



## The Plan of the Reorganizers.

*The Brooklyn Eagle Candidly Admits That the Purpose is to Drive Kansas City Platform Democrats Out of the Party and to Frame a Platform That Will be Acceptable to Grover Cleveland.*

The Brooklyn Eagle, one of the recognized organs of the reorganizers, becomes more and more frank in its statements relating to the purposes of the Clevelandites. In its issue of March 2 the Eagle describes at some length the program adopted by these reorganizers. The Eagle says:

"Those democrats who oppose Bryan and who advocate the reconstruction of democracy with Bryanism expunged, are about to carry that issue into the south and west. One of the principal battlegrounds will be the state of Nebraska, where Mr. Bryan still retains, nominally at least, the control of the machinery of his party.

"It is proposed to crush Mr. Bryan's influence in his own state and to prevent at all costs his control of the Nebraska delegation to the next democratic national convention."

The Eagle explains that "this plan is not only essential, but feasible." In order that Kansas City platform democrats may understand the organized effort to drive them out of the organization and to make the democratic party so much like the republican party that the difference will be in name only, it will be interesting to read what the Eagle has to say concerning the work now under way by the reorganizers. The Eagle explains:

"Mr. Hill's is the executive mind in the scheme of reorganization. For more than a year that skillful politician has been building up an anti-Bryan, conservative, sound money machine in the democratic party of the east to be used as the nucleus of the general reorganization movement planned for next year. Mr. Cleveland gave countenance to the project in June, 1902, by appearing on the same platform with Mr. Hill at the Tilden club in this city. Mr. Gorman met Mr. Hill at Saratoga in September and Mr. Olney met him in New York in January, both acquiescing in his plans. New England, New York, New Jersey and Maryland, having together ninety-three votes in the electoral college, were thus in alliance against Bryan at the moment he arrived in New York with his defiance of the Hill-Cleveland faction. In all of the combinations by which democratic victories have been figured in the past, Maryland has been allotted safe, and New York, New Jersey and Connecticut fighting ground. Next in importance is Indiana. That state has been promised to Hill by ex-Mayor Taggart of Indianapolis.

"Powerful as this combination undoubtedly is, it lacks much of control in the democratic national convention. It is Mr. Hill's hope, if not his expectation, that most of the delegates from the south will desert Bryan's cause. To pave the way for a southern alliance Mr. Hill has been in communication with prominent gold democrats of North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas. The results are definitely known to nobody but Mr. Hill. It is asserted, however, on authority close to Mr. Hill, that every one of the states named has been pledged to support his policy of reorganization, Texas leading. To make this substantial inroad into the solid south it has been necessary to concede the vice presidential nomination to the south, assuming, to begin with, that the nominee for president will be chosen from New York.

"Mr. Hill and his associates are convinced that the south will in the end respond favorably to appeals made through its financial and business institutions. They concede that Mr. Bryan is strong with the rank and file of the southern voters, but they believe that the most influential of the southern leaders are against him. The candidacy of Chief Judge Alton B. Parker of New York, which has been adroitly pressed in several of the southern states, has done much, it is claimed, to weaken the sentimental hold which Bryan had upon that section in 1896 and 1900."

In the same article, the Eagle says that a desperate effort is to be made to carry Illinois

for the reorganizers, while a vigorous fight is also to be made on Tom Johnson in Ohio. "The reorganizers believe," says the Eagle, "that they can make a clean sweep of the states of the middle west if they are able to first demonstrate that an effective anti-Bryan alliance exists between the east and the south." The Eagle says that Mr. Hill has been in correspondence with a number of "democrats" in Nebraska and that he has determined upon a serious effort to prevent the Kansas City platform democrats in that state from obtaining representation in the national convention.

Referring to Mr. Bryan, the Eagle says that "he will not be permitted to remain in the democracy as a focus for future dissensions." The brightest men of the party have decided to get him out without more ado." And then outlining the platform of 1904, if these reorganizers secure control of the national convention, the Eagle says: "With the disappearance of Bryan, the question of reaffirmation of the national platforms of 1896 and 1900 will also disappear and the democracy will be free to proceed with reconstruction on lines acceptable to eastern leaders and to the commercial and financial interests of the country."

