

The Plattsmouth Journal

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If President Roosevelt will take as much pains in explaining certain administration doings as he has in elucidating Judge Taft's religious views everyone would feel much easier.

Property dodge and business interest scheme, proving to be the most potent arguments to win votes in national elections, ever adopted by political jugglers. It will fool the suckers all the time. Just think of the egotism of a lot of pie eaters, to put forward the claim that all property is due to their pie eating capacity.

The 26th is Thanksgiving. One thing to be thankful for is, that while Teddy has endorsed the issue of bonds to replenish the treasury in times of peace the resources of this great country are boundless and by hard knocks the American people will be able to pay them. But there must be no kicking, because the people have said by their ballots that they want four years more of my "policies—easily as they are.

Candidates are still looming up for speaker of the house of representatives and chief clerk. Probably each and everyone of them is qualified, but they should bear in mind the responsibilities that devolve upon each of these positions. We are personally acquainted with two for speaker we know that are well fitted for the place, and we know of about the same number for chief clerk that are well adapted in every way to perform the duties. They should be well satisfied in their own minds that they are the proper men for these responsible positions.

Is Socialism a Dream.

Nothing is easier than to imagine Senator Deliver toying with socialism, using it as the foil of his wit and sharpening the appetite of his hearers for more of Deliver, whether or not they agreed with him in his conclusion that socialism is a dream, says the St. Louis Republic:

It is not necessary to admit that socialism is a matter to cause alarm or that it is likely to assume proportions alarming in extent. Politically this country is merely a manifestation of discontent with the existing order of things. The discontent, always with the existing order of things the socialists assure us, is likely to be numerically stronger. If the two great parties nominate men whose persons or views are likely to antagonize many, and weaker if the two candidates have merit. The figures seem to indicate that the rush to socialism in the recourse of the dissatisfied as well as the affirmation of those who believe in its principles.

However, socialism has principles and, fundamentally, they are well defined. That they do not represent a dream is told in the successes of the socialists politically in Germany, France and other countries of Continental Europe, and of socialism in England. But it is not less astonishing than true that socialism grows conservative with success. The bare possibility of applying any of its principles causes a halt and it divides and subdivides over the detailed questions. In Germany, for instance, the socialists never fail to inveigh against militarism and yet the leaders admit that if they should practically insist on party neutrality in time of danger their 3,000,000 adherents would melt away.

In France M. Jaures, under pressure of duty as a member of the chamber of deputies dare not endorse the views of Herve that it is the duty of socialists to make war impossible, and dare not oppose them. But the German and English socialists assail Herveism and at the congress at Stuttgart last year comprehensiveness rather than rigid orthodoxy was sounded as the keynote of the policy "that hopes to conquer the world as primitive Christianity did."

Questions of this kind may be

taken lightly as marking the efficiency of socialism to define itself. But it cannot be doubted that socialism is making an earnest effort to accommodate itself to circumstances and provide remedies with the fundamental ideas of property and the denotation of the state over the individual.

To those who thoughtfully and seriously turn to socialism is it a practical and formative program, not to be abandoned because it wins no physical victory, and a thing separate from the doctrines of discontent. Practically at this time socialism has a place in our scheme of politics, for it marks the radicalism of dissatisfaction. No one may say that, whether it is regarded as a grim specter in the background or a beacon of hope in the heavens, it has operated as a wholesome check on extravagant tendencies.

AND NOW—!

The following editorial written by Henry Watterson appears in the Louisville Courier-Journal:

"I do not know," said Edmund Burke, "the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people." Neither does the Courier-Journal. The result of Tuesday's election shows conclusively that a great majority of the people of the controlling section of the union are well content with things as they are. That it is better to endure the conceded shortcoming of the party in power than to embark upon an unknown sea of continuous agitation; that Bryan meant this whilst Taft meant rest; in short that a dollar, though tainted, in hand is worth a bush full of patriotic abstractions.

