CHAMP CLARK'S LETTER

Hanna Now Well In the Running—The House Losing Prestige Through Haste. The United States, Germany and the Anglomaniacs

[Special Washington Letter.]

THAT the result of the Hanna-Foraker fight in Ohio makes Senator Marcus A. Hanna a strong candidate for the Republican presidential nomination there can be no question. Indeed, at this writing it looks as though Senator Hanna and President Roosevelt would be the chief wrestlers for the incomparable prize. They may render the fight so bitter and so fierce that some third aspirant, such as Senator Fairbanks of Indiana or Senator Spooner of Wisconsin or Uncle Shelby M. Cullom of Illinois, may walk away with the baggage while Marcus and Theodore are engaged in the pleasant occupation of killing each other off, but the gladiators who will monopolize public attention until the nomination is actually made are unquestionably Hanna and Roosevelt.

The precedents favor the Ohioan. No vice president who inherited a dead president's shoes was ever elected president or even nominated by his party for that high office, but precedents cannot be relied on implicitly. President Roosevelt has been a precedent smasher all his life and may be able to break the one above referred to. He is young, vigorous, capable, courageous, learned and many sided. Moreover, he is young—young enough to be the son of Senator Hanna—and this youthfulness will appeal strongly to young Republicans who are ex necessitate more active than their elders.

Senator Hanna has his great national machine somewhat weakened by McKinley's death, but still the most powerful in the land. President Roosevelt is building him a machine as rapidly as possible, and three years hence it may be as potent as Hanna's. At any rate, it will be potent enough to put up a great fight, and it may be safely predicted that the Hanna-Roosevelt fight will be historic and—ruinous to the Republican party. As a consequence of that fight we stand to win, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Hanna In a New Light.

One thing is absolutely certain, however, and that is that Senator Hanna is a much larger and more commanding figure than he was before he locked horns with Senator Foraker and got away with most of the spoils. I know that it is not partiality that influences my opinion. In that contest I was in the same frame of mind as was the estimable spouse of the man engaged in a life and death tussle with a bear when she shouted: "Go it, husband! Go it, bear!" But it is simple truth to say that that fight caused Senator Hanna to grow in public estimation. It had been so often asserted that Hanna shone by a reflected light from President McKinley and would now shrink and shrivel to very small proportions that most men had come to believe it. It is said that an open confession is good for the soul, and I believed it myself, but last month Senator Hanna, without any assistance from the national administration, entered into a fight with Senator Foraker—in the Foraker year—and more than held his own. Henceforth it must be admitted that Hanna had strength of his own, and all Republican statesmen who are nursing presidential booms and boomlets may as well take due notice of the fact and govern themselves accordingly.

Rushing Things.

The manner in which the Republicans rush things through the house is an outrage on common sense and ordinary decency and has a direct tendency to degrade the house, to minimize its influence and to exalt the senate. As a fair example of the unseemly haste with which things are railroaded through the house let it not be forgotten that the Philippine tariff bill was debated only six hours, a bill directly affecting the happiness and prosperity of 8,000,000 or 10,000,000 Filipinos and indirectly the happiness and prosperity of 76,000,000 Americans. Even so distinguished a debater as Hon. Charles E. Littlefield of Maine was reduced to the necessity of speaking one minute and "extending his remarks in The Record." It may be truly said that no bill is adequately debated or considered in the house. Bill after bill full of crudities is rushed through and sent over to the senate "with all its imperfections on its head." Of course the senate considers and debates these bills and sends them back to the house greatly disfigured by numerous amendments or entirely transmogrified by substitutes, and, as a rule, the house yields to the senate's wish. Every time that performance is repeated the senate gains in both influence and importance, while the house sinks lower and becomes of less consequence.

There is no excuse for such haste and recklessness. They have the quorum counting rule, which greatly expedites business when business needs expediting, and the previous question with which to close debate when debate ought to be closed. Therefore bills ought to be adequately debated and legislation perfected in the house of representatives fresh from the people.

