

makers to raise paper prices and effect thereon of existing tariff restrictions. Messrs. Payne and Dalzell have repulsed all such efforts. The Speaker of the house has turned away his face whenever any member tried to raise the issue on the floor of the house. We are now amazed to find that Messrs. Cannon, Payne and Dalzell have changed their tactics and avow a desire to study the tariff phases of this paper question. They say that they want the whole matter investigated thoroughly, though they know that such inquiry will carry over the entire proposition to the next session of Congress. They now pose as champions who have been eagerly asking for that which for four months they had the power to refuse and which they did refuse. With the utmost respect and deference for the authority of Congress, we respectfully state that we mistrust the committee just appointed. We challenge the intentions of those who have thus far succeeded in side-tracking the Stevens bill. We charge that action on the Stevens bill has been delayed to the advantage of a combination of paper-makers, who, in a desperate effort to maintain artificial prices on a declining market, have shut down nearly 50 per cent of their mills and who by throwing into idleness a considerable number of their employes have shown the insincerity of their professions that the tariff duty on paper was needed to protect that paper."

THE DEATH of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman removes from public life one of the greatest men of the present generation. He was not a brilliant man in the sense in which the word brilliant is generally used, but he had more than brilliancy, he had a strong sense of justice, ability to state his position clearly, and the moral courage to stand by his convictions. His career was a growth, based upon merit, and the final success which crowned his life was gratifying to the friends whose confidence in him increased as the years went by. He will not occupy so high a place as that won by Gladstone, and yet even Gladstone was never more implicitly trusted by his political associates. The late premier was the friend of peace and international good will. He came into power on the wave of the reaction that followed the jingoism which involved Great Britain in her burdensome war against the republics of South Africa. He welcomed the delegates to the peace congress which met in London in July, 1906, and lent his powerful aid to the support of the resolution introduced by Mr. Bryan in favor of the investigation of all international controversies. He was a friend of America, in the broader sense in which a public man in one nation can be friendly to all nations without sacrificing the interests of his own nation. In fact, the only national ideal that can be defended is the ideal which leads the nations to enter into a friendly rivalry to see which can most advance the world's welfare. It is a short sighted patriotism that would pit nations against each other like wild beasts, each bent on the destruction of the other. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman belonged to the better school and his influence has been a salutary one. His successor, Mr. Asquith, is a younger man and an intellectual giant; the dead premier has set him an example which can be followed with personal satisfaction and advantage to the nation.

THE STORY of "Astor and the Flag" is told by the Louisville Courier-Journal in this editorial: "The cable dispatches from London say that even Englishmen, whom he endeavored to please, are somewhat stunned by the shocking exhibition of poor taste and unhealthy sentiment made by William Waldorf Astor when he purchased at auction the captured flag of the American frigate Chesapeake and presented it to the Royal United Service Museum as a trophy for the British. It may be easily believed that this is true. There is a great deal of human nature in everybody, and the human nature that exists in Englishmen is very apt to revolt at the picture of a former American malevolently buying a flag captured from an American ship and presenting it to the nation which had captured it, thereby preventing the American government from ever regaining it. Somehow the thing lacks manliness. It betrays what some circles would call 'unsportsmanlike' qualities. It reflects ignoble wrongheartedness. The man of true instincts, placed in the already very peculiar position of Mr. Astor, would have had the good grace to purchase the flag and present it to the United States government. Americans know very well what they would think of a former

Englishman who would buy at auction and present to the United States government a flag captured by American ships from a ship of his fatherland. Their contempt for him would be far in excess of their gratitude for the favor. That Englishmen hold Mr. Astor in contempt, as hinted in the dispatches, is likely enough. Mr. Astor is unfortunate in his choice of methods of toadying to the British. It seems that he rarely does something to please them that he does not fall lower in their esteem. In the incident of the Chesapeake's flag his own personal prestige suffers more than anything or anybody else. If he can derive any enjoyment from his position he is welcome to it."

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts democratic state convention met at Boston, May 7. As delegates at large George Fred Williams of Dedham, John B. Moran of Boston, Daniel F. Doherty of Westfield and John W. Coughlin of Fall River were chosen.

Resolutions were adopted instructing the delegates to vote for Mr. Bryan.

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota democratic primaries were held May 6. The supporters of Governor Johnson claim that, as a result of the primaries, Bryan delegates in the state convention would not number more than one hundred out of the total of 925. The Minnesota state delegation will be instructed for Governor Johnson.

