

hearted plea for the election of Mr. Kern, a plea in which all the great issues were discussed, and as such was in striking contrast with the speech delivered last week from the same platform in advocacy of the election of Mr. Beveridge. There were no dodging and evading, no mere generalities, no homilies in praise of virtues which all admit to be admirable. Mr. Bryan, unlike Mr. Beveridge's champion, discussed controverted questions. And he carried his audience with him. Those who were not fortunate enough to hear the speech should read it. The man who begins it will hardly find it possible to lay it down till he has finished it.

A LATE DISCLAIMER

Mr. Roosevelt now says that had that control (of the Saratoga convention) been absolute, the tariff plank would have been different. The disclaimer comes too late. Theodore Roosevelt made up the committee on resolutions which drafted that tariff plank. One minute before he named the members of the committee he took the already prepared typewritten list and struck off the names of several delegates who had opposed his wishes during the debate, and substituted for them the names of other delegates, who could be fully trusted to do his bidding.

It was his committee. When the platform was reported to the convention no word of dissent was heard from him. It was open to him to move an amendment. He was perfectly free to declare, if so minded, that a tariff plank phrased to meet the approval of Cannon and Payne and Aldrich would not be a good thing for the republican party in New York this year. He did nothing of the kind. The platform was adopted. It stands as the republican party's declaration of policy. It is as much Mr. Roosevelt's platform as it would have been had he written it; for the men who did write it were his close friends and appointees. He accepted the platform, tariff plank and all, and he spoke no word in criticism of it, he gave no intimation that he would have had it otherwise until after his interview with the distinguished insurgent from Iowa.

At Carnegie hall he had a fine opportunity to tell the men of the republican league in what way or ways he would have had the tariff plank differently drawn. But instead of that he spoke in praise of the platform, of the whole platform. Even in the Outlook he had said: "I think that the present tariff is better than the one before the last; but it has certainly failed to give general satisfaction." The Saratoga platform in its praise and defense of the tariff is therefore perfectly consistent with

Mr. Roosevelt's Outlook article, which is in substance what he said at Sioux Falls. The members of Mr. Roosevelt's committee did not concern themselves with the failure of the Payne tariff to give "general satisfaction." They were satisfied with it, and said so. Through them Mr. Roosevelt said so. It is for this reason that the republican insurgents of the west accuse him of surrendering to "the bandits of plutocracy."

It is our opinion that Mr. Roosevelt will have to stand on the tariff plank of his platform.—New York Times.

SHIP SUBSIDY SILENCE

The New York Commercial, which is one of the most consistent and persistent boosters of the ship subsidy graft in the country, is somewhat disturbed at the trend of political events. It says:

"It is amazing that in a congressional campaign like the present one, wherein a mighty struggle is going on for political control of the next house of representatives, one hears or reads so little about this great merchant marine issue—practically nothing—and it is one of the most important that confronts the American people today."

Republican candidates for congress will probably be even more surprised at the Commercial's surprise; surprised, in fact, that it should have so little comprehension of the popular sentiment of the country. The ship subsidy subject is one that is full of dynamite, especially in the great middle west, which will probably have a large influence in the sixty-second congress. In the view of the practical politician the less said about ship subsidy during this campaign the better. This is made evident by the peculiar reticence of the republican candidates concerning it. Right here at home, for instance, we have as yet no light how Mr. Beveridge, candidate for senator, and Mr. Cox, candidate for congress, would vote on the question.

Nor do we hear of other republican candidates shouting from the housetops that they are heart and soul for ship subsidy and eager for a chance to vote such a burden on their constituents. On the contrary, it would appear to be pretty clear that none of them is going to say a word about it if he can avoid it. Thus, it is likely that the Commercial must continue to be disappointed at the lack of discussion. Ship subsidy may still be a live wire, but it is one carrying too high a voltage to be safe to handle during a campaign.—Indianapolis News.

Under ordinary atmospheric pressure a cubic foot of water may be converted into a cubic foot of steam.

EDISON'S VIEWS ON IMMORTALITY

New York dispatch to the Chicago American: "If Thomas A. Edison had paused to write his views on 'immortality' instead of being 'interviewed,' he would have avoided this mass of contradictions, of anarchy and folly," said the Rev. C. F. Aked, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church, yesterday, in reply to the great inventor's views on the hereafter.

Dr. Aked picked the interview to pieces. He said he had great respect and admiration and gratitude for Mr. Edison, for his wonderful inventions of the phonograph and several hundred other things, but thought that neither Mr. Edison nor any other man should attempt to discuss vast themes of mankind, life and destiny in an interview. He pointed out the fact that the United States supreme court was listening to arguments in the Union Pacific rate cases and that the learned judges would weigh each word and polish each sentence before it rendered a decision and would not attempt to decide offhand.

"The interviewer says he went to Mr. Edison because he has solved so many puzzling problems," said Dr. Aked. "Why go to Mr. Edison? What metaphysical problems has he solved? What has he done to entitle him to be heard as an authority upon questions of the human spirit and of God?"

"Now, frankly, we must rid ourselves of this delusion that the specialist in one department is an authority to be heard in matters of which he is not a specialist.

"If Mr. Wellman crosses the Atlantic ocean in his balloon, and I hope that he does, are you ready to say that that entitles him to speak as an authority on international politics and go to the Mansion house and lecture the British people on their relations in Egypt, or to wield the big stick on the backs of the people of the Nile? Will that entitle him to say that the murder of a high official in Cairo proves that the people of Egypt are unfit for self-government and ought to be dominated by the British? Because of the attempt to murder Mayor Gaynor should the people of New York be declared unfit for self government and a British fleet sent up the Hudson?"

"These things are absurd! A man of science is not qualified to discuss such problems. His mind is taken up with other things.

"Mr. Edison in his interview gives many illustrations of bias. Mr. Edison is obsessed by the words 'supernatural' and 'supernormal.' He tells us that nothing is supernatural or supernormal, and although he uses the words, he makes no attempt to distinguish between them nor tell what he means by the words as he uses them."

Dr. Aked was of the opinion that Mr. Edison's interview was doing harm. He quoted philosophers who held contrary views to those of the inventor. He grew somewhat sarcastic when he alluded to the interviewer's question to Edison, "Are we ever to know the what and the why?" and Mr. Edison's reply, "I'm darned if I know."

In contra-distinction to Mr. Edison's "I'm darned if I know," Dr. Aked quoted Tennyson, who he declared was Mr. Edison's intellectual equal. Dr. Aked said Tennyson believed in a hereafter, as he wrote: "I hope to meet my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar."

THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Bill—"They tell me that y'r old friend Jimmy got'r job yesterday."
Dan—"Ain't it terrible, Bill, wot some people will do f'r money?"—Sydney Bulletin.

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