

Commoner Comment.

Extracts from W. J. Bryan's Paper.

THE PRICE OF HARMONY.

"The crying need of the hour is harmony," about the reorganizers. If we answer that they are the ones who destroyed the harmony of the party we are accused of recasting bygone. If we ask them what they will charge for harmony we are accused of being disturbers of the peace. There can be no satisfactory harmony that does not rest upon an honest understanding. What have the reorganizers to offer as a basis of harmony? First, that the party will adopt their ideas on the money question—the ideas that led them out of the democratic party into the republican party or into the Palmer and Buckner party, which on the money question was even worse than the republican party. It means merely the suspension of the advocacy of free coinage, it means the complete turning over of the financial system to the financiers. If we dare to condemn the Fowler bill we are interfering with harmony; if we object to banks of issue we are alienating the bankers; if we protest against branch banks we are disturbing the confidence of the monied interests; if we point out the dangers of the bill making the silver dollar redeemable in gold we are putting stumbling blocks in the way of getting together.

It may as well be understood now as learned hereafter that harmony means full and complete surrender to the financiers. The next step demanded is that the nominees for office, national, state, county and precinct, shall have the confidence of the "business interests," which the reorganizers consider to mean men who opposed the platforms of 1896 and 1900 and lent either active or passive aid to the republicans. Out of the millions of men who supported the republican and democratic tickets in 1896 not one can be found who sufficiently enjoys "the confidence of the business interests" to make him an acceptable candidate to the general assembly. Why are they in power they insist that candidates for congress, for the United States senate, for the state legislature and for all state and local offices shall be men who are themselves connected with the corporate interests or men dominated by those who are connected with the corporate interests.

But is this sufficient? Not quite. The organization must be turned over to them and corporation men must be put in charge—men who secure campaign funds by mortgaging the party to the corporate interests. They employ the campaign funds to corrupt votes, purchase election officials, etc., etc.

When the money question was subordinated to imperialism in 1900 the few gold democrats who came back insisted that they and men like them should be given prominence in the campaign, and they resisted the activity of men who were known to be identified with the fight for bimetalism. If that demand was made when the Chicago platform was not only affirmed, but reiterated, the men who are expected if the party consents to the suppression of its views in order to secure harmony?

The reorganizers constantly refer to the victories of 1884 and 1892. To say that they do so honestly would be a reflection upon their intelligence, for they know that the situation was directly opposite. The men who were what it is now. The party had not divided over a great issue, and the leaders had not been in open alliance with the enemy. The men who were in the career of Arnold would overlook the change that took place in the sentiment toward him after he became an employe of the English government, and no man could be expected to have a record of those who deserted the party in 1896 without taking into consideration the change which their conduct wrought upon the men who administered them. Whether they were honest or not is not the question. If a democrat becomes a republican he becomes unavailable for a democratic office or for the inauguration of a democratic president as he remains a republican, no matter how honest or conscientious he may be in making the change. If he returns he must give evidence of a change of heart before he will be trusted again.

Even the election of 1894, disastrous as it was, was only a feeble illustration of the change that took place. It comes again under the leadership of those who were recreant in recent campaigns. In 1894 the party had to carry the gross inequities of Mr. Cleveland's administration, but the men who were the party had not at that time entirely alienated the confidence of the masses by desertion. Even men who were faithful to the principles of the party went down to defeat because of the apathy aroused by Mr. Cleveland's subservience to Wall Street influences. What will be the result if the men who were loyal in 1894 and 1900 are required to rally under the standard of those whom they distrust, and are required to surrender their deep convictions and condemn their own votes? If the party (although it polled a million more votes than ever before) could not win when 10 per cent of the members of the party were dissatisfied, how can it hope to win when 90 per cent of the members are dissatisfied? Harmony on the terms proposed, and no better terms will be proposed, means not only the abandonment of principle, but the promise of success, but it means a failure to secure success—the trading of a birthright for a mess of pottage without getting the pottage. The "anything-to-win" policy is an insult to those who have convictions and it is an insult to those who are sane.

Wanderers in the desert, the men who made the republican party are in the grave; the men whom the republican party made are in congress. The republicans ought not to rest satisfied until they unmake a number of those who represent the party in the house and senate.