OHIO

The Ohio democratic state convention met at Columbus, May 6, and nominated the following state ticket:

Governor—Judson Harmon.
Lieutenant Governor—David L. Rockwell.
Judges Supreme Court—H. T. Mather, G. B. Okey.
Secretary of State—J. H. Newman.
Auditor—W. W. Durbin.
Treasurer—D. S. Creamer.
Attorney General—Timothy S. Hogan.
Public Works—J. A. States, Bernard Doran.
Dairy and Food Commissioner—David Eley.
State School Commissioner—John A. McDowell.
Clerk of Supreme Court—Oliver C. Larason.
Delegates at Large—Tom L. Johnson, W. S. Thomas, E. W. Hanley, Matthew R. Denver.
Former Governor James E. Campbell was endorsed for United States senator.

National issues were left to the Denver convention and the platform adopted dealt solely with state questions, attacking the republican administration of various state officers and endorsing especially the initiative and referendum in state and local legislation and the taxation of franchises.

The convention instructed for Mr. Bryan.

SOUTH CAROLINA

A Columbus, S. C., dispatch to the New York World, dated May 4, follows: "Democratic conventions were held in the forty-two counties of South Carolina today. Returns show delegates were instructed for Bryan in nineteen; three adopted strong resolutions favoring the Nebraskan; his candidacy was not mentioned in two, while four failed to instruct, but were friendly to his nomination. It can be said the delegation to Denver will be in favor of Bryan."

LABOR'S PROTEST TO CONGRESS

The following protest, signed by representatives of national and international unions, railway men's organizations and farmers' organizations, has been presented to congress:

We, the official representatives of the national and international trade and labor unions and organization of farmers, in national conference assembled, in the District of Columbia, for the purpose of considering and taking action deemed necessary to meet the situation in which the working people of our country are placed by recent decisions of the courts, now appear before congress to voice the earnest and emphatic protest of the workers of the country against the indifference, if not actual hostility, which congress has shown toward the reasonable and righteous measures proposed by the workers for the safeguarding of their rights and interests.

In the name of labor we now urge upon con-

gress the necessity for immediate action for relief from the most grave and momentous situation which has ever confronted the working people of this country. This crisis has been brought about by the application by the supreme court of the United States of the Sherman anti-trust law to the workers both organized and in their individual capacity.

Labor and the people generally look askance at the invasion of the court upon the prerogatives of the law-making and executive departments of our government.

The workers feel that congress itself must share our chagrin and sense of injustice when the courts exhibit an utter disregard for the real intent and purpose of laws enacted to safeguard and protect the workers in the exercise of their normal activities. There is something ominous in the ironic manner in which the courts guarantee to workers:

The "right" to be maimed and killed without liability to the employer.

The "right" to be discharged for belonging to a union.

The "right" to work as many hours as employers please and under any conditions which they may impose.

Labor is justly indignant at the bestowal or guaranteeing of these worthless and academic "rights" by the courts, which in the same breath deny and forbid to the workers the practical and necessary protection of laws which define and safeguard their rights and liberties, and the exercise of them individually or in association.

The most recent perversion of the intent of a law by the judiciary has been the supreme court decision in the hatters' case, by which the Sherman anti-trust law has been made to apply to labor, although it was an accepted fact that congress did not intend the law to so apply and might even have specifically exempted labor but for the fear that the supreme court might construe such an affirmative provision to be unconstitutional.

The workers earnestly urge congress to co-operate with them in the upbuilding and educating of a public sentiment which will confine the judiciary to its proper functions—which is certainly not that of placing a construction upon a law the very opposite of the plain intent of congress, thus rendering worthless even the very moderate efforts which congress has so far put forth to define the status of the most important, numerous and patriotic of our people, the wage-workers, the producers of all wealth.

We contend that equity power and jurisdiction, discretionary government by the judiciary for well-defined purposes and within specific limitations, granted to the courts by the constitution, has been so extended that it is invading the field of government by law and endangering individual liberty.

As government by equity, personal government, advances, republican government, government by law, recedes.

We favor enactment of laws which shall restrict the jurisdiction of courts of equity to property and property rights, and shall so define property and property rights, that neither directly or indirectly shall there be held to be any property or property rights in the labor or labor power of any person or persons.

The feeling of restless apprehension with which the workers view the apathy of congress, is accentuated by the recent decision of the supreme court.

By the wrongful application of the injunction by the lower courts the workers have been forbidden the right of free press and free speech and the supreme court in the hatters' case, while not directly prohibiting the exercise of these rights, yet so applies the Sherman law to labor that acts involving the use of free press and free speech, and hitherto assumed to be lawful, now become evidence upon which triple damages may be collected and fine and imprisonment added as a part of the penalty.

Indeed, the decision goes so far as to hold the agreements of unions with employers, to maintain industrial peace, to be "conspiracies" and the evidence of unlawful combinations in restraint of trade and commerce, thus effectually throttling labor by penalizing as criminal the exercise of its normal, peaceful, rights, and activities. The fact that these acts are in reality making for the uplift and the betterment of civilization, as a whole, does not seem to be understood or appreciated by the courts. The workers hope for a broader and more intelligent appreciation from congress.

It is not necessary here to enter into a detailed review of this decision.

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