

president of the Western Federation of Miners, says: "Gompers was sadly mistaken if he thought he could control many of the votes of the laboring men. We will not endorse the democratic party."

Birmingham, Ala.—"I do not believe the laboring people of the United States are going to rally to the support of Mr. Bryan under the suggestion of Mr. Gompers," is the way that James B. Drake, president of the Birmingham Trades Council and secretary of the Alabama Federation of Labor puts it. "Mr. Gompers has done the proper thing," said James H. Leath, organizer in the American Federation of Labor under Gompers, "and the announcement just made will be followed by many votes being cast for Mr. Bryan."

More Strength in Illinois

Peoria, Ill.—That Samuel Gompers' declaration that he will support Bryan will add strength to the Nebraskan's campaign in Illinois is the opinion of a majority of the labor leaders in this region. Robert McKee, secretary of the International Union of Steam Engineers, said united labor in the state of Illinois certainly will follow the lead of Mr. Gompers and will support Bryan. His alliance with the democratic leader will add greatly to Bryan's strength in Illinois.

Milwaukee. — Wisconsin labor union men will not be affected by Gompers' declaration on the presidential contest, according to the local leaders. Gompers is not loved by Wisconsin labor men, who have long favored some socialist for his job.

Troy, N. Y.—John Connell, president of Typographical Union No. 16, said: "Taft is the father of injunctions and I do not think labor would have supported him, even though Gompers had not taken the position he has." James D. Landrigan, a prominent labor organizer, said: "I do not think Gompers' action will have any effect upon labor. The democratic unionists will vote for Bryan, the republican members for Taft."

Indiana and Kentucky in Line

Louisville — Herman Christen, president of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor, said: "I will support any policy or position regarding the presidential race taken by Samuel Gompers, and I have reason to believe that the members of the Federation in Kentucky will follow any lead of the president of the American Federation of Labor."

Indianapolis—Edgar A. Perkins, president of the Indiana State Federation, said: "Labor receives its instructions in matters of this kind from the American Federation of Labor. This is the authority under which the campaign will be carried on. Under this law of the organization there is but one thing to do and that is to follow the instructions received from headquarters."

Chicagoans Are Independent

Chicago—The Chicago Federation of Labor has not fallen in line with Samuel Gompers and his plan to throw the labor vote to Bryan. "The issue has not been submitted to the Federation and will not be, if I can help it," said President John J. Fitzpatrick. "It is bound to cause friction, for not all are of Mr. Gompers' way of thinking."

"The railway brotherhoods are opposed to the democratic injunction plank; they are opposed to Gompers' plan to support Bryan," Mr. Fuller, the legislative agent of all the trainmen, said. "I am unable to see any remedy for the abuse of the power of injunction in labor disputes in the democratic platform."

Wilmington, Del.—Harry W. Behan, ex-president of the Central Labor Union, said: "I think organized labor in this state will follow the lead of Gompers in supporting Bryan."

an." A. R. Saylor, the ex-secretary, expressed a similar opinion.

Atlanta—"The defeat of Bryan this year would mean the humiliation of labor," said Jerome Jones, editor of the Journal of Labor, and delegate to the Denver national convention. "I am of the opinion labor is committed to democracy through the platform adopted and believe that before the campaign has ended labor leaders will be stumping the country for Bryan."

Party Lines Are Drawn

Wheeling, W. Va.—When President Gompers made his statement that the labor vote would be cast for Bryan it did not excite even passing comment among laboring men here. Labor men, who are republicans, will vote the republican ticket, and those who are democrats will vote the democratic ticket. Walter B. Hilton, editor of the Majority, a labor publication, and one of the most prominent labor leaders in the state, said that while Gompers' declaration would carry some weight, it would be so light as to be scarcely noticeable.

Newark, N. J.—Henry F. Hilfers, secretary of the Trades' Council, said: "I have no hesitation in saying I believe that 75 per cent of the union labor vote of this state will follow Gompers and vote for Bryan."

Passaic, N. J.—Opinion is divided among Passaic labor leaders as to Mr. Gompers' support of Bryan. Theodore Smith, formerly president of the Carpenters' Union and a prominent labor advocate, is a Bryan man and believe trade unionists, as a rule, will support him. Frederick C. N. Gott, president of the Allied Printing Trades' Council, said: "Organized labor, as a class, will not support Bryan. There will be a bigger split this fall than ever in the ranks of trade unionists, and it will mean a big vote for the socialist and populist candidates."

