

## THE ISSUE AS IT NOW IS.

### Dispatches for and Against the Advisory Board of the A. P. A.

Editorial Opinions Culled From  
Papers in Various Parts of  
the Country.

The dispatches and opinions which follow are offered without any comment, further than to point out that where Editor Thompson is mentioned as a member of the National Advisory Board, Mr. H. A. Thompson of St. Louis is referred to:

OMAHA, Neb., April 13.—Members of the A. P. A. in Nebraska refuse to endorse the alleged sentiment against McKinley that is claimed to have developed in the organization.

Editor John Thompson, of the A. P. A. organ here, discredits the interview reported to have been had at Cincinnati with Judge Stevens, and he is ably seconded by J. H. Winspear, president of the council for this division.—*Tribune.*

Wherever men are found who know ex-Governor McKinley, or who are well informed as to his history and record as a public man, the above result will follow the wild talk which has been floating over the country for some time. Our knowledge of Major McKinley leads us to say that we have the utmost confidence in his patriotism and his devotion to the highest principles held by our patriotic orders. If any one knows of anything really damaging to his standing as a patriot, let them now declare it with proofs, else hereafter forever hold their peace. The Post of this city publishes an account of a visit to our city by Editor Thompson, a member of the National Advisory Board, stating that he called a meeting of the local order, A. P. A., and told them that the instructions from headquarters were that McKinley must be defeated. He did not get much comfort in Cincinnati, however, the majority of those he saw being decided in their preference for Wm. McKinley. We have read of nothing and heard of nothing against Major McKinley to justify our advisory board in taking such a position in opposition to him. We fear that our advisory board, or members of it, have become tools in the hands of the unscrupulous field which seems to be organized to defeat McKinley at any cost. Again, we say, if those at headquarters know anything against him, they should give it out at once.—*Cincinnati American Eagle.*

