



# Weekly Press Forum

Lancaster (O.) Democrat: A characterless presidential message promises to be followed by a characterless congressional session.

West Bend (Wis.) Pilot: The sacred tariff schedules will not be touched at this session of congress and the protected interests will be looked to for the usual campaign contribution two years hence.

Long Island (Kas.) Leader: The papers say that the results of American imperialism are the same as that of European brand. Starvation is staring the people of the Philippines in the face.

Urbana (O.) Democrat: All that the present republican congress is doing to the trusts consists of talk, talk, talk, and it will all end in talk notwithstanding the multiplicity of bills that have been introduced.

Willmar (Minn.) Tribune: No monopoly is good until it is killed. This does not mean that the corporation exercising a monopoly needs to be killed; it means only depriving it of the special privileges that make it a monopoly.

Virginia (Ill.) Enquirer: For every anti-trust bill introduced in congress by a republican member the trust magnates and barons take another bottle of champagne. The joke is too good for them to enjoy without becoming absolutely hilarious.

Freeport (Ill.) Bulletin: Many of the republican leaders tell us now that "prosperity cannot continue without abatement." Why not? If the republican party can make prosperity why cannot it continue the prosperity without abatement as long as it remains in power?

Louisville (Ill.) Ledger: An American in the Philippines has become widely known as the leader of an organized band of pirates. The fact that he is being hunted down as a criminal illustrates the difference between doing certain things as an individual and as a nation.

Columbus (Ind.) Democrat: It is now in order for the republican editors, who thought at least that the tariff should be removed from the wood pulp which enters into the manufacture of paper they use, to take their medicine and canoodle and go ahead and advocate tariff.

Coopertown (N. Y.) Journal: The price of oil has been advanced 3 cents a gallon within a short time, and it now sells at 17½ cents. Crack on, Mr. Rockefeller—divide your 50 per cent—and then make a donation to some college! It all comes out of the pockets of the people.

Bowling Green (O.) Democrat: The republican organs are tremendously kind to Grover Cleveland—and they ought to be—he bolted the democratic ticket in 1896 and 1900, and aided in electing the g. o. p. candidates. The organs of that party can well afford to be generous to Grover Cleveland.

Marion (Ill.) Press: The election has past and gone and in many places the democrats have fought a hard battle and met defeat, yet the party is fearless for the rights of the people. Although defeated in part, the party is not willing to surrender one prin-

ciple declared in the national platform.

Charlestown (Ind.) Citizen: Wall street is complaining of the scarcity of money. As soon as our farmers sell their hogs and corn they may be able to relieve the stringency. But, as the money barons claim there is an abundance of money, why should there be a stringency, especially in Wall street?

Upper Sandusky (O.) Chief: Republican editors are not devoting any space to moralize over the lynching of a negro in the republican state of Kansas, the state that has been "wrested from populism." It is only when such affairs occur in the south that the republican editors tear their hair and spout.

Casey (Ia.) Record: The colored gentleman in the wood pile may sometime be discovered without calling in the services of Sherlock Holmes. The Pacific railroads have nothing to gain by the building of an isthmian canal. They are acquainted with the value of a lobby and South American statesmen are not adamant to bribery.

Coshocton (O.) Democrat and Standard: Congress, it is said, will make an appropriation to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law. What is needed is not so much of an appropriation as a genuine disposition toward enforcement in the attorney general's office, which unfortunately is not found there in any vigorous manifestation.

Wabasha (Minn.) Herald: It is now evident that the present congress will not attempt to revise the tariff. The ante-election cry of the republican leaders that if the tariff is to be revised it should be revised by its friends, was all right on the hustings and kept many independent republicans in line for the congressional candidates.

Bound Brook (N. J.) Record: Just at present, for the want of something to print, the republican organs are busily engaged in their hobby of selecting a democratic candidate for the presidency. It is not certain, however, that the democratic convention will be bound by the decision which they reach—in fact, it will do well to avoid picking the man most favorable to them.

Marion (Ia.) Sentinel: Doubtless our investment in island colonial possessions some ten thousand miles from home may have an indirect significance in relation to the Monroe doctrine. This thing of our going out and gathering in peoples on the eastern continent may suggest to European nations the not impossible gathering in of some peoples on the western continent.

St. Anthony (Idaho) News: The president says: "Every man must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor so long as he does not infringe on the rights of his neighbors." Mr. Roosevelt neglects to say, however, that no man is at liberty to exchange the results of his labor with his foreign neighbors without paying tribute to the protected interests.