Albany, N. Y.—Labor leaders declined to discuss publicly the action of President Gompers in declaring that he would support Bryan. They refused to say whether they approved or disapproved the move of Gompers, but several were of the opinion that their opinion of the merits of Taft and Bryan was as good as Gompers'.

Baltimore—"There are 40,000 members of the federation in Baltimore," said Edward Hirsch, president of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, "and 3,000,000 in the country. Normally they are about equally divided, democrats and republicans. This fall every one of them will vote for Bryan."

Different in Kentucky

Lexington, Ky.—"Labor organizations in Kentucky, unless something unforeseen happens, will vote not as organizations for the labor candidate, but will the support the democratic and republican tickets."

"I have been over the state a good deal of late," said Secretary Raplitz of the Central Labor Union here, "and have studied the question for several weeks. I size it up this way: Those of the labor people who are democrats will vote the democratic ticket as usual, and no doubt will feel pleased that Gompers will vote that way also. Those who are republicans will vote for Taft and berate Gompers for playing tail-end politics. The independent labor vote will split between Taft and Debs."

Los Angeles—Samuel Gompers' letter endorsing Bryan has the hearty indorsement of every labor union leader in Los Angeles.

Salt Lake—Opinion among labor leaders in Utah is that Gompers' interview with Bryan and the announcement that the American Federation will support him, will carry tremendous weight among laboring classes in Utah. In this state Gompers' word is gospel with laboring men.

Cincinnati—Organized labor here-

abouts, it would appear, is arrayed in vigorous hostility to Judge W. H. Taft in his aspirations for the presidency.

"President Gompers expressed the views of organized labor in this vicinity certainly in his declaration," said President J. G. Miller of the Central Labor Council, the highest legislative and executive body in local labor circles. "I would consider any member of organized labor who is a Taft supporter a traitor to the cause of labor. Taft is recognized as the open enemy of organized labor. Ninety-eight per cent of the labor vote will, I believe, be cast for Bryan as against Taft. One socialist ticket and probably one per cent will go for Taft."

Secretary Joseph Ward, of the Central Labor Council, said: "Organized labor will follow Gompers solidly in opposing Taft."

Frank Rist, district organizer of the American Federation of Labor and editor of the Chronicle, the official organ hereabout of organized labor, said: "Gompers has been such a consistent guide, philosopher and friend to labor that we would be acting without reason in renouncing his decision in this matter. But his stand is the natural one now for labor in this campaign."

UNPATRIOTIC JOKES

The sport some of the jokesmiths habitually make of the vice presidency is both vulgar and unpatriotic. The attitude some of the country's distinguished men take toward a nomination for the office is both tasteless and discreditable. The bumptious manner shown by some of the presidents themselves toward vice presidents betrays both lack of judgment and gross discourtesy. The vice presidency is an office of luster and it should bring to the incumbent

the confidence of the president and the respect of the nation. Five vice presidents have become presidents. Theodore Roosevelt himself, first vice president, became president by an assassin's shot. Vice President Fairbanks receives more or less attention at the White House, but he is not accepted there as a factor in the government, although chosen by the republican party in convention assembled for vice president and elected by the American people as the presidential successor in the event of an emergency.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WAGES AND STRIKES

Mr. Ripley, the distinguished president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway company, declares that it will be impossible for the railroads to cut the wages of their employes without bringing on disastrous strikes, and that this is not to be thought of under present conditions. Mr. Ripley is undoubtedly correct in these conclusions. But there are more ways than one of reducing an employe's wages without cutting the per diem scale he is paid under union and other agreements. This can be testified to by the Santa Fe shopmen and the shopmen, as well as other classes of employes, of other railroads, who have had their pay reduced to frail figures during the past two or three months by layoffs for longer or shorter periods.—Topeka Journal.

PLAYED IT BOTH WAYS

How will the democrats explain the fact that stocks took a strong upward movement when Taft was nominated, and how will the republicans account for the similar movement when Bryan was declared the nominee of the Denver meeting.—Terre Haute Tribune.

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