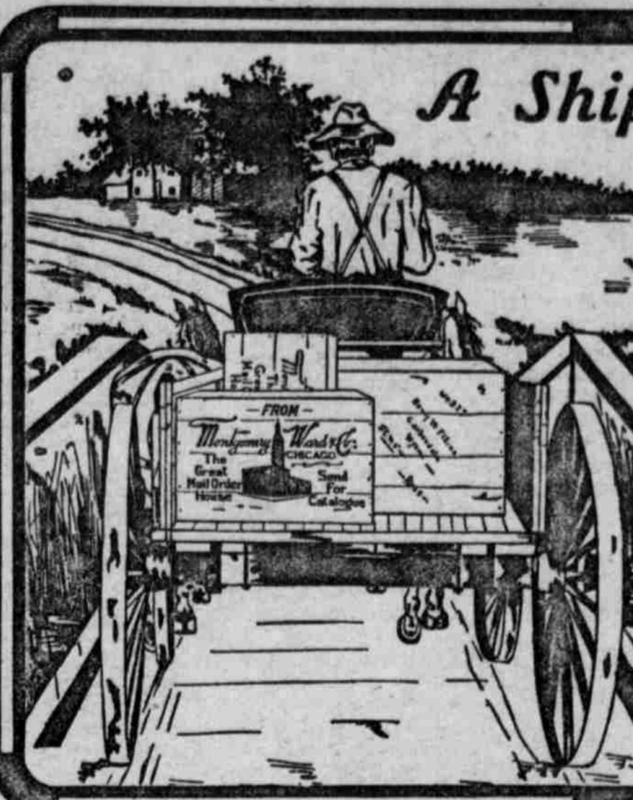


**Mr. Bryan and the Indiana Democracy**

We reproduce elsewhere, from the last number of The Commoner, Mr. Bryan's comments, in full, on the proceedings of the Indiana democratic state convention. Mr. Bryan pronounces the platform "good," and urges democratic support of the state ticket. But while insisting that there was no good reason for the mention of his name, or that of any other individual, in the platform, and expressing regret that any delegate should have asked the convention to give him a personal indorsement, Mr. Bryan finds in the failure of the convention to reaffirm the Kansas City platform evidence "that the men who controlled the convention were either out of harmony with the majority of the party or too timid to give voice to the convictions of the voters." Mr. Bryan quotes the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican newspaper, in support of his judgment upon the personnel and proceedings of the convention, and intimates pretty strongly that "in the struggle between human rights and Mammon" the Indiana democrats have made some sort of a surrender, or at least a compromise.

The Sentinel regrets exceedingly that Mr. Bryan should take this view. It is based either on misinformation, or else it betrays a singular and most regrettable inability on Mr. Bryan's part to see things at this time in their proper relations. The Sentinel has been Mr. Bryan's staunch and uncompromising supporter in two presidential campaigns. It was one of three or four metropolitan journals which stood by him in 1896, and it gave him warmest and most loyal support in 1900. It has been, and is, his friend. It believes in, and hopes it may never have reason to doubt, his patriotism, his sincerity, his courage, his democracy. But the Sentinel speaking, not in anger, but in the greatest kindness and good fellowship, says to Mr. Bryan that the democratic party of this state had reason to expect from him, and was entitled to, a more genuine and cordial recognition of its fidelity to him in the past than he has seen fit to accord it in the pronouncement which we republish today. This democratic convention was a thoroughly representative body. It was in entire harmony with an overwhelming majority of the party in this state, and it gave expression to their honest convictions. So far from making any compromise or concession to "mammon," the convention made a clear-cut and aggressive declaration against trusts, tariff robbery, subsidies and all the policies and practices of monopoly, and coupled with it a ringing assertion of the doctrines of human rights, so dear to every true democrat. The Sentinel can say this with absolute disinterestedness since it had absolutely nothing to do with making either the platform or the ticket.

As to the Kansas City platform, the money section of it was adopted against the protest of the entire democratic delegation from this state, which represented the overwhelming sentiment of the party in Indiana in 1900. There is hardly a greater democratic sentiment in the state today in favor of reaffirming it than there is in favor of reaffirming the Chicago platform of 1864. The world moves and the Indiana democracy moves with it. No man in the United States has it in his power to render a greater service in the pending struggle against imperialism and monopoly than the eloquent Nebraska statesman. But if he is going to insist that, in the face of an abundant supply of primary money and of an overwhelming contrary public sentiment, the democratic party must continue to demand "the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without asking the consent of any other nation" he will make himself, unconsciously, no doubt, the most potent ally the party of organized greed could have. Mr.



