

# "The Old Ship is Leaking Now"

Following are extracts from a special dispatch printed in the Washington, D. C., Evening Star:

New York, September 8.—Candidate Taft's swing around the circle is being looked forward to as an important event by the republicans. There is no question that his presence on the hustings is in demand. Urgent letters from state chairmen and other local managers from all over the country testify to the necessity for his going before the people and allowing them to look him over.

The reports which come to New York from the middle west are far from reassuring to the republicans. The situation in the vast and restless territory between the Wabash and the plains as reported by watchful observers, is not of a character to warrant any four to one odds on Taft, such as Wall Street is blindly offering. But then Wall Street never looks beyond the Jersey flats.

A good-sized, husky Bryan "scare" is a pretty good prognostication for the near future, unless Candidate Taft manages to start some fires in the middle west right at the jump off.

Candidate Taft is not going to have altogether an easy task, either, in handling some of the questions he will have to discuss on his western trip. Take for example, the mooted subject of guarantee of bank deposits. Mr. Taft and the national organization are opposed to that Bryan plan. But the republican state platform of Kansas has declared in favor of it. The republican literature going into Kansas is discreetly silent on the subject.

There is tariff revision; it is a certainty he will have to make some big talk on revision that is reduction—not revision alone. The middle west, republican and democratic alike, is crazy to get after the tariff schedules with an ax. That is what revision means out there. But that is not the kind of revision demanded in New Jersey, New England, Pennsylvania and protectionist Ohio. It does not sound good in West Virginia, which state, since it swung into the republican column in 1894, has been as rock-ribbed protectionist as Pennsylvania.

It is feared that Candidate Taft will have to do some very agile side stepping and cut some fancy figures on mighty thin ice when he takes the stump in those western districts. However, the managers want him to go, confident that his personality, geniality and his great, honest American manliness will make thousands of votes for him.

Trustworthy information from republican sources indicates an interesting situation in Minnesota. The republicans are in bad shape there and the democrats are jubilant. My republican information is that Minnesota is at this time showing decided tendency toward re-electing Governor Johnson, the democratic candidate for governor. It is not admitted that the presidential ticket is in any danger, but there is the old political axiom of the possibility of the "tail going with the hide."

A Macedonian cry for help from Minnesota has come to the national managers, and the republicans will begin to take cognizance of the Minnesota situation from now on. Undoubtedly Candidate Taft will enter the state.

The news from Minnesota is of a piece with information gathered during a visit to Minnesota right after the Chicago convention. It was evident at that time that the state was honeycombed with radicalism, the result of the teaching of Roosevelt, Bryan and LaFollette. This had been intensified by the resentment of the two radicals over the nomination of Mr. Sherman for vice president which they considered a victory for the "conservative" element in congress, and it was predicted at that time that the republicans would have to attend to their knitting in Minnesota in this campaign or the enemy would get away with their ball of yarn.

Ugly rumors come from several states of that section of the country concerning the sullen attitude of the people toward the republican congress. Except in the case of Mr. Tawney it is not being generally voiced in the primaries for the nominations, but is being held for expression at the polls. The national management will be called upon before the campaign is over to say some plain words to the republicans of that region of the necessity of supporting republican candidates for congress as well as the republican national ticket.

Ex-Governor Hill of Maine, now committeeman for that state, called on Chairman Hitchcock today. He did not bring any rainbows.

Governor Hill frankly admits that the republican can vote in Maine will show a falling off from the vote of four years ago, although he does not admit the probability of Bryan carrying the state. Governor Hill thinks that the republican plurality will run from 12,000 to 15,000, as against 28,000 in 1904.

Connecticut is worrying the republicans, and State Chairman Kennealy came to headquarters today to tell his troubles to Chairman Hitchcock. The candidacy for governor of Representative Lilley, the subject of the congressional investigation of the submarine scandal last session, is not aiding the republican prospects, it is said.

Vice Chairman Hudspeth of the democratic national committee had a conference yesterday in New Haven with the democratic managers in Connecticut, and he came back today trailing Connecticut rainbows all through democratic headquarters. He says the gold democrats and the old Cleveland faction are working harmoniously this year for the national ticket, and that things look good for the democrats, not only in Connecticut, but in Rhode Island also.

#### MR. BRYAN ON THE ROOSEVELT LETTER

The newspapers of Monday, September 14 printed a long letter from Theodore Roosevelt urging the people to elect William H. Taft to the presidency.

On Monday evening Mr. Bryan addressed a gathering in Baltimore, which gathering was estimated by the Associated Press as exceeding 25,000 persons. The Associated Press report of that meeting says: "Mr. Bryan received an ovation seldom equalled in this city. When he stepped to the front of the platform the crowd rose en masse, cheered and waved flags, the band while playing Dixie. Upon order being restored Mr. Bryan, giving every evidence of his pleasure at the demonstration, began his remarks."

The following report is taken from the Associated Press report:

#### WANTS SOMETHING FROM TAFT

"A few plain and simple sentences from Mr. Taft will be worth more than the eulogy that the president pronounces. The president's endorsement is of no value unless the president will agree to stay in Washington and see that Mr. Taft makes good."

