

THE FORUM OF THE WEEKLY PRESS

Ironton (Mo.) Register: The people of Missouri do not want any man who does not stand squarely on the Kansas City platform to represent them in the United States senate.

Pekin (Ill.) Times: The republicans are talking strongly of tinkering with the tariff. They ought to know that would "disturb the business interests of the country." At least they have always claimed it would.

Thayer (Mo.) Tribune: President Roosevelt and the governor of Massachusetts are praised for their liberality in appointing democrats to judgeships. It is noticeable, however, that they choose the kind of democrats who vote the republican ticket.

Langdon (N. D.) Courier-Democrat: During the campaign of a year ago the republicans attributed every Filipino uprising to Bryan speeches. One of the very worst slaughters of the war has just occurred and to whom will the republicans now lay the blame?

Detroit (Mich.) People: So long as democrats permit machine republicans and their close allies, trust national bankers and high tariffites to dictate their platforms and say who shall be nominated for office, so long may democrats expect to remain out in the cold, and deservedly so.

Lincoln (Ill.) Times: The republican press would like very much to have it generally understood that a traitor is a man who isn't a republican and that treason consists in failing to agree with Roosevelt, Hanna and the other republican land and man-grabbers in the orient.

Potosi (Mo.) Independent: Scratch a gold democrat and you will find a United States bank republican underneath the hide. The way to have harmony in the democratic ranks, is to let every member of the party who finds himself uncomfortable on the Kansas City platform leave it and go where he is better suited.

Lexington (N. C.) Dispatch: That particular and strange class of American citizens who see nothing wrong in a law which enables a certain class of men to sell their products in a foreign market cheaper than they sell them in the home markets, will perhaps follow the lead of the high tariff teachers, while those who see the patent injustice and the iniquity of such a system will turn their faces the other way.

St. Paul (Minn.) Broadax: In less than ten years we will be told that gold is plentiful and must give way—as a money standard—to the bank note; for it will be urged the output of gold is so great that it cannot be restricted or controlled, while it is possible to keep the issue of standard paper money within limits. Commerce like the salesman, uses the argument which will suit, not the customer's requirements, but the vender's profit.

Moulton (Ia.) Sun: The republicans are rapidly climbing onto the democratic platform. A great many of them now acknowledge the democratic party was right when they declared for freer trade, and as soon as the supply of gold falls short and fails to meet the demands for an increased volume of money they will be in favor of free silver again. A republican that has not been on all sides of the questions is a curiosity.

Oldwater (Mich.) Star: It seems that while the congressional delegation was over in the Philippines the democratic portion assured the people that it would be the purpose of this government to grant them self-government, while the republican contingent kept mum on that question. Still they will insist that they are adherents of "the party of Lincoln!" Which will tend most to "pacify" those people, those who offer constitutional liberty, or those who bring the sword?

Columbia (Mo.) Herald: Let us not lose our heads. The average Missouri democrat, the fellow who makes and unmakes political leaders, has his favorite stands. What does it profit the average Missouri democrat if he gets his favorite the senatorial nomination and loses the legislature to the republicans. First catch your hare. The moral of this observation is that we are all democrats, that any democrat who stands on the Kansas City platform is better than any republican who does not stand on that platform, and that we should not say anything about our brother-democrat that will lend aid and comfort to the enemy.

Platte City (Mo.) Landmark: Some democrats are fearing that the absorption of the Kansas City Times by the Star will injure the party in this part of the state. We do not think so. For some years the dailies have not been leaders and have not possessed the influence they once had. During the campaign of 1896 and 1900 the people depended almost entirely upon country newspapers for cordial and unstinted support of democratic issues. Country papers, free from the contaminating influences which surround city dailies, fought the two last fights and held the democratic hosts in line. This fight can be and will be made, although the trusts and combines control the daily newspapers.

Hickory (Miss.) Reporter-Index: If it is right to turn back to such democrats as Hill and Cleveland for leadership simply because the party would stand a better chance to win, then for the same reason it would be right and best for all Christians to forsake their Leader and follow the leadership of the devil, for he is a sure winner. A true Christian will suffer defeat a thousand times and still carry the banner of right through adversity, and walk with bleeding feet through thorns and stony ground before he will accept the gorgeous splendor and triumphant ride on the band wagon of the devil. Why is not

the same principle and devotion to right as good in politics as in religion? A man who has a greater desire to win than he has to uphold the right, is not a fit subject for self-government no matter what his educational advantages may be, and is not half so good a citizen as the ignorant old man who cannot read a line, but votes for what he believes to be right, though he knew he would be defeated before he cast his ballot.