Newport "society" has just experienced the delightful thrill of a dinner at which a monkey was the guest of honor. The monkey felt perfectly at home.

The men who bored holes in the bottom of the democratic ship insist that they be given command of the vessel because they know just where they bored the holes.

The Philippine bill as presented provides for the taxation without consent and without representation. George III. has been a long time dead, but a belated claim for vindication should be filed.

The steel worker with his 10 per cent increase in wages still has cause to ponder when he bumps up against the 40 per cent increase in foodstuffs.

Perhaps they call the beet sugar industry an infant because the most of the work in the beet fields is done by little boys and girls.

IS MERE PHILIPPINE "MENT" BILL?

Two Most Important Measure Drawn Up Deceive—Fourth of June in the Islands.

The Philippine "civil government" bill as it emerged from the conference committee and became a law is a piece of legislative patchwork far from creditable to the American congress.

The two most important features are those which deal with the money of the islands and with the legislative body representing the people.

As to the first, the senate provision for the silver standard and the house provision for the gold standard are replaced by a paragraph which will enable the commission to issue a subsidiary coinage, leaving the Mexican silver dollar to take its chances as a standard as it has done for years.

It is plain that this paragraph is a miserable makeshift. It was necessary to the credit not only of the insular government, but also of individuals and corporations that a standard should be established and that it should be the gold standard.

The great boast of our republican statesmen has been that in the legislation which they would perfect they would do the people of the archipelago immense good in a material way and would shower upon them such blessings of prosperity that they never more would think of independence, but would cleave to us as their benefactors so firmly that no force could ever wrench them away.

Yet the very first serious attempt to legislate for them is a wretched fiasco in that it fails to provide the most important of all things for the development of the resources and the highest economic prosperity of the islands.

As to the native legislative chamber, the conference bill grants it only if the islands remain peaceful for two years after a census has been taken.

This is equivalent to indefinite postponement, because the time when the census shall be taken and the question whether the islands are peaceful are left entirely to the administration.

It follows, therefore, that the autocratic military regime is perpetuated indefinitely by deliberate act of congress.

All the fine things that we have heard about the rights of the natives, etc., are mere chaff. The bad fact underlying the whole matter is autocratic presidential rule, practically irresponsible, with the commission as its nominally civil hand of velvet and the army as his one effective hand of iron, with the people of the islands as subjects, having no rights which the autocrat is bound to respect.

This bill is an interesting commentary upon the spectacular performance on the Fourth of July in the islands, when officials of the war department said "military control of the Philippines ceased absolutely" and Gen. Chaffee "surrendered his functions" with great pomp and circumstance.

There are some Filipinos and a good many Americans who were not greatly deceived by this stage play.

AN ATTEMPT TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

The Republicans are in a mess, they are unable to agree among themselves on the most important legislation. The exposure of the looting of the Cuban treasury and the Sugar trust, the bribing of Gomez and the cruelties in the Philippines have put them on the defensive.

With admirable audaciousness they attempt to divert public opinion from their own sins of omission and commission by charging the Democrats with attacking the army. The President sets the pace by making a stump speech at Arlington, and the great trust-controlled daily newspapers take up the refrain. The little organs edited by the postmasters give tongue in union.

This effort to put the Democrats in the attitude of assailing the army will prove abortive; the common soldier is all right, and most of the officers, from Gen. Miles down. They obey orders; it is the duty of the soldier.

The Democrats do protest and will forever protest against the issuing and carrying out of orders to make "a howling wilderness" of any territory under the American flag.

They protest that to "kill all over ten," to kill prisoners, to torture by water cure or other Spanish method, is not war, it is vandalism; it is not American, it is barbarous. If not ordered by the highest authority it should never have been perpetrated by American soldiers, except perhaps in isolated cases.

The Democrats believe in keeping the military authority subordinate to the civil power. No republic can exist that does not do so. The Democrats intend to investigate these cruelties when they have the power, and punish the guilty, however high in command. They will investigate the expense accounts, both at home, in the Philippines and in Cuba. The transport service and the purchase of supplies will be investigated. They will find out who received the large sums that have been raised by extreme taxation and if the money was squandered on high living in Cuba and elsewhere. Who was "fixed" to stay out of politics and who was aided to stay in. What secret intrigue set free the Hanna pet, Rathbone and Neely? Why buencaminio was ordered by the administration to come to this country to testify, when the request of the Democrats for other witnesses was refused. A page might be filled with other details that will be investigated, and from the amount of evidence that has been forced to the surface there is a vast amount behind.

