

SILENT ON THE SHORTAGE.

Fusionists Painfully Silent on the \$100,000 Deficiency in the Public Funds.

Bryan Embraces the Tammany Tiger and Boss Croker is Winking the Other Eye.

Omaha, Oct. 1.—Governor Poynter and the fusion newspapers, as well as all of the fusion leaders, are painfully silent on the report that at the end of Poynter's term there will be a deficit or shortage in the public funds of no less than \$100,000.

Their answer to this is abuse of Republicans, but abusing Republicans will hardly satisfy the tax payers, who will have to go into their pockets and pay the bills.

The fusionists have boasted of the savings they have made in managing the state institutions. How does this compare with facts?

Four years ago they pointed to the reduction in the amount asked of and appropriated by the legislature. The result was that at the end of the first two years there was a deficiency approximating nearly \$40,000. Two years ago they came to the legislature with a demand for more money than had ever before been required, with a large deficiency and any number of unpaid claims. The legislature two years ago, not only made a large deficiency appropriation, but appropriated more than \$2,000,000 for the two years ending in 1901. All this has been squandered and it will require \$100,000 more to pay unpaid bills and labor claims.

The shortage in the penitentiary fund alone will amount to about \$30,000. There are at least 11 institutions that will come in with shortages ranging all the way from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and in some instances the amount will be even larger.

This amount added to the amount appropriated will run the expense of maintaining these institutions to a higher figure than has ever before been reached in the history of the state.

These statements are based, not upon observation alone, but upon the showing made by the official records in the auditor's office at Lincoln.

It is useless, therefore, for the fusion leaders to deny them, for two reasons: First, because they are absolutely true and substantiated by the official records; and, secondly, because it is only a few months until the legislature meets and then all the facts will have to come out. When the legislature meets and the various institutions make their wants known, when the request for a deficiency appropriation of at least \$100,000 is made, as it surely will be, perhaps those who may doubt the truthfulness of the statements now will be fully convinced of it then.

SADLY INCOMPETENT.

As an executive officer Governor Poynter is notoriously incompetent. This fact so openly manifests itself that it is hardly necessary to call attention to it. Aside from extravagance, it is a fact patent to everyone that in the exercise of executive authority he has been both weak and vacillating. Every time he has had occasion to exercise this prerogative he has evinced pitiable weakness. His attention has been called to corruption and malfeasance on the part of some of his appointees, but in each instance he has signally failed to apply the lawful remedy. The manner in which he handled the management of the Institute for the Feeble Minded Youth at Beatrice has become almost a public scandal. His appointees have learned that, no matter how they may violate the law, all they have got to do to keep from being removed by the governor is to show fight and he will weaken. This accounts for the continuous turmoil and clash between the governor and his appointees ever since he assumed the executive chair. Such conditions as these must of necessity result in the demoralization of the public service. As the head of a family and as the head of a business establishment must, when the occasion requires, be resolute, so, too, the head of a state government must be. Vacillation in any position in life where business customs, where law or where organized society requires resolution, must ultimately be attended by results inimical to the individual and public alike. Nebraska is a large state with large business interests. The chief executive not only has supervisory control over the expenditure of mil-

lions of dollars of the people's money, but he is entrusted with the responsibility of executing all laws on the statute books. The time may never come when vacillation on the part of the executive might endanger life and property, thus this, even in the best regulated communities, is a danger always to be reckoned with. But the time is always at hand, in the management of domestic affairs, when weakness of this character means corruption on one hand and increased expense to the taxpayers on the other. That this deduction is logical is proven by results attained under the Poynter administration.

DISTORTING FACTS.

It remained for Mr. Bryan to attempt to make political capital out of the strike of working men in the coal regions. Everybody else knows it to be a result of a difference of opinion between the employers and their employes, not over a reduction in wages, but over an increase in wages, a question with which politics has nothing to do. If Mr. Bryan would only stop and think for a moment he would readily realize the folly of his deductions. In the first place workmen cannot strike unless they are at work. In the second place a strike that is due to a demand for more wages simply means that times are good and that workmen want what they think is their share of prosperity.