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Bryan cannot afford to get into this position. The democrats of Indiana and of other states who are fighting against tremendous odds for human rights, and against tariff robbery, ship subsidies and other wicked measures of plunder and spoliation, are entitled to his sympathy and all the assistance and support he can give. There is no silver question today. But there are other questions even more vital than it ever was. The Indiana democracy is on the right side of all of them. It needs Mr. Bryan's help and ought to have it.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

**Firing in the Rear.**

When Dr. Johnson said that "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel," he desired to convey the idea that the scoundrel finds all other arguments and apologies taken from him, and falls back on patriotism for want of something else to talk about. Scoundrels are not the only people destitute of argument who take this course, as is illustrated by the observations of Senator Fairbanks:

"I dislike the enemy who fires upon the soldiers wearing the uniforms of the United States. I infinitely more respect the one who fires from the front than the one who fires from the rear."

This catchy expression is not original with Senator Fairbanks, and the same line of argument is being generally followed by republican politicians. And yet there is not one of them who would dare to take the position openly which these words imply—that a man who wears the uniform, and does things unworthy the uniform, must not be criticised because he wore a uniform when he offended. That is what the proposition means, and in its plain significance it is too idiotic to admit of defense. If it were legitimate there would never have been a thief drummed out of camp for fear of insulting the uniform.

The recorded facts are that when the stories of torture and barbarity were first told, Senator Fairbanks and other republicans hastened to deny them. They all championed Secretary Root when he rebuked General Miles for saying that the war had been "conducted with marked severity," and questioned the official reports of the cruelties. When the stories were proved to be true, Senator Fairbanks and other republican leaders expressed horror, and said the offenders must be punished if found guilty. Orders

for court martialing General Smith and others were sent out at once. But when Smith admitted all the facts, and pleaded that he was obeying orders, Senator Fairbanks and other republicans began protesting against "firing from the rear."

It is indeed a last refuge, for there can be no apology for torture or barbarity from any standpoint of civilization or Christianity or humanity. Torture is torture, no matter who commits it, and no matter for what purpose. Yet its perpetrators usually seek to justify themselves by devotion to some high cause. The torturers of the inquisition resorted to it to save men's souls. But it is unnecessary to consider such defenses. Torture is prohibited expressly by our rules of war—by general orders, No. 100. Any soldier who indulges in it violates orders.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

**Is the War Over?**

Sec'y Root's grandiloquent speech at West Point enabled Sixto Lopez to put Root in a very deep hole. The Filipino was quick to take advantage of the bragging of Root and he wrote the secretary of war the following letter:

"Sir: Your speech delivered yesterday at West Point contains what the Filipinos will regard as the most important utterance made by you since you assumed office. You therein declare, without any qualifying terms, that the American army in the Philippines 'has put down an insurrection of 7,000,000 people, so that today peace reigns from the northernmost point of Luzon to the southernmost island of the southern archipelago.'

"This official statement, coming as it does from the source of military authority, is at present of supreme importance to my countrymen, not only because of its admission that the war has been with 7,000,000 of Filipinos, but because of its direct bearing upon section 10 of the Philippine sedition law, which reads:

"Until it has been officially proclaimed that a state of war or insurrection against the authority or sovereignty of the United States no longer exists in the Philippine islands, it shall be unlawful for any person to advocate orally or by writing or printing or like methods, the independence of the Philippine islands or their separation from the United States by peaceable or forcible means, or print, publish or circulate any handbill, newspaper, or

other publication, advocating such independence or separation. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and imprisonment not exceeding one year."

"Your statement that there is universal peace in the islands makes necessary the formal proclamation that 'a state of war or insurrection . . . no longer exists,' thus removing section 10 from the statute book of the civil commission. Presumably instructions will be given for the issuance of this proclamation, but on behalf of my fellow-countrymen who do not wish to remain one day longer without those elementary rights denied them under section 10, I beg respectfully to ask whether it is the intention to give such instructions forthwith? Sincerely yours, (Signed) SIXTO LOPEZ.  
"Boston, June 12, 1902."

**No Chance For Him.**

"Now that we are engaged," said the fair young thing, "I will tell you that I do not fear mice."

"That is nice," said the prospective groom.

"And," continued the fiancee, "I can drive nails without hitting my thumb; and I know how to use a paper cutter without ruining a book; and I can add a row of figures without making a separate sum for each consecutive figure; and I can build a fire; and I can tell when a picture is hung straight on the wall."

Here the man drew himself up with much dignity and sorrow, and cried:

"Then I cannot marry you, alas!"

"What prospect is there for my ever being able to demonstrate the superiority of man over woman if I marry a woman who possesses such traits of character as you?"—Baltimore American.

**Laugh at Roosevelt.**

The Rome correspondents of the Paris papers report that the whole Vatican is having great fun over President Roosevelt sending by an official American embassy a complete set of his literary works as a present to the pope.—New York World.

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