To do this the Democrats must elect a majority in the next house of representatives, and this they will do, if the people agree with them that the curtain should be raised and the truth known.

No wonder the Republicans are on the defensive and are endeavoring to switch the thoughts of the people from their misdoings by claiming that the military is being attacked. They know, however, that it is the orders issued to the army that is the main point and the officers of the army, for their own honor and reputation, and the honor of the United States will welcome the change.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CUBA.

Developments Show Systematic Looting of the Island's Treasury. The exposure of the looting of the Cuban treasury and the Sugar trust, the bribing of Gomez and the cruelties in the Philippines have put them on the defensive.

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HOW BRAVE MAN DIED.

J. A. Adams Wandered Away from His Camp on the Colorado Desert and Perished for Want of Water—Body Not Found.

J. A. Adams, a former resident of Arizona and a grandson of old John Brown, whose "soul goes marching on," wandered away from his camp on the Colorado desert on May 19 and perished for want of water. The story of his disappearance is graphically told by Charley Fay, one of the party, as follows:

"We went out on the desert prospecting for gold. An Indian whom we had employed to show us where to find water on the desert caught his foot in the stirrup while mounting his horse and fell on his back.

"The horse started to run, dragging the Indian by one foot. As the ground was covered with jagged rocks the Indian would have been killed had not Adams run up and taken the horse by the bit. The animal, wild with fright, reared and plunged. Adams was twice thrown upon the rocks, and once the horse's hoofs hit him, but he still gripped the bit until Mr. Lawrence and I succeeded in releasing the Indian.

"After the danger was over, Adams sat down upon a rock and began laughing, and when asked if he was hurt, he replied, 'Oh, no, I'm only a little tired, but I guess you'll have to help me set this arm.' We then started to camp. Adams riding about 25 miles that afternoon and never once complaining, though we could see by his drawn features that he was suffering in pain.

"At dusk we camped for the night, and within an hour the injured man was delirious and raving like a madman. Some time during the night he left camp. As soon as we discovered that he had gone we made every effort to find him, but could not do much until daylight, when we found his tracks in the sand. We followed the tracks all that day and until about 9 o'clock the next day, when we came to a hard, rocky place at the foot of some rock hills. Here we lost the trail and try as we might we could not find it again.

"For three days we searched the hills, but not a trace of the man could we discover, though we well knew that somewhere within a radius of twenty or thirty miles lay the body of one of the bravest men that ever lost his life in that great death-trap, the Colorado desert."—Yuma Sentinel.

PATHETIC ENDING OF GRANDSON OF JOHN BROWN.

THE LAST KENTUCKY DUEL.

Was Fought in '66 Between Capt. Desha and Lieut. Kimbrough.

The death of Capt. Jo Desha at Cyndiana a few days ago recalls a duel which was fought in Scott county soon after the close of the civil war—a cold day in March, 1866—in which Capt. Desha and Lieut. Kimbrough of Cyndiana were the participants. Capt. Desha had served in the Confederate army, and Lieut. Kimbrough was in the Federal army. They met and fought on the line dividing Fayette and Scott counties, on the James K. Duke farm. Lieut. Kimbrough was the challenging party. Two shots were exchanged. At the second shot Kimbrough was shot through the upper part of the thigh, the ball passing through the body. He recovered from the wound, but always limped afterward. He died a few years ago in Texas. At the time of the duel Capt. Desha's left arm was useless in consequence of a serious wound received during the war.

Desha and Kimbrough were neighbors and schoolmates, and the trouble began between them when at school. It was renewed after the war, the duel resulting. Major Harvey McDowell of Cyndiana was Desha's second and Major Long acted for Kimbrough. Dr. Benedict Keene, then a prominent physician of Georgetown, was surgeon to the latter. Smith and Warren acted for Warren Smith and George W. Downing of Georgetown. This was probably the last duel ever fought in Kentucky.

Not a Bit Pretty.