In those words William J. Bryan summed up his opinion of the letter of President Roosevelt commendatory of Mr. Taft, soon after the democratic candidate arrived in this city.

"It was expected, of course," said Mr. Bryan, "that President Roosevelt would support Mr. Taft. He could hardly do less in view of the fact that he selected him as the administration candidate and supported him with all the influence that the administration could bring to bear. The president's letter, however, may be objected to as irrelevant, immaterial and not the best evidence. If Mr. Taft were dead it would be interesting to know from Mr. Roosevelt what he knew of Mr. Taft's opinions and work, but as Mr. Taft is alive and able to speak for himself it is hardly necessary for Mr. Roosevelt to tell us what Mr. Taft will do."

"Mr. Taft is running upon a platform which was so unsatisfactory that he had to amend it in several important particulars, and yet, even as amended, it gives the public no definite idea as to what Mr. Taft stands for. Mr. Taft also has made some speeches and promises to make some more. The ones he has already made have not thrown any light upon the political situation, but it is to be hoped that he will yet conclude to define his position with sufficient clearness to enable the public to know what he stands for. It is not sufficient for the president to say that Mr. Taft is a friend of labor. That is a subject upon which the laboring man is entitled to an opinion and Mr. Taft's friendship is to be determined, not by the president's endorsement, but by the measures which Mr. Taft advocates. Mr. Taft believes that the labor organization should come under the operation of the anti-trust law, thus dealing with the men who belong to the labor organization as if they were merchandise, for the anti-trust law deals with the monopoly of the products of labor."

#### TAFT ON TRIAL BY JURY

"Mr. Taft is opposed to trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt, thus denying to the laboring man a safeguard which is guaranteed to every man tried in a criminal court. Mr.

Taft does not agree with the laboring man in regard to the use of the injunction in labor disputes. No words of praise from the president can change Mr. Taft's attitude on this question, or make that attitude more acceptable to the wage earners.

"Mr. Taft's position on the trust question is not changed by the president's endorsement. The president himself has not succeeded in putting any trust magnates in the penitentiary and only a few of the trusts have been disturbed. If Mr. Taft is no more successful than the president in his attacks on the trusts he will not satisfy the expectations of the public. There are more trusts in the country today than there were when Mr. Roosevelt was inaugurated and Mr. Taft favors a weakening rather than a strengthening of the anti-trust law, for he has advocated an amendment that will limit the operation of the law to unreasonable restraint of trade.

"On the tariff question Mr. Taft has failed to express himself with clearness. The republican platform does not use the word 'reduction.' It only promises revision, and Mr. Taft has construed that to mean that some schedules will be lowered and some raised, but there is no intimation that the average will be lower or higher than it is now.

"And so in regard to all the questions which are at issue. Mr. Taft must make his position known. He can not rely upon the president's endorsement. An endorsement on a note is not necessary if the maker of the note is good, and the endorsement is only good when suit can be brought against the endorser to enforce it. If Mr. Taft had a reform record of his own he would not need to be endorsed by the president, and the president's endorsement is of no value unless the president will agree to stay in Washington and see that Mr. Taft makes good. We ought to have some definite statement as to what the public is to expect from Mr. Taft. No such definite statement appears in the platform and no definite conclusion can be drawn from Mr. Taft's speeches, and it does not answer the purpose for the president to say that he feels sure that Mr. Taft will do what is right or what is just, for there is a wide difference of opinion as to what is right and as to what is just. A few plain, simple sentences from Mr. Taft will be worth more than the eulogy that the president pronounces."

#### THE MAINE ELECTION

The returns from the Maine election, which took place September 14, indicate that Bert M. Fernald, republican candidate for governor, has a plurality over Obdiah Gardner, democratic candidate, of about 8,000. The result was a distinct disappointment to the republicans, and democrats everywhere are rejoicing.

Mr. Bryan, who was in Baltimore, referring to the Maine election, said: "I am very much gratified at the returns from Maine. They indicate that the trend toward the democratic party extends over the whole country. They encourage democrats to believe that victory in November is certain."

Mr. Bryan immediately telegraphed National Committeeman Stone of Maine tendering his congratulations.

In 1904 the republicans carried Maine by 26,816.

#### JOHN W. KERN'S ITINERARY

John W. Kern, democratic nominee for vice president, will make a tour, speaking at the following time and places: Evansville, Ind., September 18; Maryland and West Virginia, September 19-24; Mansfield, O., formal opening of the democratic campaign in Ohio, September 26; points in northern Ohio, September 28-29; Saginaw, Mich., September 30; Birmingham, Ala., October 2; Macon, Ga., October 3; Asheville, N. C., October 6; Greensboro, N. C., October 6; Winston-Salem, N. C., October 7; Roanoke, Va., October 7; Fincastle, W. Va., October 9; Huntington, W. Va., and other points to be named as stated above beginning October 10.

**The Commoner will be sent from now until Election Day for Twenty-five Cents.**