The idiosyncrasy of the time is commerce. As in the last century it was liberty reaching out after institutional freedom—and measurably attaining it. It is now materialism reaching out after markets. The average voter of better education and intelligence takes no thought of the hereafter, and is even more indifferent to the heretofore. He is completely engrossed by the present. That which Bacon calls "the wisdom of our ancestors," makes a little appeal to his reason or reverence, as that which Burns call "the light of Heaven" makes to his imagination. He would not exchange the current reports, with a rising price list, for all the books that were ever written upon political economy. He either carries the fool of the vicinage with him, or else raises enough dust to blind his eyes and disarm his suffrage.

We need take no account here of the agencies of organization and corruption, though both may be seen clearly enough. They show so plainly in the nomination and election of the successful candidate as to make it apparent that whole segments of the people are no longer appalled by anything, however immoral and wrong, that does not touch their pockets. Even those who preach the simple life in the magazines in the east are deaf to the drum taps of conscience. Nay, he that seeks righteousness from the highest places is found often practicing fraud in the lowest; so that the language of the religion of literature and journalism and commerce, is cant.

It is the part neither of common sense, nor of upright manhood, in the vanquished to kick against the pricks. Let us hope and believe that, despite its pharasaism and defilement, politics is not war, nor party lines yet lines of battle. The electorate has declared for a high protective tariff it has declared for an invincible armament; embracing a navy unsurpassed upon the seas, along with a corresponding military establishment upon a fixed war footing on the land; it has recorded a vote of confidence in the chieftains of the two branches of the legislature, as they are known to be constituted and controlled, and has given them carte blanche to make billion dollar congresses the rule and not the exception.

The country is rich. It is in the aggregate growing richer. It is quite rich enough to stand it. However unequaled its distribution of wealth, the system, which is able to keep up a lobby in both of the houses at Washington, will have no reason to fear that its orders will not be ex-

ecuted as well in the matter of impost duties laid to protest their vast accretions of capital as in the matter of government contracts made to fatten the party workers. Are we not a world power, and are not these outlays essential to our dignity?

Yet each mishap has its compensation. The personality of the elected president the people may be said to be in possession of an anchor to windward. Judge Taft owes his election to his own character. In this there can be no manner of doubt. From first to last he was grievously handicapped by the president. It was the belief that he is not as Roosevelt—that though his platform faced two ways, he could be relied upon to face but one way, and that way the reverse of the spectacular performances and agitations barren of result, to which the president has accustomed us—that weighed with the commercial instincts of the middle classes of society as well as the overpowering interests of massed wealth, the honest yielding themselves to the dishonest, and making a common cause against a change of parties in spite of all arguments in its favor.

That the republican party cannot compose the irrepressible conflict between capital and labor is as certain as that the old, historic democratic party could not compose that between freedom and slavery. But neither the chiefs of the system, nor the victorious party leaders need trouble themselves about that just yet. With such men the rule is "sufficient unto the day," and "eat, drink and be merry, though tomorrow you die." Just as fifty years ago a little more of moderation and a little less of party spirit might have averted our sectional war, ought it to be plain to thinking men that the course of overconfidence on which we are launched must inevitably lead to conditions equally baffling to the statesmanship of the future. Pray heaven that they be not so ruinous and tragical; but that, under God, it shall be the destiny of the republic to vary the experience of human kind and to work out without bloodshed the problems of popular government to some hitherto unknown and benign conclusion.

Looking back over the circumstances of the campaign now ended, the Courier Journal has nothing to regret, or retract. We have given expression to our true beliefs, accepting alternatives, not of our own making, with good grace and putting forth our uttermost in the cause of the right as we are able to see it. We had great confidence in the election of the democratic ticket. In no political battle that we recall has it seemed to us that so much to condemn appeared upon a single side, or was so plainly visible. We believed that there was virtue and intelligence enough in the voters to see this, and to resent it at the ballot box, though only as a rebuke to overlordism and partism, quite lost to the sense of good citizenship and fidelity to the state.

