

✿ ✿ FORUM OF THE WEEKLY PRESS ✿ ✿

Batavia (O.) Sun: The recent harmony dinner in New York—held under New Jersey auspices—was notable for the absence of real democratic leaders.

Hamlin (W. Va.) Monitor: How would the sugar beet do for an emblem in the next presidential campaign? There is some doubt about the "full dinner pail" working again.

Benton Harbor (Mich.) Times: The republican party stands for slavery and polygamy—at least congress voted in favor of it, by voting against a bill to wipe it out. Memory of Lincoln, where art thou?

Gunnison (Colo.) News-Champion: Roosevelt said he pardoned those Filippinos on the Fourth of July by virtue of power vested in him by the constitution. But the supreme court told us the constitution did not apply to Filippinos.

Albia (Ia.) News: The democratic party will be true to its best traditions when leading a fight for the rights of the people, as against the trusts and monopolies fostered by high tariffs, and for the issue and control of the volume of money by the people instead of the banks.

Harisburg (Ill.) Register: In 1892 Grover Cleveland was elected president, and 219 democratic congressmen were elected. Two years later but 93 democratic congressmen were chosen, all because of Cleveland's betrayal of the people. No wonder Watterson says he left the party a wreck.

Toledo (O.) Bulletin: If the Kansas City platform were wrong and not in the interest of a great majority of the people the newspapers opposing it should take it up plank by plank and show by logical reasoning that it is wrong. This shooting in every direction except at the mark inclines many readers to think the papers pursuing this course are insincere.

Holmes County (O.) Farmer: The cry of the republicans in 1896 and 1900 was that if free silver won every commodity and necessity that the people used would double in price and that the wages of labor would be the last thing to advance. Well, free silver didn't win and that is exactly the condition we have now. Will some of our good republican brethren explain the wherefore of this condition and show us wherein the demand regulates the price.

Bonham (Tex.) News: The real democrats are going to harmonize, silver or no silver, while a few pretended democrats are not going with the party, silver or no silver, unless they can dictate the platform and the nominees. These are the Palmer and Buckner crowd, and have not in the past, do not now, nor ever will belong to the democratic party. They are republicans, and we do not want any harmony on their terms. The rest of the party will harmonize all right. Don't worry.

Vandalia (Ill.) Democrat: The beefless dinner pail is a silent but potent protest against the policy of the republican party, which by its tariff system "protects" the beef trust while the latter robs the people.

Preston (Minn.) National Republican: There is no more odious political character than Grover Cleveland. He was raised up by the Belmonts to betray the democratic party into the custody of the money trust.

Cochocton (O.) Democrat and Standard: President Roosevelt's suggestion in his Pittsburg speech with respect to additional legislation against the trusts has been received with chilling coolness by the republican bosses and editors. When one of the former, Senator Platt of New York, was asked several days after the date of the address what he thought of it, the evasive answer was ready: "I have not yet read it." Dodging answers of that kind deceive no one. They are the feeble resource of wily politicians who, for diplomatic reasons, are unwilling to express the approval or disapproval which they entertain. And so of the eminent journalists of the same party. The prudence which seals the lips of the bosses prompts them to give private circulation only to their opinions on a question which is of universal interest.

Dexter (Mo.) Messenger: John L. Thomas, of DeSoto, prominent in state politics, is openly affiliating with the republican party. In a recent address at Jefferson City he made use of the following language: "The only place for a reorganizer is in the republican party." Mr. Thomas has had a bad case of sulks for several years, and was a follower of and an appointee of Cleveland in 1892. He followed his master off and lost all the pull he ever had with his party. He is right in saying that the place of every reorganizer is in the republican party, and it is to be hoped that this class will exhibit the same moral courage and cast their lot with the party they have been aiding for years. We admire Mr. Thomas for his change, because we believe he is now where he belongs. The only way to purify a party is by getting rid of the refuse material.

Watertown (N. Y.) Reunion: We have an abiding impression that it is not necessary to go beyond the sentiments and principles declared by the democratic masses—the folks in the country and school districts, in the workshops and on the farms—to find out what the democracy of this country stands for today. We see no need of reorganization or any calls for a new departure in politics, either in the way of principles or organization. The eloquent gentlemen we have lately heard from are prolific in good advice, but they should take some of it themselves and join, with the same earnestness and hope they had when candidates themselves, in all legiti-

mate party work. The democratic party of this country is today a well-organized force for sound and well-understood principles.

