



Weekly Press Forum

Ramsey (Ill.) News-Journal: For the reorganizers to ask the democracy to come out of the party in order to get together with them is suicidal and senseless.

Clinton (Ill.) Register: If the democrats want to be sure that Cleveland & Co. will not bolt the democratic presidential ticket in 1904, they should nominate a republican.

Pratt (Kas.) Union: If the reorganizers in the democratic party would pull off their coats and work with the splendid organization already formed there would be something doing in the democratic camp.

Batavia (O.) Sun: The would-be reorganizers of the democratic party are expending almost as much energy in that effort as they did in 1896 when engaged in the work of disorganization.

Bellaire (O.) Democrat: The good people of Cleveland have given Mr. Hanna a practical object lesson in carrying out his teachings in letting well enough alone and "standing pat" by Tom Johnson.

Columbia (Mo.) Herald: Since it turns out that of the four senators indicted for boodling three are republicans, we do not hear the Globe-Democrat howling for cleansing the Augean stables as heretofore.

Keokuk (Ia.) Constitution-Democrat: The old-fashioned republican editor who believes that the tariff is not a tax, but if it is, it is paid by the foreigners, is having some difficulty in explaining the necessity of the Cuban reciprocity treaty.

Marysville (O.) Journal: The nearer some democrats resemble republicans the more they advocate the reorganization of the party and the more, too, do their utterances receive complimentary mention in the republican newspapers of the country.

Cadiz (Ky.) Record: We want harmony and want it bad. Every true democrat wants harmony. But when the fellow comes along who refused to harmonize in '96 and 1900 and asks us to surrender our convictions now simply for the sake of harmony, put us down "agin 'im."

Waynesville (Mo.) Democrat: The only trouble with "carrying a big stick," in the form of a navy, is the temptation to use it. It is the man who carries a gun that is tempted to shoot and the boy with a new jack-knife who cannot resist whittling the school furniture.

Fremont (Neb.) Leader: We gather from the president's campaign speeches that he does not believe in killing off the bad trusts for fear it might injure the good trusts. The republican idea of a "good trust" is one that will gracefully yield up when the man with the frying pan comes around.

Hurdland (Mo.) Times: Just why the seven million loyal democrats who refused to bolt in '96 and 1900 should now surrender the party machinery to this little handful of traitors is a mystery, for when the tariff issue is excluded there is very little difference between their platform and that of the republican party.

Beebe (Ark.) News: It seems to us that old Uncle Hank Watterson is having a dickens of a lot to say about what the democratic party should or

should not do, in view of the fact that he deserted the ranks under fire not so long ago. But these 1896 deserters seem to want to take charge of the whole works. We shall see.

Harrisburg (Ill.) Register: The national administration seems to be afraid that the people will not hold still to take their dose of prosperity, so it has invented and proposes to distribute free to the militia of the states a bullet which it declares will be "very effective against mobs." What mobs?

Busch (Tex.) Roger Mills Democrat: The reorganizers would have the democratic party so nearly like the republican party that the "captains of industry" would have no choice between the two. The great mass of common people would have it so much unlike the party of Hanna and Roosevelt that a blind man could see the contrast.

Silver City (Idaho) Avalanche: The injunction evil has grown so rapidly of late years that it has now become a curse on the body politic. The imagination of some of our courts are drawn on to such an extent that unless there is legislation enacted curbing the power the more rabid of these courts have delegated to themselves, we may yet see the day when men may be restrained from sleeping, eating, or even exercising their constitutional right of suffrage.

Red Oak (Ia.) Sun: So it seems to the Sun that this is a peculiarly happy time for a fight with the "harmonizers" if they persist in their effort to capture party leadership and that the warmer the fight made against them the better for the party now and hereafter. The motive for such a fight is not that of mere punishment for forsaking the party, but that of preserving the party from danger of another such betrayal of principles and pledges as the party suffered during the last administration of Grover Cleveland.

Salinas City (Cal.) Journal: The Brooklyn Eagle says: "The Bryanite remnant will have to support the nominee whoever he is and take their chances under him or they will have to get out." That is such nice, sweet-tempered harmony talk! Yet if a true democrat objects to it and resents that spirit, these fellows call him a destroyer of harmony. Fact is, most of this "harmony" talk is simply a demand for unconditional surrender of all that's good in democracy. And the demand comes from the financial masters. They need watching. A citizen who falls in with them simply commits civic suicide.

