

THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE TICKET

The New York Staats Zeitung has always opposed Mr. Bryan, but on July 12 Mr. Bryan received from Herman Ridder, editor of that great German newspaper, this dispatch: "You may rely on the sincere and earnest support of the New York Staats Zeitung."

The Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier, edited by Mr. Connors, squarely endorses the ticket and prints this interesting item: "The Utica Observer, formerly opposed to Mr. Bryan, is in line this time. The only newspapers of any prominence calling themselves democratic that will be against him in the campaign are those sheets which, owned and directed by Wall Street, pretend to be democratic in order to act as betrayers. The public has them all spotted now, and their influence is nil."

The Boston Globe, which has heretofore opposed Mr. Bryan, indicates its position in this dispatch sent to the New York World in reply to a query: "Boston, July 10.—It is worthy of note that in all the proceedings of the big and enthusiastic assemblage at Colorado's capital there was manifested what ex-Governor Francis, of Missouri, expressed a desire for when seconding the resolution in memory of Grover Cleveland—namely, a disposition to let bygones be bygones. That temper is apparent in the platform."

The Philadelphia Record, which opposed Mr. Bryan in 1896 and in 1900, says: "Under a deep sense of the responsibility therein involved, the Record has determined to support the candidates of the democratic party. There is a drift in both parties away from safe constitutional moorings. But of immediate and vital issues that divide the political opinion of the nation the democratic party is most firmly rooted in the faith of the fathers. For thirty years the Record, day in and day out, has striven for tariff reform. It will fight on under the lead of Bryan, who believes the protective principle not only unjust but unconstitutional. It will fight on for unfettered trade and equal rights under whatever leadership the war is waged, in the belief that the good of the masses is deeply involved in the result."

The Indianapolis News (rep.) says: "We think that Mr. Bryan is stronger with the people than he ever was before, and that the republicans will make a great mistake if they assume that he can easily be defeated. For the man is quite as popular as he ever was, has quite as strong a hold on the affections of the people and yet he has grown in wisdom and is, we believe, less radical. It is certain that the old Bryan scare has largely passed away. He will this year be voted for by thousands of men who, twelve years ago, would as soon have voted for Haywood. Many men saw in the republican convention what they believed to be evidence of a retreat. To these the democratic candidate and the democratic platform will make a powerful appeal."

Even the New York World—in its issue of July 13—is moved to say: "There are faults in the Denver platform, but it shows a great improvement over the platform of 1896 and the platform of 1900. It shows a very great improvement over many of Mr. Bryan's speeches during the last two years. Without modifying any of the criticism which it has made against certain planks, the World believes that the committee on resolutions is entitled to great credit, that the national convention is entitled to great credit and that Mr. Bryan himself is entitled to great credit for a definition of party policies which contains so much that is good and avoids so many disastrous blunders of the past."

The Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier, which has heretofore vigorously opposed Mr. Bryan, says: "The riding is not always easy in the band wagon, the best seats having been taken by the earliest adventurers, but this year especial accommodations will be provided for all sorts and conditions, the circumstances being such that the master of the show feels that the patriotic part would be to 'take a full load.' We do not know, of course, what others may do, but as for us and our house, if the fears which haunt us this morning shall be realized, we shall take the seats reserved for us in the front row on the right of our peerless driver, in spite of the prophecy that 'if the blind lead the blind

both shall fall into the ditch,' for is it not written in the Gospel according to St. Luke: 'Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath day.'"

The Cincinnati Enquirer, which is owned by John R. McLean, who also owns the Washington Post, says: "The ticket nominated at Denver is a good one. It combines many elements of strength. Both of the candidates are splendidly equipped mentally and physically. Both are excellent campaigners, with a broad knowledge of public affairs. Each is of unimpeachable character. They go forth in the confidence of those whose champions they are. There is going to be a fight in this year of grace, 1908, and a good one."

The Washington Post which, as stated, is under the same ownership as the Cincinnati Enquirer, opposes the ticket and says: "The democratic party certainly can not be wholly itself until Mr. Bryan is disposed of. If he is elected, he will be the party, and can shape it as he will. If he is defeated the party will have to get along without him."

The Columbia (S. C.) State says: "Now again in 1908 Mr. Bryan is in the saddle. It is an unparalleled performance. The truth is that the man who can survive defeat that would have utterly obliterated another, is no ordinary leader. He is a man of strength, extraordinary, phenomenal strength—none but a fool can gain-say it. A man of less unusual powers would already have been in his political grave—not the triumphant champion of a militant party."

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says: "Mr. Taft offers by far the superior qualifications, but a certain period must yet elapse before one can say whether the question of personal qualifications will be the decisive factor in the minds of many progressive independent voters. One can well afford to await the developments of the next few weeks with an open mind."