A commander in the navy, who is now cruising with the South Atlantic squadron, sent home to his Philadelphia wife the other day a description of the women of Montevideo. "These women," he wrote, "are as attractive as clouds of earth. They are swarthy, angular, dull of eye, and stolid of countenance. But what I wish particularly to tell you of is the molar upon their faces. Not one in twenty but has, on her cheek, or lip, or temple, a mole covered with long hairs. They are proud of these moles and regard them as beauty spots. It is said, indeed, that those girls who are moleless will resort to strange expedients in order to raise the ugly little growth upon their faces. The women of Montevideo twist the long hairs upon their moles proudly, as a cavalman twirls the ends of his moustache."

Give Different Pronunciation.

Speaker Henderson, a Congressman Hepburn are both Iowa men, but they do not follow the same rules as to the pronunciation of proper names. The other day Mr. Hepburn had the floor and Mr. Henderson desired to ask a question. "Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas," said Hepburn, pronouncing the last two letters of the state name as though it were Kansas. "The gentleman from Arkansas has the floor," said the speaker.

Case of True Friendship.

Harry Swartz and Sidney Bernheim, fellow students in a New York high school, were great friends and also strong rivals for a scholarship, the former being the son of a tradesman in a small way and the latter belonging to a wealthy family. Bernheim outstripped his chum by a small margin, but withdrew from the school in order that Swartz might get the scholarship, which he did.

When a man has stomach trouble he is never at a loss for something to occupy his mind.

THE PRESIDENT DEFEATED.

The Senate Refuses to Act on His Recommendation for Cuba.

The defeat of the Cuban reciprocity legislation is a great blow to the administration of President Roosevelt. His attempt to coerce congress to do his bidding, which he emphasized in two messages to that body, has been repudiated by a large faction of the republican party in the interest of the Beet Sugar trust. It is now stated that the President will call an extra session of congress. The members of the Beet Sugar faction in the house of representatives, joining with the Democrats, passed the bill reducing the duty 20 per cent on Cuban products, with another section added which was insisted on by the Democrats, repealing the differential duty on refined sugar. The republican members of the Senate found themselves in the same dilemma as the members of their party in the house of representatives. They were compelled to take the bill as it came from the house, with the Democratic anti-trust section, or take the responsibility of no legislation.

The Democratic position is unique; the members of that party voted in the house and are ready to vote in the senate, for the President's recommendation for reciprocity with Cuba. But knowing that this 20 per cent reduction on Cuban products would in the case of sugar, injure in a great measure to the benefit of the trust, they compel at the same time the repeal of the differential duty, under which the trust is allowed to collect about \$5,000,000 additional tax from the American consumer, and if the countervailing duties are added that sum can be multiplied fourfold. This legislation, if enacted, would probably reduce the Cuban planter somewhat and would reduce the price of refined sugar in the United States as much as more, as the Sugar trust would gain on the 20 per cent decrease of duty it would have to pay on imported raw sugar from Cuba.

This double reduction did not suit the Sugar trust, nor did it suit its allies, the administration senators.

If President Roosevelt would really gain to aid the Cubans and strike a blow at one of the great trust interests, why did he not recommend a reduction of the tariff on sugar equal to the advantage the trust would gain by the 20 per cent reduction on Cuban raw sugar?

It would not, of course, under the circumstances, give a victory to the Republican campaigner who would be the consumer of United States would be

THE PRESIDENT DEFEATED.

Where the True Gospel is Found.

The integrity of Americanism, of the loyal, faithful and saving sort is in the creed of the Populist party, and the present epoch calls strongly for the preaching of that creed broadly from one end of the republic to the other. "Death to monopoly" is the battle cry that should be foremost and never abandoned until "equal rights to all and special privileges to none" is again the rule and the practice of the government.

Services in Historic Church.

Harriet Beecher Stowe's nineteenth birthday was celebrated by negro residents of San Francisco in the old church on Stockton street, from the very pulpit where the patriot, Thomas Starr King, preached forty years ago to hold California within the union and against the extension of slavery.

Long Terms of Office.

Should Sir Michael Hicks-Beach remain in his present office for another four years, and thus bring his tale of budgets up to eleven, he will have equalled Mr. Gladstone's record and surpassed that of any other English chancellor of the exchequer during the last 190 years.