Dyersburg (Tenn.) Herald: Those who propose to reorganize the democratic party, whatever that means, should bear in mind that over six millions of true democrats will have to be reckoned with. Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Hill and several others, who have not kept the faith, met in New York recently and made some miserable stagers at what they were pleased to term "harmony," but which were nothing more nor less than bold and stubborn attempts at justifying themselves for the part they had taken in defeating the party that had twice elected the chief spokesman at this gathering to the highest office in its gift. If there is to be a reorganization of the party—if there is a real necessity for it (which we do not admit)—the reorganization must be entrusted to the men who remained with the party in 1896. Those who left it have no right to expect to be entrusted with its reorganization. At least they should not expect to be given the seat of honor in the council chamber. If the party is satisfied it was wrong in 1896 and 1900, then let the party itself renounce its utterances and decide its principles—and not the men who sulked in their tents or openly espoused the cause of McKinley, the apostle of protection and the opponent of every democratic doctrine enunciated since he first entered public life.

West Unity (O.) Defender: There are democratic newspapers in the state that are looking for a leader to guide the party to success. They claim they do not believe in "isms," "fads," and "heresies," but they wish the party to triumph—they want it to win at the polls. They want to win their way. Their way is to surrender to the money power, to cater to the trusts, to truckle to a false national pride which has arbitrary annexation of territory as a hobby. They believe in the abasement of principle and the abolishment of a policy which means now and for all time a true republican form of government, a firmly established democracy. Catering to the earnest desire of the average member of the party to win, they make specious arguments why the majority should not do so-and-so, without saying what it should do. This is the class of papers that fought with the enemy six and two years ago, and which will do so again two years hence, unless they can commit the party to the same doctrines and policies pursued by the party in power. Either that or they were lukewarm in those momentous campaigns and are chilly now. It remains to be seen if the great majority of the party will lie down and permit the disturbers to walk over their bodies to even greater disasters than we suffered in 1896 and 1900.

Waynesburg (Pa.) Democrat: One of the favorite words of those who betrayed the democratic party in 1896 and 1900 is "reconstruction." They would have the people forget that the Kansas City platform was supported by more votes than any other national democratic platform in the history of our country and had it not been for such bolters as ex-President Cleveland, victory would have surely perched upon our banner. The bolting democrats who now want to reconstruct the democratic party are so nearly allied to the trust-ridden and Wall-street-controlled republican party that it would require a microscope to discover the difference. Cleveland sold out himself and his party to Wall street for something a little more substantial than a "mess of pottage." He got his booty, let him enjoy it, if he can, in seclusion, but he and those who followed his lead have also the condemnation of the democratic masses and it certainly requires "cheek" in the superlative degree to come out before the public and talk about "reconstructing" that which they betrayed into the hands of the enemy. We are proud of an "unreconstructed" democracy which would sooner go down in defeat ninety and nine times than to bow the knee to the modern Baal, the money power. No, we are not greater than the national platform and we expect to stand by it and on it until the democracy of the nation in convention assembled shall give us another.

Smiling Little Girl

FABLE SHOWING THE UNWISDOM OF SOME CHANGES.

There was a little girl once whose natural expression was a pleased smile. It attracted the boys to an extent that the little girl's governess told her she must modulate the smile, or it would be supposed, as she grew to be a young lady, that she was seeking to attract masculine attention, than which nothing could be more unwomanly.

The little girl was started in to be ladylike. By 20 she was severe looking. At 25 she was forbidding and at 30 her face was positively repellent. She was a perfect lady, but the masculine sex had ceased to trouble her.

So she decided to throw prudence to the winds and to cultivate the old winning expression. But she had forgotten how to look pleasant and resembled a cheerful hyena when she smiled. Then she became melancholy, and that settled it. She saw them all go by. Misdirected refinement had been her ruin.

Moral: Never make a change unless you are sure it is for the better.—Life.

A Wrong System.

We congratulate our thrifty friend, President Schwab, on his new \$3,350,000 home in Gotham. It will be a fitting monument to the splendid system which builds palaces for a few and condemns all the rest to "company houses."—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat.