

'Twas a Famous Victory for the G. O. P.

Referring to the vindication of Cannonism in the house of representatives, a Washington correspondent for the New York World says:

"The deal by which Mr. Cannon got through alive was made with twenty-two democrats. The long arm of Pat McCarren, of Brooklyn, reached to Washington to help turn the trick. The move was led by Mr. Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn."

HOW IT WAS WON

In its issue of Thursday, March 18, the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal, a republican paper prints the following dispatch:

Washington, March 17.—Some remarkable intimations, amounting to accusations are made concerning some eleventh hour changes which are alleged to have been made in the tariff bill introduced today.

It is declared that there is good reason to believe the internal revenue tax on beer was originally placed at \$1.50 per barrel, an increase of 50 cents, but that it was afterwards at the very last minute reduced to \$1 because the National Brewers' Association came to the rescue of the Cannon organization and through its pull with Tammany and the Boston democracy organization, delivered certain democratic votes from those cities to aid the speaker's forces in getting the old rules adopted without substantial modification.

There is a strong belief that the bill was actually passed upon by the ways and means committee, and adopted with this tax at \$1.50, and that afterwards it was changed at the last minute, thus necessitating the delay in presenting it and bringing it to the house on Wednesday, when it had been expected on Tuesday.

But this is not all. A year and a half ago Representative Kustermann of Wisconsin started a war on the petroleum tariff. Petroleum is on the free list under the Dingley act, but there is a provision that when another country imposes a duty on American petroleum this country shall retaliate by applying an equal tariff on petroleum from that country brought here. This aimed direct at Russia, the only country which has petroleum to sell us. Russia imposes duties of 75 to 150 per cent on our petroleum and petroleum products, which automatically operates to impose at our ports a like duty on the only petroleum that could come here.

It gives these articles, then, a complete monopoly. Mr. Kustermann explained all this in a series of speeches and caused a sensation. When the tariff was taken up this year, he busied himself to get this counter prevailing duty removed, and he succeeded. He was assured two weeks ago by the members of the ways and means committee that it had been dropped out of the bill. He was happy. The report that this duty had been removed was generally published and was accepted by everybody in public places in Washington as authoritative. Members of the ways and means committee positively told Mr. Kustermann of the action taken.

What, then, was Mr. Kustermann's surprise today on getting his copy of the tariff bill, to find that same old counter prevailing provision cheerily staring out at him, in the exact terms in which it is now written in the present law. He would not believe it at first. He inquired, and learned there was no mistake. It had been put in, that was all he could learn, and he is now trying to find out how it happened, with poor success.

The explanation current and accepted here is that the duty was dropped by the committee and then had to be replaced as the price of some of the votes which were secured to sustain the Cannon rules on Monday. It is even declared by many members that there was a print made with this duty left out, which was afterwards destroyed and a new one with the duty in made; and that this delay necessitated postponement of the bill's introduction from Tuesday till today.

Whether this is true it has thus far been impossible to prove. Quiet investigation is going on in several quarters, however, which is expected to get at the truth.

McCARREN ADMITS IT

The Philadelphia North American prints the following dispatch from Albany, N. Y.:

"There was a smile of jubilation on the usually frigid face of Senator Patrick H. McCarren, the sugar and Standard Oil agent, here when

he spoke tonight of his lieutenant, Congressman John J. Fitzgerald, leading twenty-two democrats in a successful upset of the insurgent program to defeat Speaker Cannon and his one-man rule in the house of representatives.

"I heard this afternoon," said Senator McCarren, "that Fitzgerald has led twenty-two democrats away from the anti-Cannon insurgents and opposed Champ Clark's policy. Fitzgerald has been my friend for many years, and I am also a great admirer of Speaker Cannon."

"Fitzgerald is said to have followed specific instructions from you in the course he took today?"

"I do not instruct Fitzgerald. He has proved himself a power in congress. We are close political and personal friends, and both of us are great admirers of the speaker. I often talk things over with Fitzgerald. That is natural."

"The coup he played today was the result of a consultation with you?"

"Well, I was not surprised when I heard its accomplishment, nor was I astonished to learn that Congressmen Riordan, Harrison, Bartlett, Goldfogle, Lindsay, Goulden and Farnes, of New York, rallied about him."

"PARTY OF GOD AND MORALITY"

The following dispatch is printed in the Philadelphia North American, a republican paper:

Washington, March 16.—Speaker Cannon's victory yesterday was a gift to him from the liquor interests of the United States. His surplus strength on the final vote was purchased by bartering legislation. The more the deal by which democratic treachery and republican submission to boss control effected the re-establishment of Cannonism as the dominating system in legislation is investigated and analyzed, the more it assumes the proportions of a great national scandal.

Of the substance and reality of the charges made, there is no room for doubt. The New York democrats were delivered to the Cannon organization by the democratic bosses of New York, who demand for the brewing interests that there be no increase in the tax on beer.