Top Heavy.

To those who observe the happenings on this mundane sphere signs are not wanting to indicate that the trusts are becoming top heavy and will fall of their own weight. So mote it be. Overcapitalization is getting in its deadly work. The copper trust and the asphalt trust are fine illustrations of this. Copper shares dropped from $130 to $60 and asphalt shares from $90 to $28 with a suddenness that made holders' teeth rattle, took away their breath and brought the bankruptcy court into view. This asphalt concern was a huge swindle from the very start, being capitalized for five or six times what it was worth. The suckers bit and were caught. It's busted.

Flunkydom.

The flunkies and tuft hunters in Washington have evolved a brand new idea out of their inner consciousness. It is to have created a new office, that of "master of ceremonies" for all state occasions and social functions! We are progressing on the royal path of life, don't you know. Next thing we know some snob will be auvocating "a master of the hounds," "a groom of the presidential posset," "a keeper of the robes," etc. We must keep up with the aristocratic procession, don't you know. I have no idea who would be appointed "master of ceremonies" if that office were created, but I do know that he would need to incase himself in armor plate and have his hair fastened to his scalp with the best glue when he undertook to arrange matters of precedent among the society ladies of the finest capital in the world. The uneasiness of the head that wears a crown wouldn't be a marker to the uneasiness of his caput when he undertook to declare whether Mrs. Nouveau Riche should contemplate the back hair of Mrs. Veneering, or vice versa, at some social function. Straws show which way the wind blows, and the fact that anybody has the gall to suggest the creation of such an office as "master of ceremonies" shows what a hold the codfish aristocracy is getting in the capital of "the land of the free and the home of the brave." If these blooming aristocrats, half of whom can't write a grammatical sentence or "spell baker," had their way, we would soon be kotowing to public officials like a lot of Chinese, but the hard headed, common sense Americans are not ready for that, and the office will not be created.

Friction.

From faraway Manila comes the mournful intelligence that friction exists betwixt the civil and military authorities. Governor Taft and General Chaffee are not dwelling together in unity. On the contrary, they are at loggerheads. Not to put too fine a point on it, "confusion worse confounded" exists in the Philippines, for which, like a set of consummate idiots, we paid Spain twenty millions. We would have done much better to have thrown the money into the sea and to have told the Filipinos to go free. Governor Taft wants the military forces withdrawn from many places, but General Chaffee, being, like Sir Robert Walpole, avaricious of power, wants to hold on to all he has and to get more under his control. In short, he wants to be "it;" hence the friction.

The Kaiser.

For four or five years a lot of rampant anglomaniacs in this country have been doing their level best to stir up strife between the United States and Germany and in order to help the fuss along have invented and propagated all sorts of silly lies about what the Germans were saying and doing to injure us, and these mischievous liars knew that they were lying and knew that the Germans were going ahead, attending strictly to their own affairs and letting us severely alone. What these anglomaniacs were really trying to do was to line us up on the side of England should England and Germany get into a war, but so far they have failed in their efforts to make trouble between Germany and the United States, and let us hope that they will continue to fail. There is no reason why Germany and the United States should be enemies, and there are many reasons why they should be friends, the chief bond of connection being the millions of men and women who were once German citizens, but who are now American citizens and who love both the land of their birth—"der vaterland"—and the land of their adoption.

A new proof of the good feeling for the United States which the Germans entertain is found in the invitation which the German kaiser, William of Hohenzollern, has recently extended to Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the president, to christen his new yacht. It was a most gracious and graceful thing for the kaiser to do and will undoubtedly go very far toward bringing Germany and the United States into closer relations. It is to be hoped that Miss Alice will accept the unusual invitation if for no other reason than to put to shame the malicious marplots who have been striving to align us with Great Britain and against Germany.