The result shows that we oversized the spiritual and undervalued the material in the hearts and minds of the people. They were deaf alike to precedents, to reason and to eloquence; for nothing could, as nothing has ever equaled, the personal canvass of Mr. Bryan; its wondrous lucidity and power of statement; its splendid intellectual and physical endurance; its unanswerable argument. Nor did Ignatius of Loyola sweep through a world of incarnate evil bearing the cross of Jesus to triumph with greater force of inspiration and truth than did the heroic son of Nebraska traverse a land gaping with curiosity, but too busy over its work and play to consider any danger to the immortal soul of its constitutional fabric.

There is something yet better than being president of the United States, and that is the real sense of duty done. Tilden will live in history, when Hayes is forgotten. History will say of Bryan that in three great popular movements, clouded sometimes by errors of judgment and obstructed always by corruption—he led sublimely; that he set before his countrymen the standards alike of God and truth; and that he went down beaten with clean hands and high repute, carrying with him the

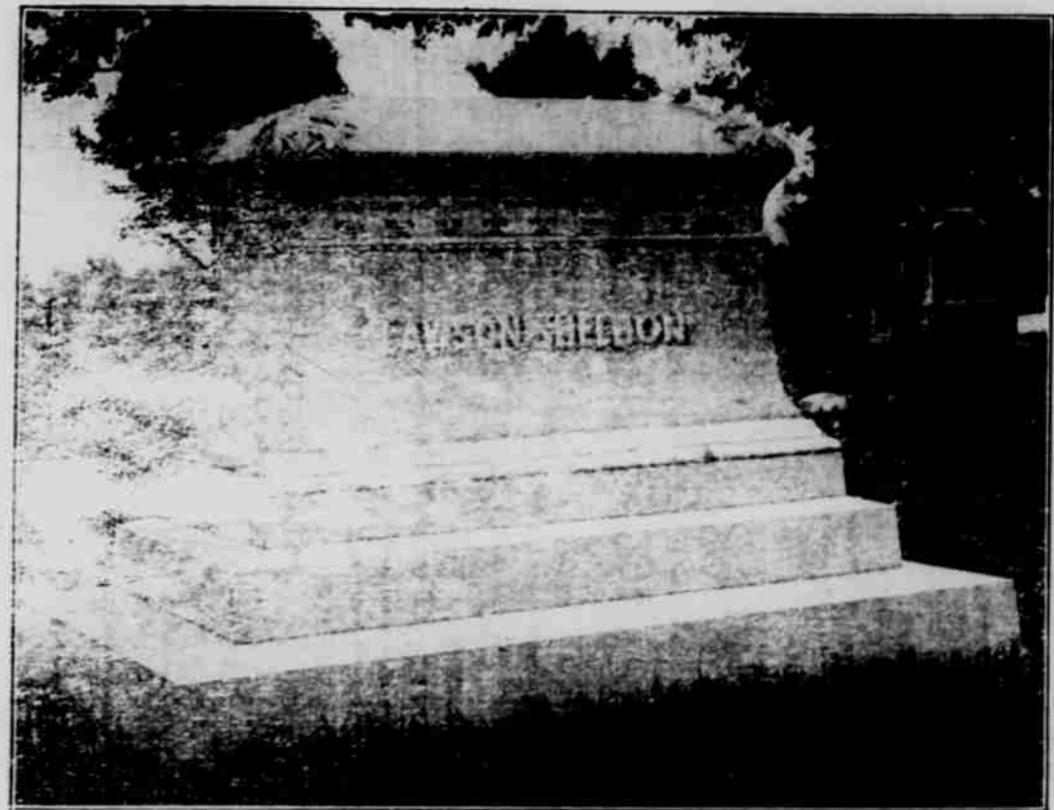
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In the national government the oligarchism of privilege finds itself stronger entrenched than ever before. Its fortress is unassailable. It can never be driven out short of its own dissolution, or some dire cataclysm, bringing ruin in its train. Yet vanquished as the democratic party is, has not been so one with itself in many a day and it owes renewed loyalty to the public service. This should be maintained equally in defeat and in victory. There must be a systematic and enlightened opposition. How this shall arrange itself and who shall lead it, will appear in good season.

