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JAS. GRAHAM

Battle in Nebraska.

On July 5th, W. J. Bryan issued a statement on the political situation in this state, the same being printed and sent out under the caption, "The Battle in Nebraska." We would be delighted to publish the statement in full if space permitted, but can only give a resume for the present.

First, he takes up the matter of the proposed calling of a special session of the legislature to submit the adoption of the initiative and referendum, and expresses his disappointment at Governor Shallenberger's decision to not call the special session.

While Mr. Bryan personally favors county option, he believes that on that question, as well as on all other questions of public interest, the people should be permitted to decide. Under the present situation this question cannot be reached in Nebraska for a long time yet by means of the initiative and referendum, hence he favors a platform declaring in favor of county option, and presents a strong array of argument in favor of county option, and presents a strong array of argument in favor thereof.

Following is a brief extract from the statement, a copy of which may be had by calling at The Herald office, or writing us for the same:

"Should our state convention take a position on county option or should it evade the question? Some say that the question of county option should be left to the senatorial and legislative districts, and that the state convention should make no declaration upon the subject. But those who think thus seem to forget that the governor must concur in legislation. He must sign or veto the bills which pass the senate and house, and since it requires a three-fifths vote in both houses to pass a bill over his veto, his position is a matter of vital importance. Is it possible that any will question the propriety of inquiring as to the views of the governor upon an important question which is to come before him? Is it possible for a candidate for governor to go through a campaign without announcing his views on a great question, upon the decision of which he will exert so large an influence? Is a candidate worthy of the confidence of the voters if he is not willing to announce his position on such an issue? And if the announcement is to be made, should it not be made before the primary rather than afterward? Since the declaration of the candidate's position would be equivalent to a platform declaration, what objection can there be to the declaration being made by the party? Is it fair to the candidate to throw upon him the burden of stating the party position on a disputed question? And it is fair to the party to throw upon it the risk of having the candidate state a position antagonistic to the views of the members of the party?"

"As our convention will be held before the primaries it would seem wise for the party to take such a position as it thinks right upon this subject, and then the voters can proceed to select the candidate who is best fitted to carry out the platform."

"But there are several objections to silence at such a time as this. The proposition before the state is an affirmative proposition and silence under the circumstances would be equivalent to a declaration against county option, the only difference being that by silence we would add cowardice to error."

Washington Letter.

BY TAVENNER

Washington, July 9.—One of the crowning sins of the Congress which recently passed into history was its failure to pass income or inheritance tax legislation. All of the first class nations of the world have either an income tax or an inheritance tax, and many have both.

We now raise practically all national revenues by placing a tariff tax on things eaten, worn or used by the people. This system is unjust because it requires the workmen to pay not less than one thousand per cent more taxes in proportion to his income than a millionaire.

Our protective system of course requires the millionaire to pay a tax on that which he eats, wears or uses, but it does not tax him to the extent of one penny on his wealth.

Thus it might, and no doubt frequently does, happen, that a section hand on the railroad with a family of six or seven children pays more towards running the national government, toward building battle ships and maintaining them, toward keeping our standing army, than the millionaire bachelor who is too proud to marry and raise children.

President Taft, and President Taft alone, must bear the brunt of responsibility for the failure of Congress to lack an income tax provision on the Payne-Aldrich bill. A majority of

both houses were in favor of an income tax. Aldrich saw that an income tax amendment would be passed, and as usual, appealed to President Taft for aid.

The President knuckled absolutely to the will of Boss Aldrich, urging Congress to pass a corporation tax instead of an income tax. To fool and console the people the treacherous Aldrich then smilingly consented to a ratification of a constitutional amendment legalizing an income tax, well knowing that ways could be worked out to thwart such ratification, at least within the life of the present generation.

But there still remains another chapter of this legislative swindle that the American people ought to know about. As an excuse for having killed an income tax, President Taft stated that the corporation tax should contain a publicity clause which would enable the government and the people to secure information about the working methods of the corporations. He held out the hope this publicity clause would make it possible for the government to hold the law-breaking trusts responsible in court for their acts.

So Congress passed the corporation tax, but jockeyed the people by purposely failing to provide funds for the handling of data which would come in under the publicity clause. Even this was not enough. Congress, in the session just closed, completed the swindle on the public by striking out the publicity feature all together! And Mr. Taft himself had declared the publicity clause was the most valuable feature in the bill! How long are the people going to stand for such treachery as this?

SENATOR CLAPP'S ILLUSTRATION

Senator Clapp of Minnesota, Republican insurgent, was recently giving me an interview on the justness of tax on incomes. Finally he stopped abruptly and pointed out of his window. "Tavener," he said, "notice that marble wall yonder. Which stone bears the greatest weight? The stone at the bottom or the one at the top? Before you answer I will add that is just the way it is without an income tax. Until the present tariff schedules are revised along lines of justice, and until we have an income tax to take some of the burden of taxation from the man at the bottom, that stone wall will stand as a deadly parallel to existing conditions."

THE ISSUE

Two big state conventions were held recently. Pennsylvania Republicans declared as follows on the tariff:

"We believe that the tariff bill recently enacted is in accord with the Republican policy expressed in its last national platform. We agree with President Taft that it is the best tariff the Republican party has ever passed."

Said the Ohio Democrats: "We demand a revision of the present unjust and oppressive tariff, reducing the rates so as to lower the prices imposed on the consumers. Consumers, it is up to you. Think the matter over!"

Our Lincoln Letter

Lincoln, Nebr., July 11.—(Special Correspondence.) The condition of the various state institutions at the present time is of interest to the taxpayers of the state, and it is only right that they should be taken into the confidence of the state administration. Governor Shallenberger has every reason to be proud of the record of the state institutions as they have been managed by his appointees. This statement is borne out by facts that are matters of public records.

There are "more wards of the state in state institutions today than ever before in the state's history. The cost of maintenance, as every one knows, has been greatly increased. In July 1908, with fewer people to care for than now, the Sheldon administration had upon the institutional payrolls 533 employees. In July, 1910, the Shallenberger administration has 483 upon the institutional payrolls, a decrease of 50, notwithstanding the material increase in the growth of the state institutions. This saving has been brought about by the personal direction of the governor, who directed the heads of the state institutions to dispense with the services of every one who was not absolutely necessary for the proper management of the institutions.

County option may or may not be an issue that political parties should take a definite stand upon. That is a question men of all parties must decide for themselves. But in view of all the facts it would seem that any charge that Governor Shallenberger is in any way allied with the liquor interests must fall of its own weight.

Governor Shallenberger has appointed Rev. I. F. Roach of Lincoln to be a member of the State Normal School board, succeeding H. M. Childs of York, whose term has expired. Rev. Mr. Roach's appointment will bear date of Sept. 1st., in order to give the board as now constituted, opportunity to wind up business on hand with which it is familiar. Rev. Mr. Roach is pastor of St. Paul's M. E. Church in Lincoln.

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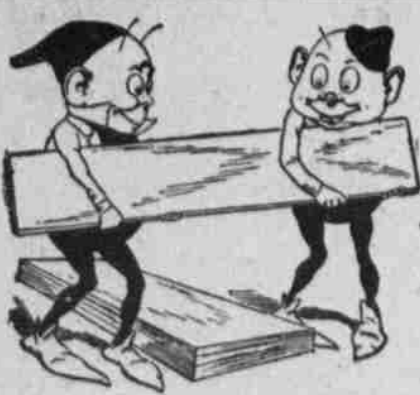
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