President Castro of Venezuela is also making a grave mistake as to our attitude toward Germany. If he is depending on the Monroe doctrine to help him out in his quarrel with the German emperor, he is off his box, for the Monroe doctrine was never intended as a bar to the collection of an honest debt, and that's precisely what the kaiser is trying to do—to collect a large debt due from the Venezuelan government to German citizens who put their good money into a mountain railroad in Venezuela in the faith that the Venezuelan government would keep its promise to pay principal and interest. Castro is nothing but a bloody and cruel usurper. It would not do any harm if the kaiser gave him a good thrashing.

In Deadly Peril.

Actors, as a rule, are given great license to play pranks and take liberties with persons and things, but I fear that the amiable and delightful comedian, Francis Wilson, has laid himself liable to a prosecution for leze majesty. The other night at Washington, with the president in a box, Mr. Wilson had the gall to sing a song whose refrain ran as follows:

Perhaps he wasn't in command,
But he fought to beat the band,
And he ought to have a tablet in the Hall of Fame.

Of course he referred to Schley. The audience caught on and stood up to howl its delight. Now, that was simply awful. Teddy looked grim and made no sign; but, like the Irishman's owl, he probably kept up "a divil of a thinking." Schley's popularity cannot be killed by Teddy or anybody else.

Feel Encouraged.

That Democrats feel encouraged is demonstrated by various happenings. Quite recently Senator Joseph Weldon Bailey of Texas in what appears to be a carefully considered interview declared for Hon. Arthur Pue Gorman of Maryland and gave reasons for the faith he has within him. A day or two after that Uncle Adlai E. Stevenson, once vice president of the United States, was interviewed in Chicago and inter alia said:

A happy new year is just beginning for the Democratic party. I believe the next twelve months will see the party on its feet again and able to present an unbroken front to the foe. The next president will be a Democrat. All this talk about our lacking an issue for the next national campaign is sheer nonsense. We could not ask for a stronger issue than the tariff. The Republicans do not seem to realize the importance of this issue or the widespread opposition to their policy. The open protests voiced by newspapers within the Republican ranks show which way the wind is blowing.

Uncle Adlai's words are likely to be read far and wide, as he was P. O. headsman during Cleveland's first administration, and the boys in the trenches dearly love a Democratic headsman.

Re-enter Thomas Henry Carter.

Madam Rumor hath it that ex-Senator Thomas Henry Carter of Montana may enter President Roosevelt's cabinet. If he does, Teddy will have at least one brilliant after dinner speaker in his official family—as brilliant as Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith, which is saying a good deal. Then, Carter has the gift of physical endurance. It will be remembered that he defeated the river and harbor bill which was of so much importance to the west by speaking for thirteen and one-half hours. He probably would be speaking yet if the Fifty-sixth congress and Carter's term had not both expired at high noon March 4, 1901.

Greatly Missed.

When John M. Allen of Mississippi—"Private John"—concluded to quit coming to congress, the house lost one of its chief attractions. His reputation is that of a humorist, but sometimes his humor burned like caustic and answered a better purpose than logic and learning and eloquence combined.

It was during the Cleveland administration that "Private" John Allen made his famous reply to the equally famous speech of Congressman Boutelle of Maine. President Cleveland had decided to allow the captured Confederate battleflags to be returned to the different states whence they came. Boutelle made a masterful address on the subject. He reminded his hearers of all the notable Federal victories and ended in a blaze of glory as he painted by word of mouth the final surrender. When Boutelle took his seat, he had so far carried his hearers away that those in the gallery and the Republican members of the house burst forth into cheers.

Suddenly from the Democratic side was heard the calm, soothing tones of John Allen as he said, "Mr. Speaker." He told of his joining the southern cause and following one of the flags about which the discussion arose.

"When it was all over," he said, "I started back home. I was barefooted, nearly naked and without money. I concluded to walk. I trudged along for a day or so when a man I knew lent me a mule. When I was about four miles from home, I decided to leave the main road I was traveling and go by another route and sneak in the back way. I had gone only a little distance when I saw an old man, a fellow townsman, sitting on a rail fence.