Steel Trust Profits.

The Steel Trust gives out its profits for the year as nearly \$151,000,000; forty millions more than last year, and yet this is an infant industry, sucking at the protection bottle which a Republican congress would give it.

PHILIPPINE "MENT" BILL.

Conscientious Elinor.

Let all admirers of rugged puritan recollect a lady named Elinor.

Such as Elinor would like to comply with the congressional request for a detailed account of the Cuban expenditures during American occupation, he is unable to do so because he cannot find legal authority for the employment of typewriters to make copies of the accounts.

Without such legal authority Elinor would submit to have his joints racked and his toenails extracted with pincers before he would hire the typewriters and furnish the information.

Strict regard for the law, it may be observed, has always been Elinor's long suit.

It was that sentiment, undoubtedly, which prompted his approval of General Wood's payment of \$35,000 to Elinor. Elinor feared that if Maximo were not paid that money he might raise a rumpus and infract the law.

What Might Have Been Expected.

The gathering lumber trust employes, nominally known as the Michigan Republican state convention, has, of course, declared powerfully in favor of continuing what it terms "the beneficial operations" of the protective tariff. The beneficent operation of the tariff on lumber is what enables the trust to pay \$25,000 each for United States senatorships, thus creating successive eras of great prosperity for republican members of the Michigan legislature. It is quite natural that these gentlemen and their friends should shout valiantly for the retention of a source of income so easy and assured.

May Depend on the People.

"My opinion is that we shall hear from the people in unmistakable terms," Senator Hanna gave expression to this sentiment in a burst of anger at the failure of his party to assist Cuba, but he spoke better than he knew and undoubtedly touched the truth. His expectation is well founded, for it is unlikely that the people of the United States will endorse the congressional neglect of Cuba and condone the extravagant appropriations amounting to \$1,000,000,000.

A Record to Boast Of.

Speaking the other day of defects of the memory, Senator Dillingham told the story of a noted character in Vermont, who once sent a message by the Senator to his father in these words: "You tell the governor that although I am getting along in years, I can see just as well as I ever could; I can hear just as well; my mental powers are unimpaired; and if I have ever forgotten anything, I must say that I cannot remember what it was."

THE PRESIDENT DEFEATED.

Executive to Sail in "Most Luxuriously Appointed Vessel Afloat."

"The yacht Mayflower, the official yacht of the United States and the ocean home of President Roosevelt, after undergoing alterations that cost \$50,000, is ready for sea. She is at Brooklyn navy yard and is one of the most luxuriously appointed vessels afloat."

Neither the Hohenzollern-Kaiser William's floating palace—nor any of the other royal yachts has staterooms and saloons more beautiful or costly than those of President Roosevelt's official craft. The Mayflower has been refitted and refurbished completely from stem to stern.

"The president's quarters are situated aft, on the main deck, and include six staterooms for the exclusive use of himself, Mrs. Roosevelt and their children. Two larger of these staterooms have been very lavishly furnished.

"Special attention has been given to the decoration of the bulkheads and the paneling, which are covered with expensive silk in many colors."—New York dispatch.

Truly the imperialistic sentiment at Washington is strong! What do the taxpayers and wage-earners of the country think of the spending of thousands of dollars in fitting up one of the "most luxuriously appointed vessels afloat" for the exclusive use of the President of this Republic? If the days of simplicity, honesty and economy in government have not disappeared forever, the voters at the coming elections will rebuke this ostentatious extravagance of the most corrupt and trust-ridden administration in our history.

Appointive and Elective Judges.

There are some undeniable advantages in the system of appointment, but nevertheless we constantly find the appointing power prostituted in various ways. The tendency of the times is to treat patronage, or the power of appointing to office, as a personal perquisite rather than a public trust. That such trusts are often well administered is quite true, but they are so often abused that in nearly all the states the people have gradually taken to themselves the task of electing their judges, notwithstanding the botches they so often make.

Making and Unmaking Trusts.

The most important observation contained in the president's Pittsburg address is that in which he declares that new legislation is needed to restrict trusts and combinations, and to restrain trade and industry.

Probably 99 per cent of the men people will agree with the president on the proposition that there should be additional legislation to restrict trusts and combinations, but most of those who are earnest in this hostility