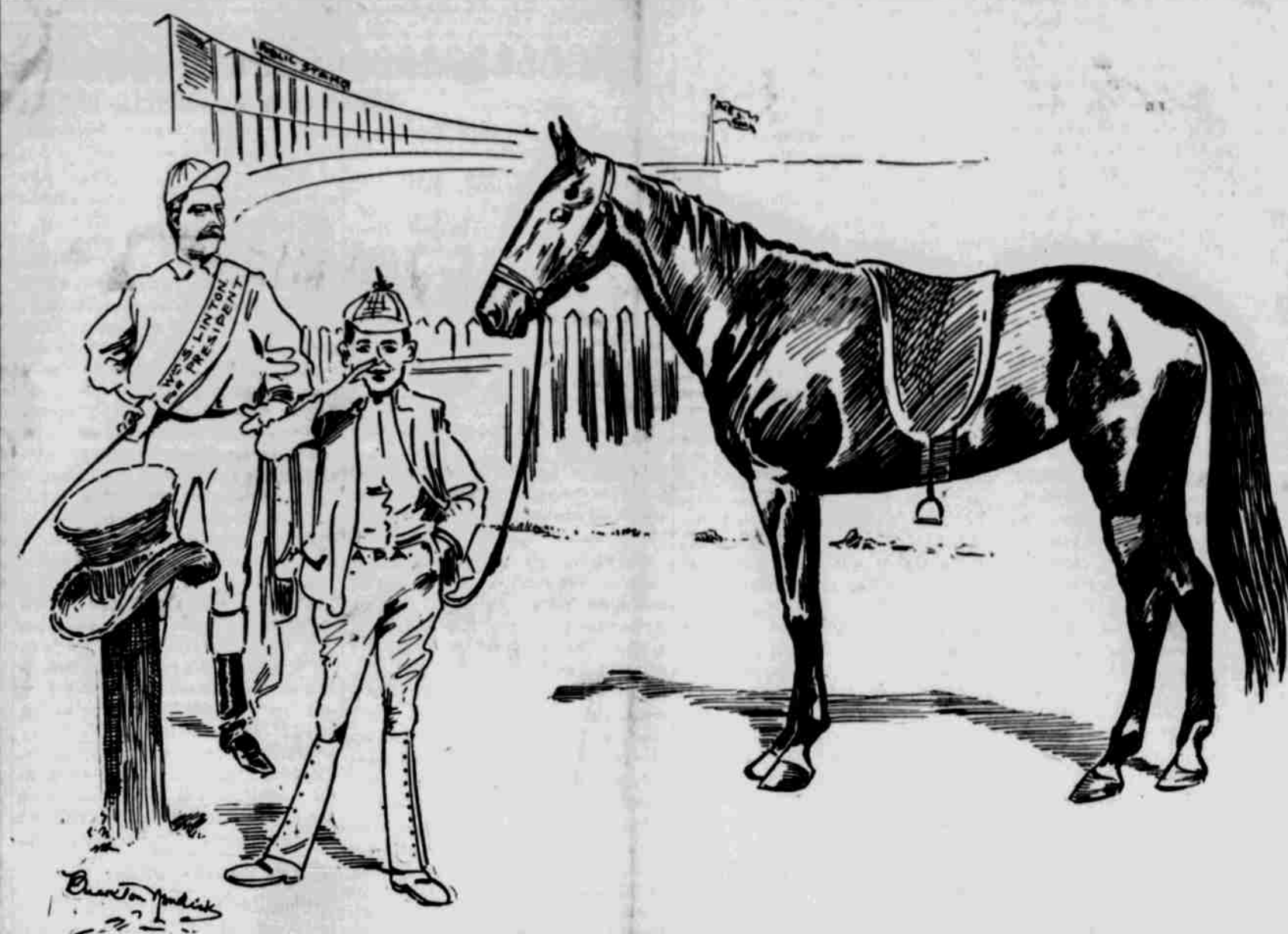
SAGINAW, Mich., April 18.—Congressman W. S. Linton, who has been urged by certain of the A. P. A. leaders as a possible candidate for president, is here. He denies that he is or has been a candidate and says that the use of his name in connection with the Republican nomination for president is unauthorized, that it will not be presented to the St. Louis convention with his consent, and that he will not be a candidate on an independent A. P. A. ticket. Mr. Linton is a candidate for renomination to congress from this district and is here fixing up his fences in that direction.

COLUMBUS, O., April 18.—W. W. Lanning declares that the chairman of the National Advisory Board of the A. P. A. made a misstatement in his recent circular in stating that Governor McKinley had turned Lanning down as a candidate for oil inspector because of his prominence in the order. He says: "I was a candidate, but because of certain political complications, I recognized at the time that the reappointment of L. W. Buckmaster was right. The complications have worked out to my satisfaction. The statement sent out from Boston was made without consultation with me."

CINCINNATI, O., April 20.—Judge J. H. D. Stevens, chairman of the National Advisory Committee of the A. P. A., is in Cincinnati, and it is said held a conference with the Ohio members of the organization to-day. He has sent the following statement to the United Press:

So many canards and malicious falsehoods have been circulated by opponents of the A. P. A. regarding its attitude toward the political parties, the candidates for the offices of president of the United States and the plans to be formulated at the respective national conventions, that the National Advisory Board of the A. P. A., through its executive and campaign committee of the executive body, respectfully requests the press to publish in the interests of fairness the following statement of facts:

First. The contest which this organization is making against the candidacy of William McKinley is not directed



WILL LINTON ENTER THE RACE?

