him and He has done me nothing but good, and how could I curse Him now, my Lord, and Savior?" Before the flames rose around him he cried aloud thanking God for judging him worthy to drink the cup of Christ.

In France a young man of Autun, was beheaded because he refused to worship the car of an idol. Before his death and as he was about to be struck, his mother said to him, "My son, my son, be steadfast; look up to Him who dwells in heaven. To-day thy life is not taken from thee, but raised to a better."

It is by such faith and teaching that the generations have broadened into an intellectual and a nobler life, one which, when its history is written, shall be devoid of such incidents and characters as the first few related here. Looking backward and then at the present, who can say that the world has failed to move?

EVER and anon some agricultural editor, imbued with enthusiasm and cream, declares corn is king, the hen and her egg are queen and chariot, the potato crop is a crackerjack, or some other kind of a royal fellow, and so on, dubbing rude, pastoral products and live stock in royal terms the whole show.

Patterning after the agricultural editor we desire to remark that just now the cow is queen, not the dry cow, but the Holstein heifer that saunters home in the dusk, comes up the lane laden with so much lactal fluid her bag aches and her teats leak. This is our queen.

The reason our kind of a cow is termed a queen is because the scientists and foodologists declare that milk as a diet for babies, fat folks and others is unsurpassed. For the babies it does no less wonders than for the 200-pounder. It puts glow in the infantile cheek, gives strength and vitality to the muscles and makes the boy romping, that joyous condition in which all new born children are supposed to be found by the enterprising reporter. For the fat adult it cleanses his overloaded stomach, wipes out the overlaid tissues, blots up the cock-tails and makes him young again. It regulates his bowels and makes a man of him instead of allowing him to scrub along with a wry face and dyspeptic stomach.

This is not all to-may-toy by any means. The majority of people eat too much, too hurriedly and with too much of an idea of getting even with the haphery. It is paid for at so much a feast, why not eat all that tastes good? The old admonition that "enough is as good as a feast" is forgotten and the landlord wonders where all the mammoth appetites come from. To show that these people are all wrong and that man can subsist on a sweet smile and a slice of evanescent nothingness eaten just before retiring and at sun-up, several scientifically inclined individuals have almost starved themselves to death. Had they sought the middle-way, rather than the extreme, they would have been happy ever afterward. Milk is that middle way. A colony of invalids on Thimble Island, off Bradford, Connecticut, who have been partaking of nothing but pure milk and thriving on it, are sincere in their praises of the food. One of them was a sufferer for years with nervous diseases. In a month he had been practically cured. He drank ten quarts a day at intervals of half an hour and aside from the inconvenience of carrying a bottle of milk about with him when he went to see a man and expected to be delayed, he is doing well. In fact he says he will never eat solid food again. He has that "up-and-coming" feeling about him that men try to arouse with stimulants. He feels like fighting his mother-in-law all the time.

Milk has a therapeutic value that has long been recognized by physicians. Nervous people should join the milk advocates in naming the cow queen.

APASTOR recently preached a sermon on the subject, "The Anarchy That is in Us All," or words to that effect. The shooting of William McKinley gave rise to much speculation on the cause of anarchy and taught us to think in what breaches we are found lacking for the maintenance of correct government free of anarchy and treason. Strange to say the ideas advanced along this line by many of us are very old. So ancient that Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, said: "Particular care ought to be taken that nothing be done contrary to law; and this should be chiefly looked to in matters of small moment. For small violations of law advance by stealthy steps in the same way as in a domestic establishment trifling expenses, if often repeated, consume a man's whole estate."

Wise old Aristotle has the key to the situation. Carelessness in small matters of law breed great errors. The man who permits his horses to run loose, who calmly sees his chickens scratching in his neighbor's garden, who throws a banana peeling on the sidewalk, who goes hunting on Sunday, who rides his bicycle on the sidewalk, who dumps his ashes in the street, who allows his alley to remain dirty, who avoids paying his taxes—each error minute in itself—is a disregard of law—a breeder of large errors, is a man not wholly purged from anarchy. "For small violations of law advance by stealthy steps," says Aristotle, the wisest philosopher of his age of thought. Are you an anarchist?