Van Wert (O.) Democrat: Being

carefully trained and repressed by Mr. Hay, the Monroe doctrine is not gnawing at the bars of its cage in its eagerness to get out and take a hand in this Venezuela performance. Once very susceptible and easily aroused, the Monroe doctrine is now as mild and amiable as a family cat. This shows how the republic has grown in grace under the benign rule of Theodore the Strenuous.

Breckenridge (Colo.) Bulletin: Not content with the destruction of silver as a money metal, the obedient republican party to the gold bug demand is urging the cessation of gold production. They are getting too much gold now and its destruction as a money metal will be the next move, and paper money issued by the banks will be demanded and granted as soon as demanded. The republican party is the party of trusts, corporations and money sharps.

Lincoln (Neb.) Independent: The interstate commerce commission is going to present a formal inquiry to the railroads, asking them why they raised rates and the railroads will make a formal reply, the plain English of which will be, because they thought the traffic would bear it. That will be the end of the costly farce. But then this is a world of shams and it all goes in a life-time. There are little shams and big shams and the public likes the big shams the best. That is why they pay so much to keep up this interstate commerce commission.

Somerset (N. J.) Messenger: About every other republican senator and congressman has a pet scheme for throttling the trusts, and which they are trying to work into a bill and have passed. They are all very similar in nature and differ only in detail. They all aim to make a big smoke with no fire at all. As no bill can be passed which does not meet the approval of the trusts themselves, and as the trusts are, or at least should be, content with present conditions; there will probably be nothin' doin'. The most that can legitimately be expected is the appointment of a commission which can take all the time it wants at looking into things and then make a report.

Carmen (O. T.) News: One of the most nefarious schemes ever presented to congress is the Fowler banking bill, which gives national banks the power to issue emergency currency, commonly called credit currency, to the amount of 25 per cent of the paid up capital stock. Think of such a scheme. National banks now issue 90 per cent of their capital stock in bank notes, and now comes this man Fowler and asks for the passage of a bill permitting them to issue 25 per cent of their capital stock in emergency currency in addition to the 90 per cent already issued, and we'll wager that it passes, because the backers of the republican party are these same national bankers.

Dayton (Wash.) Courier-Press: Some republicans will oppose the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt in 1904 because of his attitude toward trusts and some states where these republicans control will be favorable to a candidate "who will deal less lightly with the trust question." The trust

defenders certainly ought not to want any president to deal "less lightly" with the trusts than Teddy is doing. He is very careful not to hurt them, although he talks a great deal about the things they have done. If he would order the enforcement of the criminal section of the anti-trust law, the monopolist might have some reason to wince and whine.

Rich Hill (Mo.) Enterprise: The protocol of ex-President Cleveland in Sunday's papers, sounds very much like that old time song, "Hark from the Tombs." Mr. Cleveland had some very strong traits of character, but his passing was so long ago that we would hardly look for his waltzing about now, wrapped in Elijah's mantle. No party was ever as completely dissolved and interred by a president as the democratic party was by Mr. Cleveland. For him to issue an edict now, clothed in his ghostly habiliments, comes in this year of our Lord, with very poor grace. Mr. Cleveland would do well to retire to a monastery or some other secluded recluse where the party would see, nor hear, but little about him.

Pekin (Ill.) Courier: "When I read of the curbing of the trusts by President Roosevelt I am reminded of the conduct of my dear old father," said a merchant. "When I was a boy I was fond of dog fights. My mother abhorred these brutal exhibitions and punished me whenever she learned of my being present at one. My father secretly sympathized with me, though, good man, he did not see fit for my mother to know it. Coming home one evening my mother presented proof of my presence at a canine scrap and suggested immediate punishment. My father, pretending great wrath, accepted the suggestion and taking me into a bed room proceeded with a great stick to lash the furniture, saying, 'Howl, you rascal, howl.' Of course I howled and my mother hearing me was sorry and called to my father to whip me lighter. When I see that the president is lashing the trusts I imagine that his blows are falling on the furniture and that he is saying softly, 'Howl, you rascals, howl!'"

Cadillac (Mich.) Democrat: Ye gods, but the Chicago Chronicle is printing some rich stuff these days concerning the next democratic presidential nomination. It would have the progressives silenced forever and "give the management of national affairs to the men whose intelligence, sagacity and illustrious personnel will command the respect and the allegiance of the rank and file of the democratic party." This sounds real nice. But what does it mean? It means simply that the Chronicle, which, by the way, is itself a wolf masquerading in sheep's clothing, would give control of the party to a horde of downeast traitors—to a gang of men who forsook their own party in its direst need and strenuously supported the opposition. That's what it means. It means also that the democratic party must recede instead of go forward. It means that the party of the people must desert to the plutocracy. It means the making of a president a matter of Hobson's choice—a matter of supreme indifference to the money kings whether he be a democrat or a republican.