

CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

He Pays Tribute to a Worthy Democrat.

A MAN WHO MADE HISTORY.

The Chicago Platform Good Enough For 1900.

TRUE JEFFERSONIAN DOCTRINE.

Colonel Benton of Missouri Touched the Right Key When He Opposed the Enlargement of the Regular Army—In Case of War the President Should Call For Volunteers—Why Men Fight—Representative Hull's Bill Met Sudden Death.

(Special Washington Letter.) The general impression is that an ex-governor of a state in the Union must be in the very nature of things "a grave and reverend seignior," with hair whitened by the snows of many winters and other visible evidences of age.

If a visitor in the gallery, looking down upon a full house, imbued with the idea set forth in the first sentence, were called upon to pick out the ex-governors among the members, one of the last ones he would select would be John E. Osborne of Wyoming, for no sign of age appears about him. On the contrary, he is not only one of the youngest representatives, but is almost boyish in his looks. He is a handsome, prepossessing, intelligent, courageous, clear headed, eloquent young man. He has a past crowded with thrilling events and a future bright in promise.

One of the most striking sentences ever uttered on this continent was delivered by Roscoe Conkling in the great Republican national convention of 1880 when he was leading the old guard, battling for the old commander. In speaking of Grant Conkling said, "His is the arduous greatness of things done." So is Governor Osborne's. A Green Mountain boy by birth, he is not yet 30 years old, yet he is a graduate from a medical college, has practiced medicine, engaged extensively in raising live stock upon the open range, served in the Wyoming legislature and as chairman of the territorial penitentiary building commission, as mayor of Rawlins, alternate to the Democratic national convention of 1892, governor of Wyoming, was renominated for governor and declined, was a member of the bimetallic Democratic national committee for the state of Wyoming in 1895, was chairman of the Wyoming delegation to the national Democratic convention at Chicago in 1896, and in the autumn of that year was elected to congress. Stated without adornment, the career of this splendid young Democrat is well calculated to fire the heart of every boy in the land and demonstrates the marvelous adaptability of the American citizen for grave responsibility and for public life. With such ripe experience at his time of life—the pride of the Democracy of a nascent commonwealth rich in possibilities—what may not Governor Osborne hope for in the days that are to come? One of his performances particularly endeared him not only to the people of Wyoming and to Democrats everywhere, for all men, even cowards, admire and revere courage and unconquerable resolution.

When Osborne was elected governor, the Republican leaders of Wyoming, for the purpose inter alia of stealing a United States senatorship, formed a conspiracy to keep him out of the governorship until the Republican governor could issue certificates of election to certain Republican candidates for the legislature who were never elected, thereby controlling the legislature and electing a United States senator, but

The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft agley. The Republican authorities refused to canvass, certify and publish the vote for governor which showed young Osborne's election. Remember that he was then only about 24 years old. What did he do? Submit to their knavery? Not much. He performed a caper which fixed the eyes of the country upon him. He canvassed the returns himself, and when the day came when his term should begin had himself sworn in as governor by a notary public, took a lot of his gentle shepherds, proceeded to the state capitol, took possession of the governor's office and staid in it every moment, night and day, for three or four weeks, eating and sleeping there, until the storm blew over. He issued the certificates of election to the Democratic legislators, thereby thwarting the schemes of the Republicans to steal that body. Then he issued a proclamation to the people setting forth the facts, and they sustained his action. No Republican United States senator was elected. So that John E. Osborne by his heroic conduct made the senate of the United States Democratic for two years, and that, too, at a time when he lacked six years of being old enough to sit in the senate himself. He is a history maker. Had Samuel J. Tilden possessed his courage Rutherford B. Hayes would never have stolen the presidency of the republic.

Governor Osborne made his first act speech in the house recently and won enthusiastic applause from his associates. Certainly he is competent to speak for western Democrats. As he spoke in no uncertain tones on the financial question it may be of service as well as an educational act to quote somewhat from his speech. Among other things he said:

"I listened, Mr. Chairman, to the speeches made by gentlemen on that side of the chamber during the debate on the Teller resolution. I have more recently listened to the speech upon the financial question made by the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. Alexander], and I now want to say that in my hearing since I served as a member of this body there has not been an argument advanced offering a legitimate defense of the single gold standard. We have heard our great reform leader maliciously traduced, we have heard our cause abused, we have listened to unjustifiable predictions of dreadful impending calamities that will befall us after silver is remonetized, but I have not heard a single argument based on defensible premises, not an argument backed up by historical deductions or logical reasoning.

"Right in this connection, Mr. Chairman, I want to remark that any cause which must be upheld by ridiculous untruths or by mystifying half truths can but prove a menace to the liberties of the people and on general principles, without further argument, merits the stamp of their righteous condemnation. We have been told repeatedly that the conservative people of this country do not want to experiment with any new financial system during these critical times, a statement which naturally conveys the idea that bimetallicism is something new, is an experiment. We deny this allegation.

"Bimetallicism has been thoroughly tried and has never failed to keep this body politic sound in mind and limb. "We contend, Mr. Chairman, that it is not necessary to ask the consent of England. We contend that it is extremely unwise to ask the advice of foreigners who are not in sympathy with our American institutions upon matters pertaining to the welfare of the American people. England, a creditor nation, will never give her consent. She has always favored scarce and dear money, and when I say this I do not refer to industrial England. I refer to bondholding England.

"We know, however, Mr. Chairman, that we can legislate value into money. We know that money has no value except by legislation; that the remonetization of silver will cause it to advance to \$1.29 per ounce; that as soon as it is remonetized one ounce of silver will be worth one-sixteenth of an ounce of gold. We judge the future by what the history of the past has clearly demonstrated. We want it to advance not because it will benefit the mine owners, but because it will benefit 99 per cent of the American people.

every political creed, of every class and of every section will unite in thanking God that there has been raised from the common people a William J. Bryan to bless the common people." [Applause on the Democratic side.] This is a long quotation for these letters. I make it for two reasons—first, because it is good stuff for Democratic stump speakers and editors to call down in their scrapbooks; second, because with my large acquaintance with southern and western Democrats I am certain—absolutely certain—that it voices their unalterable resolve not only to endorse the Chicago platform in 1900, but to re-enact it in toto, word for word, without abating one jot or one tittle, and to place upon it as our standard bearer our brilliant and well beloved leader, William Jennings Bryan.

Democrats For National Honor. Mr. Chairman Hull of the house military committee is a sadder, perhaps a wiser, man. He is one of the patriots who believed that any sort of a bill could be rushed through in these troublous days by labeling it "emergency measure" and shouting at the top of his voice with patriotism, but he had his eyes teeth cut suddenly when he brought in his bill increasing the standing army to about 114,000 men, for that was what it amounted to. It precipitated a battle royal between the advocates of "the regular army" and "volunteers." The latter were championed by the Democrats, Populists and some Republicans, and they disemboweled Hull's bill.

The Democrats are willing—aye, anxious—to support any measure to uphold the honor and dignity of the nation in prospect of war, but they can't be wheedled, persuaded or bullied into fastening a large standing army on the country to be used by the Mark Hanna plutocrats against the people in the presidential election.

Among those who advocated volunteer soldiers none spoke more tersely or interestingly than M. E. Benton, a new member from Missouri. It was his debut as a parliamentary orator, and he impressed himself on the house very favorably. He bears a distinguished name, being a remote collateral relative of Colonel Thomas Hart Benton, who, until Justin A. Morrill broke the record, was the only man that ever served 30 consecutive years in the senate of the United States. In 1888 Grover Cleveland unwittingly made Benton popular by removing him from the United States district attorneyship for making a Democratic speech, a thing which every well regulated Missourian deems it his inalienable right to do.

The pith of this speech is: "I am opposed to any increase in the regular army at the present time or at any time for any purpose. I believe the true doctrine with reference to the matter was enunciated by Mr. Jefferson when he said that the best reliance of republican government was upon an honest citizen soldiery. I believe that under the provisions of this bill the president of the United States can augment the regular army over 100,000 men. Now, is there any necessity for that? Has it been pointed out or is there any reason to assume that it does exist?"

"I believe if there is to be a war the president should call upon the various states for 3,000, 4,000 or 5,000 men from the states respectively, as may be necessary, and which will permit the governor of a state to call the regiments already organized or the national guard—men who have been drilled, who are armed, uniformed and equipped—to go into the service of the United States and in that capacity as volunteer soldiers of the government. Then when this class of men is called out you will find men from every city and town throughout the broad limits of the United States to be the very best, the gamest and the ablest blood of each neighborhood throughout the country. The lieutenants, orderly sergeants, captains, majors, colonels and other officers are all their own neighbors, men who have grown up with them and been associated with them in the ordinary affairs of life. There is no man who has ever served in the army of the United States who does not know it to be a fact that men fight not because of natural bravery, but because of that spirit of neighborly pride which is in every American heart when his neighbors stand at the right and left of him."