"'Well, John, I see you are back,' he said.

"'Yes, Uncle Zeb,' I answered.

"'Did they lick us, John?'

"'Yes, Uncle Zeb. They licked us plenty too.'

"'Freed the niggers too?'

"'Yes, they freed the niggers.'

"The old man got down off the fence and, after he had thoroughly stretched out all his kinks, he said:

"'John, I don't mind being licked so much, and I can stand the niggers being free, but, John, the worst part of it all is that in about thirty years some durned fool will throw it up to us.'"

Champ Clark

Likes and Dislikes

Editor Independent: The reason why I like The Nebraska Independent is because of the dauntless courage of the editor.

Because the Declaration of Independence is its shield and standard.

Because it strikes often and digs deep down, unearthing republican misrule and rottenness.

Because it holds that corporate millions, the trusts, to be a menace to liberty, and to the perpetuity of the nation. That they oppress the poor, destroy brotherhood and tend to deaden the finer sensibilities of the American people.

Because it opposes government by injunction.

Because it is American in every line and sentence.

Because it teaches lessons of liberty and equal justice to all.

With permission of the editor I will say why I don't like The Nebraska Independent:

Because it advocates government by party.

Because, having eyes to see and brains to understand, that this present bastard, imperial government of greed, rottenness and misrule is the legitimate outgrowth of government by party, and has failed to come squarely out, acknowledge the corn, and put in sledge hammer blows for direct legislation and government by the people.

Because, in advocating fusion with the democratic party, it holds that two dead carcasses equal one live ox.

Because it has not called the attention of the people's greatest defender, William J. Bryan, to the scriptural truth "that a house divided against itself cannot stand," and that the democratic house did so divide—and down she went. The question presents itself, Should a wise mariner remain with a hopeless wreck?

The old democratic ship, once the patriot's pride, now fathoms deep in the putred waters of the political sea, cast down by piratical traitors' hands. Yes, there she lies, the chosen target of Britainized knaves, shattered and torn, without rudder or sail, and her crew scattered to the four winds. Since supporting St. John, I have termed myself an independent voter. Opposed to the gold standard and commercial greed, I, in '96, enlisted with W. J. Bryan and what was termed the regenerated democracy, and to the best of my ability fought the hypocritical Luciferians through both campaigns for free silver 16 to 1, which the imperialists are now coining. I am a native born Buckeye, and from actual life and observation can testify to more than one-half century of my country's history. I have ever been a close student regarding the procedure of political parties. I once believed that Americans would see the day when their government would be so free and so light that the citizen would neither see it or feel it. But, alas! After the lapse of the scriptural three score and ten, results have been disappointing to my ideas of Americanism, and henceforward I put my trust in no political party. While the people continue hero worship and go party building, political demagogues will continue one by one to remove the foundation rocks of the citadel of liberty erected by the revolutionary fathers and again it will be written that "emperors rise in their stead."

W. L. MORGAN.

Williamsport, Ohio.

(If the above writter had read The Independent for the last few years some of those "dislikes" would have been left out. It has always been an advocate of direct legislation. But the editor knows no way to bring it about under our state and national constitutions unless we put some "party" in power that will give it to us. Mr. Bryan has many times called the attention of the leaders of his party to the saying that a house divided against itself must fall. He has also often asserted that a country could not long endure half a free republic and half empire. Ed. Ind.)

From Pennsylvania

Editor Independent: I have received several copies of The Independent and wish to congratulate you for its being, in my judgment, one of the most up-to-date of papers. Its columns are full of exposures of the rottenness, corruption and diseases that afflict the republican party.

EVERETT REYNOLDS.

Fallsdale, Pa.

From Idaho

Editor Independent: Sample copies of your paper were received. One man read two Independents and then he swore that he would never vote the republican ticket again. That alone is worth more than a year's subscription. I haven't time to write in detail what I think of The Independent, but to sum it up, I say that it can't be beaten.