The New York Tribune (rep.) warns its leaders against over confidence, saying: "Mr. Bryan undoubtedly owes his nomination to the support of the great mass of the democratic voters. These voters prefer radicalism to conservatism and Bryan to any other possible democratic leader. Recognizing this fact the Tribune has never considered Mr. Bryan a pitiable weak candidate. He is obviously stronger as a vote getter than Judge Parker was in 1904 or than any other democratic nominee would be this year who owed his selection to conservative influences. Republicans will do well not to consider the campaign of 1908 a walkover."

Declaring for the democratic ticket, the Brooklyn Citizen says that Mr. Bryan "is abundantly justified in the confidence he has repeatedly expressed that under his leadership the democratic party will be restored to power in the nation this year."

The Savannah (Ga.) Press says: "Without any machine he managed to dominate the whole convention at Denver, write the platform and name the officers. Without any corruption fund he has run the convention in forty-six states and written his name at the head of all the leaders of democracy of America. It is something to be able to do this, to preserve this primacy. The man who can compass so much doesn't have to be elected president or to be inaugurated in the East Wing of the capitol, or to play tennis with the German ambassador or to review the fleet off Hampton Roads. He is just the chief of the great American clan."

Henry Watterson in the Louisville Courier-Journal says: "Hurrah for Bryan and Kern; it is a strong ticket. It is an honest, sound and democratic declaration of principles. The party will accept both the ticket and the platform with enthusiasm, and the voters will ratify them at the polls in November. Henceforward the word shall be 'Faction to the rear; united we stand.'" Mr. Watterson compares the coming campaign with that of 1876, and says the conditions pre-

vailing today are the same as then. He quotes the salient points of the terrible indictment against the republican party made by the Tilden platform and then sounds his keynote. "We demand that all custom house taxation shall be only for revenue." He says that there is only one paramount question in the campaign, and that is: "Can the people by their own unaided strength change their government against the marching army of federal officeholders, supported by unlimited supplies either wrung from or contributed by the corporations." He closes as follows: "The people have prevailed against a great deal of maneuvering and not a little money; they have prevailed over the doubts and fears of many, the prejudices of others; but prevail they have, distinctly and absolutely. In standing to Mr. Bryan, as the Whigs should have stood to Mr. Clay, they take the responsibilities into their own hands, choosing their ticket as wise women choose their husbands, to suit themselves, saying to one another now, and ready to say to the world and to the bitter end, if that be the will of the Lord—as, please God, it shall not be—'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.' Better, yea, a thousand times better, the old faith and the old flag, so that if we must go down we shall go down shouting. That is the soul of democracy, unterrified and undefiled. That is the spirit which snatches brands from the ashes and sets them blazing upon the altar of truth. That is the fellowship that binds men and wins battles even with pebbles against mail-clad giants, though hell should belch forth millionaires and Satan bar the way."

The Butte (Mont.) Miner says: "The democrats in this campaign have the right men standing upon an impregnable platform."

The Norfolk (Va.) Pilot says: "For ourselves there is no hesitation in arriving at a decision. This paper sees hope for the country only in a democratic triumph."

Declaring for the ticket the Columbus (Ohio) Press-Post says: "But Mr. Bryan could not have achieved his renomination by dictation. He had none of the powers at his command which are essential to make a dictator invincible, even if he were thus inclined. His popularity with the people rests on a more secure foundation, else it would not survive two defeats and be stronger than before."

The Brooklyn Eagle, a paper which, while claiming to be democratic, has always opposed Mr. Bryan, declares its preference for Mr. Taft.

The New York Times says that Mr. Taft will be "reasonable, calm and sane," and it will therefore support him.

The New York Evening Post says: "No intelligent survey of the nation's defenses against Bryanism can blink the truth that they have been greatly weakened during the past four years. It is not possible today to rally the conservative forces of the country in opposition to Bryan so splendidly as in 1896. Everybody knows the reason why. You can not revile a man whom you have imitated. A party that has appropriated Bryan's ideas can not, with good effect, attack his person. At the very beginning of the republican campaign, it is the part whether of frankness or sound generalship to admit that power of resistance to Bryan has been much broken by four years of yielding to him. President Roosevelt's avowed and deliberate purpose has been to head off Bryan by stealing his issues. The argument, or threat, which he has constantly used has been: 'If you do not go half way with me, you will have to go the whole way with Bryan.' Well, we see now what comes of the plan of fighting a dangerous enemy by surrendering to him. The Bryan who was to be extinguished is exalted higher than ever."

The Louisville (Ky.) Times says: "Mr. Bryan's place in the trust of his fellow Americans is secure. The platform on which he stands is the democratic party's call to arms under his leadership to all who believe that the people shall govern. It is devoid of theories. It deals

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