

PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATS

The Associated Press makes this report of the Pennsylvania democratic state convention held at Harrisburg, June 27:

John G. Harman was nominated for state treasurer by today's democratic state convention on a platform confined to state issues.

State Treasurer William H. Berry, who claims the credit for having uncovered the capitol scandal, was chairman of the convention, and made a speech advocating the election of a democratic treasurer as a check on the republican state officials. He commended the capitol investigation commission and said that much of the testimony taken by the commission has substantiated the charges he made in the last campaign.

At the meeting of the resolutions committee, S. M. Seibert took exceptions to the silence of the platform on national matters. Mr. Seibert said he could see no reason why a democratic party should be afraid to endorse Mr. William J. Bryan.

There were cries for a vote on the platform, but Mr. Seibert stood his ground and offered the following resolution:

"We are heartily in accord with the beliefs and position taken by our peerless leader and statesman, William Jennings Bryan, the Jefferson and Jackson of the democratic party of today and endorse his candidacy for the democratic nomination for president in 1908."

The resolution was laid on the table after which the platform as drafted was adopted.

After the platform had been read on the floor of the convention Mr. Seibert asked permission to submit a minority report. The chairman of the resolutions committee held that no minority report was made in the committee and therefore no minority report could be considered by the convention. He moved the previous question and the platform was unanimously adopted.

The platform is devoted entirely to state issues, the revelations of the legislative commission which is investigating the expenditure of nine million dollars in furnishing the state capitol forming the feature.

"Believing this to be the vital question in this state," it says, "we are not to be led astray by the perfunctory endorsement of any candidate for president in 1908, or the declamatory laudation of the present administration.

"We recall with shame and reprobation the official acts in regard to the building and furnishing of the state capitol, of governors, state treasurers, auditors general and superintendents of public grounds and buildings; and with special notice condemn the conduct of a represent-

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ative in congress, who whilst drawing his salary at Washington, was helping to loot the treasury at Harrisburg. We suggest that his resignation would be a fitting end of his congressional career.

"Noting that the republican platform disclaims any responsibility for the capitol graft, we claim and assume all responsibility for discovery and complete disclosure of the graft and further claim that the only means of securing complete restitution of the loot and punishment of the looters is to elect a second Berry, a man who knows no party in the performance of his duty except that of honest citizenship, and who when graft and greed shamefully disgraces the state is alert to detect and discover wrong-doing and capable of punishing wrong-doers.

"With the proof in hand so clear that all honest men are convinced of the guilt of many in high places, we demand of the present administration speedy prosecution of the accused, both civilly and criminally, so that the taxpayers may regain their own, the honor of the state be vindicated and, finally, that no guilty man may escape."

TAFT ATTACKS

The initiative and referendum are openly fired upon by Secretary Taft's brother, the owner and editor of the Cincinnati Times-Star. He is president also of the Cincinnati gas monopoly. In a double column editorial in his paper entitled "Mr. Bryan's Embarrassment," he says:

"Would Mr. Bryan advocate the submission of a law passed by congress to a vote of the people?"

This idea horrifies Mr. Taft. But it doesn't frighten the voters; and they should bear in mind that Editor Taft is a monopolist and is frightened at the prospect of losing his special privileges.

Mr. Taft further asks: "Would Mr. Bryan advocate that a small percentage of the people of the United States should have the power to originate federal legislation and all the people have the right to vote upon it and be protected in that right?"

The objection to such a system which Mr. Taft publicly voices are as follows:

First, it would clothe the colored men with the power to originate and vote upon legislation.

What is the objection to this, Mr. Taft? Throughout the south constitutional amendments provide that voters shall possess an educational qualification, and within the limits thus prescribed the majority should rule, otherwise there is machine rule. Southern statesmen assent to this view, as is evidenced by the large number of them who have publicly signified their adherence to majority rule; namely, four members of the national house from Virginia, five from Tennessee, two from Kentucky, four from Arkansas, three from Texas, one from Florida, two from South Carolina, three from North Carolina, making a total of twenty-four. In the words of the Hon. R. N. Hackett, of North Carolina, elected in place of Representative Blackburn, who refused to pledge for the people's rule: "I am unqualifiedly in favor of majority rule in this country, 'unawed by power and unbrided by gain' by whatever honest fair means it can be obtained."

This data has been published by the National Federation for People's Rule.

Second, the other objection which Mr. Taft presents is that should national issues be determined by the will of the majority of the congressional districts it "would deprive the big state of the compensating influence which they possess in the house of representatives and make it possible for twenty-three small states to outvote twenty-two large states

with five to ten times greater population."