If he does, the Jockey who stands ready to leap into the saddle has never lost a race; both Linton and the A. P. A. have the confidence of the people.

rected against Mr. McKinley as a person, because the members of the advisory board have no grievance against Mr. McKinley as a man, but fight him and will continue to fight him at the convention and at the polls because his public record is not consistent with our standard of official character, and the basis of our action will be set forth in incontrovertible form at the proper time; and further, regarding the various statements appearing in the newspapers for the past week relative to the attitude of the A. P. A. toward the candidacy of Governor William McKinley for the Republican nomination at St. Louis, one of the Ohio state officials of the order said to-day: "Most of the charges in regard to Governor McKinley's antipathy to the A. P. A. in Ohio while he was governor, and his persistent disregard for, or refusal to comply with the express desires of the organization, are matters that are well known and will be substantiated by indisputable evidence in due time, as well as the fact that he, while governor, almost invariably gave preference in his appointments to known enemies of the order."

"The evidence of this is now being quietly gathered, and while care will be taken not to do him any injustice, enough has been already obtained to warrant me in saying that the evidence will show Governor McKinley to have in the past pursued such a course that no members of the A. P. A. or kindred patriotic orders can support him and be true to their principles."

Second. That we make no fight against any man because of his religion, and it makes no difference to what religious belief Mr. McKinley or any other candidate holds allegiance, and that we are not opposing Mr. McKinley in the personal interest of any other candidate.

Third. That we made every effort consistent with our manhood and our dignity as members of an organization of 4,000,000 voters to reach Mr. McKinley, but without success.

Fourth. That Congressman Grosvenor's statements that he did not refuse to see the committee; that he did not virtually insult the committee in the language of his refusal to meet it, after requests made by Sergeant-at-Arms Russell of Missouri and Congressman W. S. Linton; that the statement to the contrary are malicious lies, are untrue; that Congressman Grosvenor treated the committee in precisely the manner as described by the committee in the statement to which Mr. Grosvenor so abusively makes reply.

Fifth. That all statements regarding Congressman Linton's withdrawal from the presidential contest were sent out in the interests of certain presidential candidates; that all such statements were unauthorized and circulated by the opponents of this organization to defeat its aims.

Sixth. That Mr. Linton is not a candidate for president in any sense; that he is not making a personal effort in such direction, nor is he directing

any such movement. On the contrary, the movement in his behalf was a spontaneous movement, having its birth in the love which the organization bears the man who has so bravely stood squarely upon the principles of this organization. Mr. Linton is one of the acknowledged leaders of the organization and is and will be at St. Louis our candidate for president, and as such we know him to be too good an American to refuse to do what the patriotic citizens of this country request of him. While the movement to honor him did not find, directly or indirectly, its initiative with him, yet the organization should pay no attention to the press dispatches denying the candidacy of Mr. Linton, as they are sent out in the interests of certain presidential candidates and to confuse the members of the A. P. A. and to deharmonize its actions. For this reason the campaign and propaganda committee has embodied and will embody all public statements regarding every act of it in the form of special circulars; all public statements not signed by the chairman or the members of the committee or in the form of an interview with them the organization should consider to be unauthorized or else made out of whole cloth.

Seventh. That every statement that this board and committee make regarding the records of the various candidates will be issued in the form of affidavits.

J. H. D. STEVENS,  
Chairman of the National Advisory Committee and Chairman of the Propaganda and Campaign Committee.

C. P. JOHNSON,  
Secretary.

The St. Louis, Mo., *True American* says:

It is pretty definitely settled that the next president is to be a Republican. Whether A. P. A. all like to think so or not, is not the question now to be considered. We are dealing with what seems to be sure to come to pass. If the next president is to be a Republican, the case is somewhat simplified. The only remaining question is: Who shall that Republican be? This is to be decided at the convention which meets in St. Louis, June 16. After that convention adjourns it will be too late to form conclusions and to make up our minds. No true American who is well informed and whose patriotism rises above partisanship, can for a moment accept Mr. McKinley. Facts have come to light which dispose of Mr. McKinley's candidacy, so far as we are concerned. Mr. Reed, in the Massachusetts platform, made a bid for the loyal American vote. Can Reed be implicitly trusted? The evidence is not conclusive on this score. Reed is young and ambitious. If elected, he will see visions of second and perhaps third terms ahead. To reach these, his administration will be shaped. Morton, Allison, Quay, Cullom, etc., have no expectation or chance of success. We want a man who has passed the frisky period of life, yet retaining the vigor of his manhood. We want a man