Eureka (Ill.) Democrat-Journal: Concerning this panacea of "publicity," which is advertised as a cure-all for the robbery of corporations, we might remark that the illegal and rascally methods of the Standard Oil company, and the oil carrying railroads, were brought out in a congressional investigation twenty-five years ago. But the robbery and rascality went right on in the full glare of "publicity," and every rascal in the illegal business is now many times a millionaire, and thousands of their victims were reduced to poverty, right under the eyes of the federal court.

Newcastle (Pa.) Tribune: Administration organs all over the country are going into ecstasies over that speech of President Roosevelt's at

Fargo. The president says some isolated cases of cruelty have occurred in the war against the Filipinos and the republican papers are echoing his remarks about them being trivial. Of course it is a trivial matter when one man out of the billion or so who inhabit this earth of ours is taken out of it. But is it a trivial matter when American officers command American soldiers to shoot and torture defenseless prisoners? Is it a trivial matter when American officers forbid the reading of the Declaration of Independence on the ground that it incites mutiny and rebellion? That is precisely the same reason which King George II. advanced against it in 1776. "Many a mickle makes a muckle," the old Scotch proverb says and it strikes us that these "trivial things" President Roosevelt speaks of are accumulating pretty fast.

Marshall (Mo.) Index: While the Index would "bury the hatchet" and unite, if possible, with every man who is at heart and by example a democrat, we would not sacrifice a principle to do so. More than 95 per cent of the men of this country who call themselves democrats went out to battle under our banner in 1900 and this mighty host will never disband in order to let those who remained at home or fought with the enemy come into camp; nor will the very small minority be allowed to come back and dictate what line of battle shall be taken up. They may come with the understanding that a welcome is extended them, as well as a conciliatory spirit; but that the party organization does not, and will not place them in positions of trust until they have proven themselves worthy. They may come, too, with the understanding that their wishes and principles will have full consideration, but with the additional understanding that the old principle of democracy that "the will of the majority is law," is still in force.

Bellefonte (Pa.) Democratic Watchman: A "Mr. Archibald C. Jones," who is advertised as "a former prominent politician of New York city," is said to be in the anthracite coal region of this state "booming Grover Cleveland for the presidential nomination in 1904," and starting "a movement to reorganize the party." While Mr. Archibald Jones, or any other of the Jones family, has a perfect right

to boom whom he pleases for presidential nominee and start all the movements he has a mind to to reorganize the party, we have every reason to believe that it will take a bigger Jones than Mr. Archibald has ever shown himself to be, to accomplish the purposes he is said to have in view. The Pennsylvania democracy may be "down at the heel," to a very discouraging extent, but there are still over four hundred thousand of them left who believe they know their own minds, and who have an idea that they are abundantly able to take care of their own affairs without interference or dictation from outside sources. Mr. Archibald Jones might better save his wind and his work for some other field.

San Francisco Star: What is it that the reorganizers complain of? Is it free silver? Not by any means. With the free silver plank practically eliminated from the party's declaration of principles the reorganizers, according to their own story, ought to be satisfied. But are they? Why the other planks of the party's last two national platforms are just as repugnant. They contain too much sound democracy to suit them. They see special privileges in every form endangered. They see opportunities for plundering the people menaced and, most of all, they realize that an administration that would be courageous enough and sincere enough to carry the Chicago and Kansas City platforms to their logical conclusion would ultimately mean the enactment into law of that truly democratic principle, "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and thus giving living expression to the doctrine that all men have a natural right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This would sound the death knell of graft and plunder, the plutocrat's chief method of drawing unto themselves the earnings of the masses. And, above all, would emancipate the industrial slave and make men free. And it is this that the reorganizers and plutocrats fear. The reorganizers have nothing in common with the men who love truth and justice. They are in perfect harmony with that element of the republican party of which Mark Hanna is a perfect type, and it is their aim to make the democratic platform as similar to the republican platform as possible. This, of course, means the Hannaization of the democratic party.

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