Old time democrats will wait and keep their powder dry. If they should despair, if they should break apart, the country would be exposed to political anarchy leading through radicalism and excesses of every sort to practical irresponsibility on the one hand, unregenerate debauchery backed by resistless force on the other hand. We may be a power for good though beaten and in opposition. Seven millions of votes are never to be despised in case they hold together. Many states remain to us. The constitution of the United States has not been abolished yet, nor institutional freedom, nor wise and upright administration, and these are still worth fighting for.

So, amid the unneighborly and unpatriotic vociferation of the republicans, the jubilation and intolerance of the nondescripts flocking to the winning side—the blatant bullying of the leaders alike of predatory wealth and of plundering politics—let us sit steady in the boat, sustained by our own rectitude and holding to the oars of what we conceive to be good government in the nation and in the state.

Quite a Compliment.

The Plattsmouth Journal surrounds itself with gloom. It refuses to see that times are better or that a shade of hope has been left to mankind. The Plattsmouth paper is really unbearable in its cynicism. Otherwise ably edited, it might become a power for good if it would adopt a policy of optimism even in the face of what it considers a political tragedy.—Lincoln Star.

The esteemed Star pays the Journal quite a compliment in the above but it is evident that it has not been a close reader of this paper or it would see that the paper is quite the reverse of the picture of gloom which seems its idea. This paper is optimistic in the extreme, it believes that there is still hope left even in the face of triumph of debauchery in politics. Eventually, it is the firm

belief of the Journal, even debauchery at the polls will fail to blind the people to the real facts of the situation and when that day comes they will throw off the yoke of monopoly which is holding them down and become free and independent.

At the present time there is no such good times as Vic Rosewater's publicity bureau would have the Star believe exists—leastwise not in this immediate vicinity. Vic may be able to furnish prosperity literature palatable to the Star's taste but not for this paper.

As for the political tragedy of which it speaks, the Journal has made not so much of it as many of the Star's own political contemporaries are making over the defeat of Gov. Sheldon and the star's particular friend, Congressman Pollard.

But the idea that the Journal is pessimistic is erroneous. The democrats stood for the truth in the past campaign and "Truth is mighty and must prevail."

Don't Get Gay.

From what the Herald can pick up here and there it is safe to say there are a number of new legislators coming to Lincoln this winter with the idea of revolutionizing things and reforming the earth—of raising hedges and putting a chunk under it, in other words. It is a new order of things, a change of party, and some of the new statesmen give evidence in advance of showing the dear people how things should be done.

To such the Herald would say, don't get gay. There have been other legislatures before and there will probably be others when you country savers have turned up your toes to the daisies, so don't get gay. The Herald and a number of its friends, is going to stand guard with an elm club and a meat axe and if you do proceed to make spectacles of yourselves, your office and the people who elected you, you are going to get it. There are a few of us in Lincoln who have labored diligently for years here to break up the combines and machine rule and now that we have broken into them, we do not want you gentlemen to come here and make a mess of things. We are in position to do something in future, since so many hide bound partisans have broken away from their old moorings; not to do something for party, especially but for the people and the independent voter as against machine politics, and we don't want a good thing spoiled.

Therefore, the Herald would again admonish you, don't get gay.—Lincoln Herald.

Congressman Pollard, who now prefixes an "ex" before his name, has

recovered from the shock of the last election, and announced his candidacy for another whirl at it two years hence. In that particular we believe he is mistaken. The primary vote in Lancaster county shows that he was not the favorite candidate and the same thing is true of the strong republican counties of Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Cass. When the first congressional district was organized Church Howe said that "all h—l couldn't beat a republican there," but it seems that the republicans have quit voting a straight ticket. The district is republican by fully three thousand and to be defeated in such a district is truly humiliating.—Nebraska City News.

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