The Eagle explains: "It goes without saying that the platform of 1904 adopted under these altered circumstances will uphold sound money, deal respectfully with the courts and exclude socialism. Whatever declarations it may contain with respect to the tariff, the Philippines and the internal policy of the country will undoubtedly be sufficiently statesmanlike for candidates like Chief Judge Parker, Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Olney or Mr. Gorman to run upon without stultification."

The Eagle further ventures the statement that "Mr. Hill is fond of mystery and he makes the most of it in his dealings with the south. He hopes to secure the greatest possible secrecy with respect to his campaign against Bryan in the south and west. The success of his plan will greatly enhance his power in the democratic party and make him a formidable candidate if he decides to enter the lists. That detail cannot be settled, however, until Bryan is no longer a factor in the party, for with Bryan in the saddle even as the head of a small minority faction, the nomination of Hill or any other democrat of his type would be likely to disrupt the democracy."

It will not be difficult for democrats to understand what the purpose of these reorganizers is with respect to the democratic platform when they are told that that platform will be so arranged that it will be satisfactory to men like Grover Cleveland. These reorganizers, however, make the mistake of thinking that Mr. Bryan is the issue. Even though Mr. Bryan could be driven from the democratic party, even though Mr. Bryan were dead, these reorganizers would yet have to contend with democrats who believed in democratic principles as reflected in the Kansas City platform long before Mr. Bryan was ever heard of and who would be found fighting in defense of those principles regardless of Mr. Bryan's position.

It is strange that these men who are generally given credit for being shrewd politicians fail to recognize the fact that Mr. Bryan is but one of the humble spokesmen of men who are sincerely committed to the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform. If these politicians had only Mr. Bryan to contend with it would not be difficult for them to accomplish their purpose. But they either do not know or they overlook the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of democrats in this country who are just as devoted to the principles of the Kansas City platform as Mr.

Bryan could possibly be; and even though these men could completely destroy the individual against whom they are pleased to direct their shafts, they would yet be required to face the great army of Kansas City platform democrats and engage in a desperate struggle with those democrats before they could destroy the principles of the party.

The Commoner has quoted at length from the Brooklyn Eagle merely for the purpose of impressing upon Kansas City platform democrats the importance of immediate and thorough organization. These reorganizers need not flatter themselves that they are to have a monopoly on the fighting. The challenge they have thrown down has been accepted by Kansas City platform democrats. The issue is well defined by the Brooklyn Eagle when it says that if the reorganizers win, the platform will be framed to suit Grover Cleveland; and it will be the duty of every democrat who remembers the disaster which Grover Cleveland's second administration brought upon the party to buckle on the armor and enlist for the fight until the end of the war.

Kansas City platform democrats should organize in every precinct in the United States. There is no time to be lost. In the language of one of the greatest of Americans, "The war is inevitable and let it come. I repeat, sir, let it come."

The Commoner desires to encourage the formation of democratic clubs in every precinct and to aid these clubs in their work a form for constitution will be sent upon application and The Commoner will publish from time to time suggestions in regard to subjects for debate.

**DO NOT DELAY! ORGANIZE NOW!**

The secretary of every club is requested to report the organization to The Commoner, notice of which will be given for the information of other communities.

### Drawing the Line.

The old democratic party of Tilden and Cleveland is extinct outside the east and south. In its place is a populistic and socialistic aggregation which is animated by a blind hatred of property and corporate wealth and by an unreasoning discontent with social conditions and social order. This aggregation is a menace to the financial and industrial stability of the land, and so long as it exists every man of sound ideas and every man who owns property in any form will ally himself with the republican party if for no other reason than the instinct of self-preservation.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The above, from the New York Commercial Advertiser, shows how the republican papers are drawing the line between the protection of human rights and the worship of Mammon. The democratic party has never attacked property. It is, on the contrary, the best friend of honestly acquired wealth, for it distinguishes between honest wealth and predatory wealth. Republican organs like the Commercial Advertiser are endangering legitimate accumulations by confusing them with the enormous fortunes which are being secured by force, or cunning, or favoritism. The democratic party as now organized puts manhood before money, but it also protects all wealth accumulated without a surrender of manhood.

Just as soon as the special session adjourns Mr. Quay will go fishing for tarpon in Florida waters. Between tarpon jaunts Mr. Quay practices by fishing for suckers in Pennsylvania, which may explain his success as a tarpon fisherman.