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ISSUED WEEKLY.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor.
RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor.
CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher.
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The first step in tariff revision is to revise congress.

Has any one lately seen anything of the old "home market" theory of the protectionists?

A Mr. Fake is a candidate for congress in New Jersey. If elected he will be welcomed by the majority.

Mr. Harriman has just scooped in another \$50,000,000 on a railroad deal. But Mr. Harriman is "a practical man."

After figuring up his last campaign Congressman Littlefield decided that discretion is the better part of economy.

Rhode Island republicans have declared against tariff revision, and Senator Aldrich was never so surprised in his life.

Up to date a republican congress has failed to enact into law any important recommendation made by a republican president.

The congressional majority has adopted some rules enabling it to continue its policy of doing nothing in the interests of the people.

Secretary Taft says our government of the Philippines is purely altruistic. And now they are using that fine old word to cover up schemes.

Milliners say that despite its size the new spring hat can be adjusted in a few seconds. Perhaps, but it takes longer than that to adjust the bill.

A Chicago jury has decided that a man need not pay \$50 for his wife's hat. We know some men who do not need a jury's decision on that point.

The workingman who violates an injunction has to go to jail. The packing trust that violates an injunction merely raises the prices of its products.

The New York man who died in a fit of laughter evidently had been reading that the tariff would be revised by its friends in the interests of the whole people.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger opines that the only way to satisfy Samuel Gompers is to elect him president. It is safe to say that Mr. Gompers, who was born in England, knows more about the constitution of the United States than the editor of the Public Ledger does.

WHAT THEY EXPECT

In order that Commoner readers may be informed as to the expectations of the special interests represented by the New York World, the following editorial from the Pulitzer paper is reproduced:

THE DEMOCRATIC DELEGATES

There will be 1,002 delegates in the democratic national convention, with 668 necessary to a choice under the two-thirds rule and 335 necessary to prevent a nomination.

The delegates thus far chosen or provided for are divided as follows:

INSTRUCTED FOR MR. BRYAN

Oklahoma	14
Nebraska	16
Kansas	20
Wisconsin	26
South Dakota	8
Indiana	30
Iowa	26
North Dakota	8
Total	148

INSTRUCTED FOR JUDGE GRAY

Delaware	6
Total	6

UNINSTRUCTED

New York	78
Rhode Island	8
Total	86

Among the states reasonably likely to send uninstructed or anti-Bryan delegations to the Denver convention are the following:

Pennsylvania	68
Massachusetts	32
New Jersey	24
Connecticut	14
Maine	12
Vermont	8
New Hampshire	8
Maryland	16
Virginia	27
North Carolina	24
Minnesota	22
California	20
Oregon	8
Washington	10
District of Columbia	6
Total	296

Total 296

Among the states in which the issue between Bryanism and anti-Bryanism is at present more or less in doubt are these:

Ohio	46
Illinois	54
Louisiana	18
Texas	36
Georgia	26
Florida	10
Colorado	10
Total	200

Six plus 86 plus 296 plus 200 is 588. In other words, there exists a possibility that a numerical majority of the delegates will go to the national convention with fairly open minds, not irrevocably committed to any man's candidacy, but the "ablest, strongest and most representative men" of the democracy of the country, in the language of the resolution adopted by the New York state convention, sent to Denver, "to the end that out of the deliberation and consultation of such men there may be then and there nominated a ticket which will rally to its support the judgment, conscience and votes of a majority of the citizens of the country."

We do not say that this will happen. We do not say that the democratic party is capable of so much sense and sanity. We say merely that there is a possibility.



WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, D. C., April 20.—A few days ago Senator Gore of Oklahoma took advantage of his position as a United States senator to force into the Congressional Record the famous letter written by Mr. Roosevelt to E. H. Harriman in which the president of the United States declared that they were both practical men and should meet as practical men to discuss the state of the union. He asserted when he read the letter in the senate that he would rather be responsible for the introduction of that letter into the Senate Record, than to be the writer of it.

And after all there is much in Gore's point of view. If the president of the United States writes a letter that can not be printed or even

read in the senate of the United States it is a serious reflection on the president. If a senator writes a letter officially that may not be printed it is not to the credit of the senator. Newspaper correspondents who go to the White House know that Mr. Roosevelt absolutely refuses to talk confidentially to anybody. It makes no difference whether it may be Senator Bourne, or Senator Lodge, or the plain ordinary common correspondent who comes in and asks a question, it has been the long time method of the president to hold them twenty feet away and announce with a flourish of trumpets that he will not talk confidentially to anyone and that they must put their questions at the top of their lungs and he will answer them at the top of his lungs. This fact seems to have been pertinent to the statement foregoing. It seems to show that there is no reason why a Roosevelt utterance should be regarded by anyone as confidential.

As a rule the Congressional Record is not humorous, but this brief paragraph from a speech made by John Sharp Williams and embalmed in that melancholy publication deserves wider circulation. Mr. Williams was talking about the tendency of the republican party to defer action indefinitely on all matters of immediate importance. Said he:

"Every time anybody wants to pass any of this reform legislation, so much of which is desired by honest men in your own party, you cry out 'After the election! After the election! After the election!' You remind me of a little bit of poetry my boy picked up the other day somewhere at the public school and brought home and recited to me and his grandmother, and of which when he got through his grandmother said: 'Kit you ought never to repeat that any more, because that is just about the same as telling anybody to go to the bad place.' The poetry ran after this wise:

"When I asked my girl to marry me, she said:
Go to Father,
She knew that I knew her father was dead;
She knew that I knew the life he had led;
She knew that I knew what she meant when she said,
Go to father."

The public when asked to wait until after election for needed legislation are likely to feel as Mr. Williams has humorously put it that they are asked to go very much further for the remedies they seek.

Congress having loafed for the greater part of its first three months is now discovering that it is time to adjourn without doing anything in particular. It has enacted one bill of national importance, namely the employers' liability bill. It is now giving final consideration to the Aldrich currency bill. Apparently the chances are that the currency bill will not get through even though it has been amended in a way to eliminate most of its more objectionable features. Three months ago this congress would gladly have enacted a reasonable bill for the increase of the currency. At that time banks were charging that the people were hoarding money and that therefore the banks could not pay out any. Nothing has happened since to restore public confidence, business as a whole has not improved, industry has not revived, railroads have ceased new construction, but the bankers seem to have recovered from their panic and have apparently determined to pay their honest debts, exactly as they make those who borrow from them pay. There are no more clearing house certificates in circulation. The psychological moment for the passage of the Aldrich bill has passed. Last January it might have been pushed through with all its provisos for basing circulation on railroad bonds, municipal bonds, county bonds and any other kind of bonds. Now they have been compelled to cut out the railroad bonds and observers at Washington doubt very much indeed whether the municipal and county bonds will be allowed to remain in the list of securities upon which circulation may be based. As a matter of fact there are few people about the United States capital who think that the bill will ever get through in such a shape as to meet with the approval of the president.

If the republican party, which won its way into power in 1896 by professing to know all that could be known about the reformation of the currency, is after twelve years of complete power utterly unable to unite on a currency bill which will obviate future panics like the two which have occurred during its regime, what sort of confidence can be placed in its ability to correct tariff or trust evils?

WILLIS J. ABBOT.