Pittsburg (Pa.) Democrat: The New York Herald is not enamored with the idea of piling up money in the federal treasury by needless taxation of the people, that it may be used or paid out for the benefit of the capitalistic class. It says: "Beautiful financial system is that of our government! It taxes the people needlessly to get an idle surplus into the treasury, and then to get it out again pays away their money at the rate of 140 in redemption of bonds issued six years ago at 104½." And the Herald might have added that \$114,000,000 of this "idle surplus" is now deposited in the national banks, on which the banks do not pay a penny of interest, and which is loaned to their customers at 6 per cent. The people are taxed to create a banking capital.

Auxvasse (Mo.) Review: The democratic party stands for free speech. It must not now abandon its historic position. It must not lose its head. The republican party once stood for free speech. Of late it has moved away from the position of vantage. It has suppressed newspapers in Manila and closed the postoffices in America to the circulation of documents printed by the government itself. It has called criticism high treason and has held that courts by injunction may make law-breakers of citizens peacefully talking to neighbors upon a public highway. The democratic party cannot afford to in-dorse by speech or silence these insidious attacks upon the blood-bought rights of free speech. To do this would be bad politics and worse principle.

Union (W. Va.) Watchman: While condemning the democrats for "re-opening the money question" the republican leaders are almost constantly tampering with the country's financial system. Secretary of the Treasury Gage in his address before the American bankers' association at Milwaukee, last week, strenuously urged the retirement of the greenback legal tender notes. Bryan last year predicted this would be the next move. The closing of the mints to silver, the establishment of the single gold standard, more power and privileges to the national bankers with the result that private interests control a large portion of the money volume, and now the retirement of the greenbacks. These are the steps outlined on the republican program—and yet no democrat must discuss the money question.

Cadiz (O.) Democrat: It makes a republican sick to hear a sheep bleat. This time last year they were telling us that wool would be 30 and 40 cents per pound this year if the republican party were kept in power. No wonder they take flight every time they see a sheep.

Ava (Ill.) Citizen: There is absolutely no demand for the new Kansas City party. The democratic organization under the anti-imperialist, anti-protection, anti-national bank and pro-liberty and fair play leadership is all sufficient. And still less demand for the "reorganizers."

Ottumwa (Ia.) Democrat: The democrats over in "the state of Scott," according to the Democrat of that place (a paper only democratic in name) have cut loose, adopted a platform of their own and are going to "take the lead" in "returning to the traditions and principles of the founders of the party." The Democrat is supporting what it terms a "county democratic ticket." Those alleged democrats up in Scott are what might truly be termed "whisky democrats." They came into the democratic party from the republican party because of prohibition and have been engaged ever since trying to republicanize the democratic party. When democracy makes a platform and ticket to suit the democrats of Scott, it will not be recognizable as democratic to the members of the party outside of that mugwump river county.

Linn (Mo.) Unterrified Democrat: The gold democrats think they are making splendid progress with their reorganization business. There can be no such thing as a democratic victory over the financial planks of two last national democratic platforms. Such a victory will be temporary and unquestionably a republican victory. Bimetallism is only a part of the financial system of this country. This can never be a government for the people while the power of issuing money is in the hands of national banks. Any man who opposes the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the old ratio is opposed to government paper and in favor of corporation paper. These questions must be settled some day. The great questions of taxation—the basis of the trust question—and the question of transportation are the burning questions. Before these questions have been justly settled, the financial question will again come to the front. The money power is in position to defy just measures that will restore to the people their rights. The silver men as a rule stand with Jackson and Lincoln on the money question. They know that the truth can stand alone. The same old fight will come again. There can be no peace, no permanent prosperity until we reach a just settlement of the questions of taxation, finance and transportation. All disputes about labor, land and imperialism, spring from a public abuse and imperfect knowledge of these three questions. One of these questions is always paramount, and the peace of the nation awaits their final settlement.