whose statesmanship and administrative ability have been proven. Because a man has rendered some good service in a single direction, in a minor position, does not argue him as a safe man for chief executive of the nation. General Harrison has the ability, the sound sense, the statesmanship and the experience. He has been tried. No other man in the White House has ever so courageously and openly defied the dictation and threats of Rome. He did this in face of the more than probability of his renomination. In execution of its threat, Rome offered the National Republican committee for the purpose of leading him to defeat. The lethargy of Americanism permitted Rome to succeed, and Harrison was defeated. In our opinion, Harrison is the hope of patriots in 1896. It is true, he has said he does not crave the office, but he will not refuse to serve if his countrymen demand his services. There will be no third term visions. He will have passed the age for that. His administration will be for the country's interest, and for history.

COLUMBUS, O., April 6, 1896.—T. S. Givan—Sir: McKinley is a Methodist, a Mason, and belongs to the Knights of Pythias. I was reared as a Protestant and my family has always attended the Presbyterian church. Respectfully,  
M. A. HANNA

The *Rocky Mountain News*, of April 17, 1896, says:

If the American Protective Association were anxious to assure the nomination of William McKinley, it could scarcely adopt a course better adapted to that end than the one its advisory board is pursuing. In both the east and west there are many members of the Catholic church who belong to the Republican party, and it will not be denied that the onslaught on McKinley is likely to cause them to throw themselves into the fight in his behalf with all the vigor of which they are capable, though they may have been quite indifferent up to this time as to the choice which the party might make from among the numerous aspirants for recognition at its hands. However lax as a church member a man may be, there is nothing better calculated to stir him into aggressive activity than attacks upon the religious body to which he owes at least nominal allegiance.

There is no question of McKinley's Protestantism, he being a member and a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church in Canton, Ohio. No one will question that he is a patriotic American. His four years' service in the army, which he entered as a private soldier, is evidence on that score if other testimony were lacking. No one will deny that he is a statesman and man of affairs of more than ordinary ability, or that his private character is high. All of these things being admitted, it is a phase of American politics worthy of consideration to observe upon what grounds he is rejected as unworthy. The official statement of the advisory board says that after

months of quiet, persistent and painstaking investigation, it has been found that a Catholic was given an appointment in preference to a member of the A. P. A., that one S. W. Lanning of Franklin, Ohio, a member of the order, was refused an appointment as district oil inspector, and that Richard C. Kerens of Missouri, an outspoken opponent of the order, and S. B. Elkins are supporting McKinley. These are the only instances cited. In view of Mr. McKinley's church affiliation and personal character, it is extremely probable that the matter of religion had nothing to do with his selection for the two appointments. The support of Kerens and Elkins is being given to him, we presume, just as the support of several prominent Catholics of New York and Boston is being given to Morton and Reed.

Were the advisory board determined to disrupt the order and destroy its strength, it would not act otherwise than it is doing. Among its membership are thousands of intelligent men attracted by the declarations in its public enunciation of principles, or who, perhaps, have joined it without serious thought and with no intention of engaging in religious strife. Very many of these will be surprised and pained by the revelation of proscriptive bitterness made by the advisory board before the whole nation, demanded to be put into operation against such a man as McKinley and upon such grounds as those alleged in the circular. A pronouncement of this character will do more injury to the order than any assault from without, because it will at once produce division among its own members. This has already become apparent in Omaha, where the newspaper and leaders of the A. P. A. persist in support of McKinley in spite of the charges leveled against him by the advisory board.