William Shakespeare, alias Francis Bacon, says: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Nevertheless there is a great deal in a name or a nickname. It may imply honor, as "Old Hickory," for instance; or shame, as "The Butcher of Culloden," a title given to the Duke of Cumberland; or affection, as "The Little Corporal," which the French soldiers loved to call Napoleon; or ridicule, as "The Hog," a name given to Louis XVIII of France.

During the wrangle over Bailey's resolution recognizing Cuban independence the irrepressible Jerry Simpson of Kansas fixed a sobriquet upon the Republican majority which fits them like a glove when he referred to them as "the speaker's reconcentrados." It was an inspiration, a palpable hit, which will live in history. It was as good a coup for the Kansas as the discovery that Governor Dingley, the self elected champion of American labor, wears a hat with a London trademark, though, being instantaneous and injected into another member's speech, it may have failed to make so deep an impression upon the reporter's mind. Consequently I set it out here so that my readers may have ample leisure to reflect upon its appositeness. No one now in the house on our side will ever look across the big aisle at Mr. Reed's Republican majority and not think of Jerry's characterization of them as "reconcentrados."

Now, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, as that was our platform in 1900, it is still our platform and will continue to be our platform until there is once more restored to this country a government for and by those governed.

"We not only have our platform framed ready for you to criticize, but the American people have already nominated a candidate for the presidency upon that platform, one who when elected will fulfill its every pledge. Continue to heap your abuse upon him, if you will, but that abuse only tends to magnify his unsullied Americanism. He stands before the American people possessing the statesmanship of a Jefferson, the courage of a Jackson, the eloquence of a Webster, yet withal the gentleness and honesty of an Abraham Lincoln. [Applause on the Democratic side.] The day is coming—it is not far distant—my friends, when all true Americans of ev-

ery political creed, of every class and of every section will unite in thanking God that there has been raised from the common people a William J. Bryan to bless the common people." [Applause on the Democratic side.] This is a long quotation for these letters. I make it for two reasons—first, because it is good stuff for Democratic stump speakers and editors to call down in their scrapbooks; second, because with my large acquaintance with southern and western Democrats I am certain—absolutely certain—that it voices their unalterable resolve not only to endorse the Chicago platform in 1900, but to re-enact it in toto, word for word, without abating one jot or one tittle, and to place upon it as our standard bearer our brilliant and well beloved leader, William Jennings Bryan.

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Champ Clark

SMALL HAPPENINGS.

An investigation has shown that John Myers, county clerk, and John Stout, county treasurer of Thurston county are short in their accounts. Myers' shortage is \$952.14, while Stout's shortage amounts to \$1,233.95.

John Wanamaker says he will continue to pay the regular salary of any of his employes who may enlist, and \$1,000 to their families if they are killed in a war with Spain.

Sunday, the powder works at Santa Cruz, California, shipped 100,000 pounds of powder east.

The state band at Hastings has been mustered into service as the second regiment band N. N. G. The citizens of Hastings raised over \$500 for the purchase of musical instruments and equipment.

Hon. J. N. Gaffin of Saunders was seen in this city Saturday. He reports crop conditions in Saunders county excellent. He has 40 acres of small grain and 75 acres of corn which he is taking care of without the assistance of a "hired man." Farmer Gaffin declined to be "interviewed" on the political situation.

The Canadian government is giving serious consideration to a proposition to own and operate such portions of the Klondike gold fields as are on the Canadian side. The contention is that as the mines belong to the whole people they should be operated for their benefit.

Congressman R. P. Bland, of Missouri, has introduced a bill providing for the immediate coinage of the seigniorage of the silver bullion purchase in pursuance of the Sherman act and the issue of silver certificates thereon in advance of the coinage of the bullion. This would make immediately available over \$42,000,000 for war purposes.

The populist state convention of North Carolina will be held at Raleigh, May 17th.

The first move of the American wire trust, after getting possession of all the factories, was to post a thirty days notice of a reduction in wages of from 5 to 30 per cent.

The investigation of the city officers of Philadelphia is showing that municipal ownership of the water plant failed there because a private corporation paid the officers to so manage it that it would fail.

"Wars and rumors of wars" do not interfere with the workings of Hanna's literary bureau. The western and southern mails are loaded with matter bearing the frank of the Ohio senator.

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THE NICKEL PLATE ROAD is authorized to sell tickets to Cleveland and return at one fare and one-third for the round trip, on certificate plan, account of Woman's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, May 10-15. Tickets will be good on any of our through express trains leaving Chicago from the Van Buren street passenger station at 10:35 a. m., 2:55 p. m. and 10:15 p. m. First class equipment. Day coaches in charge of lowest. Call on or address J. V. Calahan, General Agent, 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

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