The southern democrats and some from the north are openly declared to have been delivered by the whisky interests, who demand a pledge that there be no legislation affecting interstate shipments of liquor into prohibition states.

The two democrats from Louisiana—Estopinal and Broussard—were won by a pledge that there would be no change in the sugar protection afforded Louisiana planters. The Georgians, where they were not influenced by liquor and corporation interests, got promises of committee assignments.

Regarding every democrat who went to Cannon's assistance Champ Clark and the other democratic leaders had advance information of just what pressure was being brought to bear; what they would get and what would be the effect of their treachery.

Clark hesitated to believe the statements made to him regarding his colleagues, and in view of their assurances that they would stand by the party pledges, he felt confident that Cannonism was to be overthrown and the house placed in a position where it could control itself.

It is now seen that all Clark's advance information was absolutely correct, and that the democratic treachery had all been planned and agreed to.

Letters From the People

N. B. Sandy, Mannington, W. Va.—I believe you never published anything from my pen, but I will come to you again, and ask you to print my opinion with regard to raising the salaries of legislators, state and national. Timber is advancing in value year after year, and to carve a symmetrical statue out of a log would perhaps require an outlay of \$50; but a stick of gum or beech can yet be gotten for twenty-five cents, and the carving can well be dispensed with. It is not even necessary to knock off the rough bark. Substitute logs of this kind for a majority of our legislators, national and state, (and I have as much respect for them as for a great many other officers) and the change will effect a radical improvement in the make-up of our legislative bodies. Such

wooden men could not vote for legislative robbery. Let the champions of good laws retain their seats; their chief concern is not about high salaries and special privileges. The best friends of man, as a rule, work for little or no pay and often at the peril of their persons, properties and reputations.

J. M. Fender, Muncie, Ind.—What course shall reformers adopt in the future? Hold strenuously to the present landmark, better them if you can, vacation would be fatal and ought to be. Can the democratic party ever hope to gain control of the federal government? Yes, a sure thing. We read between the lines of coming victory. I am an old union veteran and left the so-called republican party in 1896. I have voted for four democrat nominees for president since that time who were all defeated but I am not discouraged. I have the consolation of knowing that I voted in the interest of my country, my family and myself and will continue to do so.

D. F. Rogers, Long Beach, Cal.—The people have had opportunities to change their government from a despotism to a republic of, for and by the people for the last dozen years. They have admitted the fact of the evil condition, but have been lured and scared into keeping their enemy in power. Is the fact that the heroic man whose help they might have had as a chief magistrate of the nation can give help—in removing the foul brood who are in the saddle today, was set aside for a time server. Is this proof that Bryan was defeated? If my house is on fire, and I scorn the neighbor who would help me extinguish the flames, and call in the firebug who touched the match instead, a proof of my neighbor's defeat? Out upon such treason to the truth. The election of November 3 was political suicide for this nation. We shall recover from its effects in time. The great reformer who has done more to lift us from the mire of corrupt politics in which this nation has been wallowing for near half a century, than all other influences combined, still lives, has suffered no defeat. Loved by his friends because they have faith in his loyalty to the religion of politics, because he is the unwavering champion of the rights of the common people, the battle in which he is a leader will still go on, and in due time comes the victory.

Truth thy cause, whate'r delay it

There's no power on earth can stay it.

George H. Steele, Rockham, S. D.—Reform in our money, land and transportation laws is as insistent now as when the populists held their great Omaha convention and any man who fears to apply the Jeffersonian principle to these issues is unworthy to be called a reformer and underserving of success.

E. H. Baker, Ottoman, Va.—The past record of the democratic party is responsible for the defeat of Mr. Bryan in 1908 as in his former campaigns. Personally, I regard Mr. Bryan as the greatest living American whose nomination has been a power of strength and an honor to his party. I regard his defeat as a calamity more for the American people than for Bryan. Had he been elected his task would have been no easy matter in this day of trusts. It is today a doubtful question who owns the country, the people or the money trusts.

D. R. Fullerton, Clearfield, Pa.—I hope Mr. Bryan will live to occupy a seat in the United States senate, at least, and I believe this is the sentiment of a majority of the people of the United States.

Alex Davidson, Glen Campbell, Pa.—If the Cleveland-Palmer factions had stayed out when they left, in 1896, Bryan would have polled a bigger vote.

John A. McKeown, Chicago, Ill.—It is possible that more good can be done by the democratic party out of power in pressing its reforms and educating the people to a recognition of their value than by exercising the powers of government. If we can compel the party in power to adopt our reforms from time to time we will have much to be thankful for.

George H. Thomas, Portland, Ore.—After nearly fifty years of responsibility the republican leaders no longer depend on reason and debate but resort to intimidation and coercion of a multitude whose penury is irrefutable evidence of republican misgovernment. Furthermore, the "brigands of swollen fortunes," created by republican mal-legislation, now control the shadow upon the dial of prosperity and by sinister threats of that shadow they cow and dictate to the great middle class of this nation.