JOHN SOUTHWORTH.

Mace, Idaho.

From New York

Editor Independent: I am well pleased with The Independent. It advocates the principles of Blaine, Garfield and McKinley up to 1890 on the money question. It stands for all and not for the privileged few. I will try to get some more subscriptions.

JAMES CURTIS.

Hilton, N. Y.

An Old Soldier

Editor Independent: There is no paper that comes into my hands that I read so closely as The Independent I frequently cut out articles and file them away for future reference. I am an old soldier, settled in Nebraska in 1872, a populist from the beginning of the reform movement and a firm believer in fusion. A. M. LATHROP.

Inland, Neb.

From Maryland

Editor Independent: I have received several copies of The Independent and have found it reliable and strong in the discussion of the facts pertaining to our present economic condition. I have been a subscriber to the Commoner from its first issue and expect in my renewal to accept of its clubbing offer with The Independent.

A. J. KESSHMER.

Dry Run, Md.

From New Jersey

Editor Independent: I have received sample copies of your paper from which I have derived a great deal of information and pleasure. I have subscribed for The Independent. The drawing attached might interest you, showing in a crude way the growth and possible ending of the trusts, "community of interests" and combinations of all kinds.

GEO. W. JACQUES.

Englewood, N. J.

(The drawing may sometime be reproduced in The Independent.—Ed.)

Repudiates Them

Editor Independent: I saw your offer in the New York World to send sample copies of The Independent. I feel anxious to have everyone read it, as I consider it an exponent of truth. I think that you would be surprised if you knew of the ignorance of the farmers of this section, and the worst of it is many of them wish to remain in ignorance, for to them ignorance is bliss. Even some of the good republicans say that their party is corrupt and rotten, but that it is as good as any, for all would be alike if they had the same opportunity. At the same time if they had a hired man who was robbing them and could not be trusted they would quickly boost him out. They would want to try one of a better record or even a stranger. What is our president and all public officials but men hired by the people? (Perhaps I should say by the trusts.)

I enclose clippings taken from the New York World. I presume you have seen them, but to me it does sound strange for a democratic paper. So much so that I will stop it. I have taken it for twenty years, but I am through with it now. It certainly is in the mire side by side with Hanna and his party on the money question. Please send copies of your readable paper to the enclosed addresses.

O. S. M'KINNEY.

Pitsford, Mich.

Struck the Right Key

Editor Independent: I believe The Independent to be all right and just what its name implies. If such papers could be placed in every family in the land for one year we would be an independent people. All honor and prosperity to the editor and to all the people who will crawl out of the old party ruts, shake off the old filthy garments, dress up in sweet, clean clothes and go to work striking sledge hammer blows thick and fast, no matter where or on whose heads they may fall. From the tone of your paper I believe those in charge of The Independent are of that class. God bless you all. GRANDIN COTTRELL.

Williamson, N. Y.

Little by Little

Editor Independent: You publish a good paper, a remarkably good one. Your dressing down of Madden was worth a year's subscription to me. The plutocrats purpose taking from us every liberty we now enjoy by throttling us a little at a time.

A prominent republican editor once told me that the republican party would give the laboring classes only what they were compelled to in order to keep them in line. That they never expected to give them justice, only taffy to bamboozle them out of their votes.

If laborers could be induced to read The Independent the scales would soon fall from their eyes and they would throw off their shackles and get all they produce, instead of a mere pittance. J. H. WILKINSON.

Belle Fourche, S. D.

From California

Editor Independent: I subscribed for your paper through the Commoner and have only received one paper, while two are delinquent. I hope the postal authorities have not shut you off. I do not want to miss even one paper, so please send the missing ones, for I find so much that is good in The Independent and news that is not printed in the regular party papers.

C. S. MOULTON.

Campbell, Cal.