On the other hand Mr. Taft declares should national issues be determined by the will of the majority in a majority of the states it "would deprive the small states of the disproportionate power which they now enjoy in the senate and the electoral college and which is explicitly guaranteed to them by the constitution."

Mr. Taft's conclusion is, "Before Mr. Bryan goes very far with his new-fangled toy he will find himself embarrassed as badly as he was over the railway matter."

Mr. Taft is simply exposing his ignorance. The proposal in this country for a national system, and to which 110 members of the national house are pledged, is for a double majority; that is, a national measure voted upon shall not pass unless in a majority of the states and in a majority of the congressional districts it receives a majority of the votes cast for and against it. Switzerland uses this double majority in national affairs, and each measure that has received the approval of the voters in a majority of the districts has also been approved in a majority of the states.

This objection by Mr. Taft is quoted from the New York Tribune, and we invite it to apologize for its ignorance. If it refuses, the natural inference will be that it intentionally misled its readers.—New Haven Union.

WORLD'S MEANEST SWINDLER

Give Denver another championship medal and crown her afresh with laurel. Once more she has proved her supremacy. This time she jumps into the calcium of fame as the abiding place of the champion among all the champion mean men of the world. There have been past masters in the art of meanness produced by other cities, but Denver claims that her champion has all other men so completely outtrived that, in comparison, they are really not mean men at all.

The new sovereign of meanness is an individual who is cheating small children out of their costly Teddy bears. The champion mean man wanders around town until he sees some scrap of humanity about four years old clutching a beloved Teddy bear in its chubby hand. Then Mr. Champion walks up.

"Look," says he, holding up a shining twenty-five cent piece. "I will give you all this sugar-stick money if you will give me your Teddy bear."

The bait is too alluring for the children to resist and they hand over their \$3 and \$4 bears for the "two bits." Then Mr. Champion disappears as fast as he can walk. There were today six complaints to police headquarters.—Denver Dispatch in Chicago Record-Herald.

REACHES THE TENDER SPOT

If one can correctly judge from a man's writings, that chap, Maupin, on Bryan's Commoner, is one of the noblest souls that ever used printer's ink for reaching the tender spot in a man's heart.—Donham's (LeSueur, Minn.) Doings.

"PSYCHOLOGY"

Everything, bad or good, must now have its "psychology." There is the psychology of the criminal, the artist, the doctor, the musician, and the religious fanatic. A book has just been published on the psychology of alcoholism. But the reasons why men drink are so various that it is almost impossible to include them in a scientific classification. Besides the difficulty of penetrating the motives of a drunkard, there is the fact that physiological or pathological causes work at the root of his appetite; and the ex-

cuses which he makes for yielding are mere accidental accompaniments of a physical desire. There has been a vast amount of temperance literature published lately, especially in England. Perhaps the best thing that can be said about books of the better class, dealing with the subject, is that they compel the hard drinker to indulge his appetite with his eyes wide open to the consequences.—New York Evening Post.

THE VOTERS ARE LEARNING

As to the voters, they are learning to detest the exorbitant Dingley rates because they fortify the trusts and increase the cost of living. The farmers were fooled for a long time by such chimerical sops as the duty on wheat, but they understand the matter better now. They know that the tariff does not add a single cent to the price of wheat they sell, while it makes dearer almost everything they buy. No voter is pleased to discover that our protected industries habitually sell goods abroad cheaper than at home. The American consumer can not understand why he should be taxed to reduce the cost of living in Europe. These reasons, with many others, make tariff revision an absolute necessity for the republican party if it desires to keep control of the country.—Portland Oregonian.

LIABILITY FOR ACCIDENTS

The railroads ought to accept the abolition of the present legal rule which frees an employer from responsibility for accident caused to one employe by the carelessness of another employe. Modern conditions of industry make this unjust. It should be altered. The railroads will accomplish nothing by a long legal struggle against this change which has come in every other civilized land and must come in this. It is a misfortune that at a time of great public unrest those responsible for railroad management do not seek a wise compromise, instead of resisting each reform.—Philadelphia Press.

OUT OF THE LONG AGO

Ajax, laughing, was defying the lightning.

"This is a cinch after trying to buck Roosevelt."

Warding off a particularly vivid flash, he took a chew of Peerless.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

"THE WISTFUL RICH"

It was one of the faces of the wistful rich, unsatisfied from every fulfillment of desire, hungry for hunger.—Margaret Sherwood in the Atlantic Monthly.

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