

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Vol. 2. No. 25.

Lincoln, Nebraska, July 11, 1902.

Whole No. 77.

"STILL—VERY STILL."

The Hon. David B. Hill, without whose vociferations no "harmony" meeting would be complete, has not always been so prodigal with his voice. There was a time—and it was a critical time in the history of the democratic party—when neither love of country, nor party loyalty, nor the recollections of honors received, nor yet (strongest of all) the hope of honors yet to come—could draw from him one dulcet note. That was in 1896 when organized greed, hypocrisy and fraud united to thwart the purpose which a large majority of the party expressed in the most democratic convention which had been held for a generation. The Chicago platform was adopted on the 9th of July; after Mr. Hill had had more than two months to consider it, he wrote to Hon. Hamilton Ward of Belmont, N. Y., a letter dated September 12, 1896, and published in the Buffalo Express June 17, 1902, which reads as follows:

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 12, 1896.

(Personal.)

My Dear Judge: Your recent letters were duly received. I read each of them with much interest. The situation for a democrat who desires at all times to be loyal to his party is very difficult. I am giving the matter very careful consideration and moving slowly. I was a democrat before the Chicago convention and I am a democrat still—very still. I am always glad to hear from you.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Ward and yourself, I remain, very truly yours,

DAVID B. HILL.

Hon. Hamilton Ward,
Belmont, N. Y.

If Mr. Hill had any influence that was the time to exert it. We needed harmony then and his particular friends were the discordant ones, but he was "STILL—VERY STILL."

He wants to push tariff reform to the front now, but when the republicans nominated the foremost champion of ultra protection and when his influence might have aided tariff reform he was "STILL—VERY STILL."

He now pretends to be very much disturbed by the trusts, but he knew that the trusts were opposing the democratic ticket in 1896 and he knew that they would control the policy of the republican administration if they succeeded in electing that ticket, but he was "STILL—VERY STILL."

He describes imperialism as a menace to the country and yet when the republicans were winning the victory out of which imperialism grew and were employing imperialistic methods to coerce voters he was "STILL—VERY STILL."

He ought not to be too noisy now. He claims to have voted the ticket in 1896—it is even said that he can prove it by a thumb mark on the ticket—but if he has so much influence why did he not use his influence for the ticket? A man who is big enough to aspire to the presidency ought to have some influence; he ought to be able to do more than control his own vote. If Mr. Hill was able to influence one thousand votes in the United States he has a thousand times as great a claim on the republican party as on the democratic party, for all his influence was thrown to the republican ticket. At the Tilden club banquet he eulogized Mr. Cleveland after the latter had made his impudent and insolent speech calling upon the democratic party to repent.

The Commoner does not condemn Mr. Hill

merely because he sinned in 1896, but because he is ready to repeat the sin; it is not because he did his party a wrong, but because there is no reason to doubt that he will follow in the future the same course he has followed in the past. Mr. Hill's conduct showed how far apart he and the party were in 1896, and his speeches show that he has not changed. Therefore, he and the party must be as far apart now unless the party has undergone a change. He has indorsed Mr. Cleveland's plan of requiring the faithful to wear sackcloth and ashes, but the rank and file do not respond—they are "STILL—VERY STILL."

///

THEY ARE IGNORING PRECEDENT

In an editorial seeking to justify the omission of the trial by jury privilege from the bill of rights extended to the Filipinos, the New York Tribune says that "for this discrimination there is ample precedent from the earlier times." The Tribune then says: "In 1804 the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana were organized by congress and a bill of rights was given to them, but without extending the constitutional jury trial."

What authority has the Tribune for seeking to give the impression that the right of trial by jury was denied to the inhabitants of the territories of Louisiana and Orleans? The act of congress approved March 26, 1804, and relating to the territories of Louisiana and Orleans, provided, among other things: "In all criminal prosecutions which are capital, the trial shall be by a jury of twelve good and lawful men of the vicinage; and in all cases criminal and civil, in the superior court, the trial shall be by a jury, if either of the parties require it. The inhabitants of the said territory shall be entitled to the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus; they shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident or the presumption great; and no cruel and unusual punishment shall be inflicted."

The act of congress approved March 3, 1805, relating to the permanent government of the territory of Louisiana, provided "that in all criminal prosecutions the trial shall be by a jury of twelve good and lawful men of the vicinage, and in all civil cases of the value of one hundred dollars the trial shall be by jury if either of the parties require it."

How are these facts as "ample precedent" for the refusal of the republican party to give the Filipinos the right of trial by jury?

///

Told in Figures.

"Cleveland in 1894." Under this head, on another page, will be found an editorial written by Louis F. Post of Chicago and published in his paper, The Public. It calls attention to the demoralization wrought by Mr. Cleveland's administration and shows conclusively that Mr. Cleveland had led the party into "the shadow of pre-destined defeat" before the Chicago and Kansas City platforms were written. Just lay the article away and when some week-kneed democrat begins to talk of "winning" with a Cleveland-Hill platform show him the figures. The overwhelming defeat of 1896 came before the people had studied economic conditions and before Cleveland and Hill aided the republicans in 1896—the defeat would be much more sweeping now.

INDEPENDENCE FOR FILIPINOS.

That subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth the United States of America hereby relinquish all claim of sovereignty over and title to the archipelago known as the Philippine islands.

Sec. 2. That the United States shall continue to occupy and govern said archipelago until the people thereof have established a government in accordance with the provisions of this act, with sufficient guarantees for the performance of our treaty obligations with Spain and for the safety of those inhabitants who have adhered to the United States, and for the maintenance and protection of all rights which have accrued under the authority thereof, as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 3. That upon the cessation of organized armed opposition to the temporary sovereignty of the United States government the president of the United States shall proclaim the fact, and within ninety days after the issuance of such proclamation the United States Philippine commission shall make and promulgate rules and regulations for the holding of an election in the various provinces of said Philippine archipelago for members of a house of representatives and a senate, to constitute a temporary congress, which shall be vested with full legislative power and also with the power of appointing such judges as may to them seem proper and necessary. The said Philippine congress shall prescribe rules and regulations for the election or appointment of all other officers, provincial or municipal, as may to them seem proper or necessary. The members of said senate and house shall hold their offices for the term of four years from and after their election and qualification, unless said terms of office are sooner terminated by the inauguration of the permanent government created by the constitutional convention hereinafter provided for, and all other officers shall hold office for such terms as may be prescribed by such congress. Senators and representatives in congress are to receive compensation at the rate of — dollars per annum and other officers shall receive such compensation as may be prescribed by the congress.

The chief executive shall be appointed by the president of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the senate of the United States, and shall be vested with a veto power over all acts of the Philippine congress having relation to their foreign affairs, but shall have no veto power with respect to other legislation, nor shall he be empowered to appoint any officer unless authorized to do so by the Philippine congress. He shall exercise such other executive powers as shall be vested in him by the Philippine congress, and shall hold his office for a term of four years unless the temporary government shall within that time be superseded by the inauguration of the permanent government herein provided for, and said president shall receive a compensation of \$10,000 per annum, to be paid out of the Philippine treasury. There shall be such other executive officers receiving such compensation and performing such duties as may be prescribed by the Philippine congress, and they shall be appointed or elected in such manner as may be prescribed by law.

During the period of the existence of the temporary government herein provided for, which shall in no event extend beyond four years from