Then, too, on the subject of strikes Mr. Bryan and his party should go a little slow. Under Democratic rule, from 1892 to 1896, 282,000 laborers went on a strike against a reduction in wages. More than 300,000 were thrown out of employment without any wages through the operation of the Wilson law—a Democratic free trade that closed more than half the factories in the United States and was an incumbrance on every industrial enterprise and domestic industry.

It is well remembered that in the large cities free soup houses had to be maintained to alleviate the suffering of the masses. Many citizens of Nebraska will recall that in the city of Omaha a place known as Rescue hall, a large building on Douglas street, was maintained by charity and was each day and night called upon to feed and shelter hundreds of idle people from the storm and cold, all willing to work but none able to find employment. These were Democratic days. Bryan may have forgotten them, but there are thousands of others who were idle then and are at work at good wages now who have not and never will. The impression made upon them was one they will ever remember. What is true of Omaha is true of all the large cities, especially those cities whose population is largely employed in manufacturing industries and which felt the full force of the terrible suffering and distress at that time.

It will go into history that under the McKinley administration not one of the 10,000,000 wage earners of this country went on a strike against a reduction in wages. There have been very few strikes in the last four years, and those that have occurred have been caused, if over a dispute about wages, not by a decrease, but as the result of a demand for an increase.

Mr. Bryan's solicitude for labor, while advocating free trade and spurious money—both fatal to the welfare of the artisan—brings the sublime and the ridiculous into very close contact. CAVORTING WITH TAMMANY HALL.

In a public speech Boss Croker of Tammany Hall stated that it is the intention of Tammany Hall to give Bryan on his forthcoming visit to New York "the greatest reception ever given a presidential candidate."

This is a big contract Tammany Hall has taken, but it ought to be equal to the occasion. It has stolen enough from the people of New York City in the many years it has had its tentacles fastened upon them to pay for most anything. At the end of its many years of existence it enjoys the unenviable distinction of being the most iniquitous and corrupt organization of its kind the world has ever known. For years it has been a mentor of public thieves and a czar in New York politics. It has existed on the spoils of office from the date of its birth. The story of the "Forty Thieves" is, with the exception of a numerical discrepancy, a true history of Tammany Hall. Richard Croker, chief of Tammany Hall, is as imperious in Democratic politics in the Empire State as the czar of Russia is in the government of the Russian empire. His edict is law and his command and orders are as exacting of obedience as any imperial decree could possibly be. When Tammany Hall speaks New York Democracy bends the knee.

Bryan and Tammany Hall! What a theme for contemplation! What a picture for Nebraska! A nice picture, isn't it for "reformers" to look upon? The Tammany tiger snarled and snapped at Grover Cleveland because that gentleman refused to be dictated to and insisted, even in politics, on his right to choose his associates. But it has finally succeeded in luring the "boy orator" into its den. Cleveland did a

few things for which he deserves to be remembered and one of these was when Tammany Hall demanded as a price for its support all the appointive offices in that state, when he boldly declared that "I'll be doubly damned if I'll do it." Whether he meant that the public would so treat him or meant that he would not make such a personal sacrifice has never been explained.

So it is today. If Tammany is for Bryan it is simply a question of spoils. It exists on spoliation, it lives for it, it has no other or higher object in politics. That has been its price for support in the past and it is its price now. It is but consistent with historical facts to assume that the bargain has been made. When Tammany shouts it is when there is plenty of provender in sight, plenty of hay in the manger.

But how will Mr. Bryan's Nebraska constituents look at it? Will they make room in their affection for that hydra-headed monster, Tammany Hall? Will they follow Bryan in making a truce with the foulest beast that ever strode the arena of politics, the Tammany tiger? Will they join him in a compromise with what for years has been known as a menacing evil? Will they uphold a man who reforms by going over to the enemy? The mountain didn't come to Mohammed and it is just as certain that Tammany Hall didn't come to Bryan.

It was only a few weeks ago that David B. Hill, in speaking of Tammany, said it was "a monster of ignorance, tyranny and persecution."

This is the same Tammany that, according to Croker, is going to give Bryan one of the "greatest receptions ever given a presidential candidate."

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