Looking at the matter from an impartial standpoint and from the distance of Colorado, the conclusion cannot be avoided that the advisory board is standing in with the political bosses of the far east, who give not three straws for religion of any kind, but who would like very well to use the order as an engine to help their own ends and to weaken the candidate who appears to be stronger than the whole of them together. It will be found, we fancy, before the convention is over, that Platt, Quay and the rest of them will be supporting Thomas B. Reed of Maine, if they can make as satisfactory arrangements with him as have evidently been made with the advisory board. To think that those machine manipulators have any religion in their souls except their own success requires an extraordinary imagination. The members of the advisory board seem to have driven a bargain with them or Reed, which will be for the personal benefit of those concerned rather than for the good of the order or the advancement of any variety of religious belief.

The Lowell, Mass., *Herald*, published

the following interview with Congressman Linton, April 15:

Congressman Linton is rather averse to talking about himself at present, but he consented to give his views to the representative of the *Lowell Herald*, simply insisting that he spoke as an individual rather than as the official representative of the association. He said, in reply to a question, that the nomination of a presidential ticket by the American Protective Association was highly probable under certain conditions.

"In what event will it be probable?" asked the correspondent.

"In the event that neither of the old parties place a plank in their platform which meets the views of the association. It is demanded that no public moneys shall be appropriated for sectarian purposes. The association demands, also, more rigid immigration laws, the effect of which will be to exclude from our shores undesirable immigrants from abroad. The party which meets these demands will secure its support without regard to the individual political preferences of members."

"Suppose that neither party meets your wishes in this respect, what then?"

"In that case, in my judgment, an American party will be organized to nominate a candidate for the presidency."

"How many votes can you poll?"

"The patriotic orders represent a voting strength of 4,000,000, including A. P. A.s, the Junior Order of American Mechanics, Patriotic Sons of America and kindred organizations—a very important political factor, as you will see, when it is remembered that at the last presidential election the aggregate popular vote was only 12,000,000."

"Is the order growing?"

"It is growing very fast, everywhere. Just at present its development is very rapid in the south, and it is becoming very strong in Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and Virginia. It is not confined to any section. In some localities where the organization has effected its purpose and perhaps died out, its influence is still felt, and people in sympathy with its principles continue to cast their votes along the old lines."

"It is charged that the A. P. A. is a non-Catholic order. Is that true?"

"The A. P. A. is not a non-Catholic order in so far as the religion of that church is concerned. It opposes the appropriation of public money for sectarian purposes, and as the Catholics are the only church organization now seeking those benefits they choose to regard the order as their enemy. We are just as strongly opposed to Protestant societies receiving this public aid as any Catholic society, believing absolutely in the separation of church and state. The Protestant churches, however, have gradually ceased to secure aid from the government to support their schools, and I notice in the dispatches to-day that the Methodist conference, which is now in session in New York, cordially endorses the action of the House a few weeks ago in refusing to vote money for the support of Indian sectarian schools."

Says the *Denver American*: "On the first page of this issue will be found the circular issued by the Supreme Advisory Board of the American Protective Association. After investigation the board opposes McKinley as a presidential candidate, but expresses satisfaction with Allison, Cullom, Reed and others, and especially with Reed. Possibly some of these candidates may be satisfactory to Protestant-Americans in the east, but neither Allison nor Reed will get many A. P. A. votes in the silver states. Reed once denounced the order, and Allison has a Romanist for private secretary, and has had for years. And in addition to sound Americanism, the presidential candidate who will get the A. P. A. vote or any other respectable vote in the silver states this year will be a friend of the people—not a gold-bug. Republicans, Democrats, Populists and Independents in Colorado and the other silver states will this year repudiate un-American and gold-bug candidates alike. Linton or Teller or Harrison! Linton because of all-around Americanism, Teller because the record of his votes in the senate establishes his great ability and loyalty to the people, and Harrison because he stood by T. J. Morgan when the pope of Rome thundered at the doors of the White House. These begood men and true. But Allison, McKinley and Reed! Go to! The sight of the papal tiara would bring the trio to their knees!"

The Houtdale, Pa., *Observer*, April 9, says:

We notice of late that several of our American exchanges seem to have a

(Continued on page 5.)