

The Baltimore Banquet

Some Opinions of the "Conference"

The Baltimore banquet seems to have fallen pretty far short of the billboard announcements. Its eclipsing feature appears to have been the immensity of the menu and the varieties of the vintages set before the jubilant and rejuvenated democrats assembled.

Neither as a projection of democratic policies does the Baltimore banquet seem to have been conspicuously a success. If one may judge from the rather abridged report of the newspaper dispatches, the democrats assembled concerned themselves almost wholly with the tariff problem; but the addresses, instead of disclosing unity of purpose, revealed rather an ominous contrariety of opinion as to how that vexatious question should be handled.

RICH DEMOCRATS TO THE FRONT

A political banquet is not always a fair test of party tendencies or conditions. It does not necessarily present an accurate picture of party sentiment and party purposes.

At Baltimore, Tuesday night, the circumstances were very revealing. They uncovered the general purpose of the democratic leaders to make the tariff their main issue next year and the fear the same leaders feel that their chosen fighting ground may prove difficult and dangerous.

The very nature of the feast proved that. The caterers who served the dinner had to provide 7,000 of the costliest oysters and 750 gallons of diamond back terrapin soup.

This could not have happened in Bryan's day. Then dollar dinners were the limit of democratic indulgence when party leaders assembled to plan their campaigns and console one another in their disappointments.

laid claim to the special guardianship of the poor and humble.

But now, with the first party success won on a national scale in eighteen years, comes a banquet for only those who have well filled purses, and the democratic leaders of the country flock there to eat and talk and listen.

MR. BELL'S SPEECH

Editor The Commoner: I see by the Baltimore conference, that Mr. Theodore M. Bell of California, is reported as saying "fate had decreed that Mr. Bryan would never be president of the United States, and the democratic party would not be called upon to nominate him."

M. B. CHASE.

Marion, Ohio, January 19.

"DEMOCRACY" VIA BALTIMORE

The Baltimore Sun of January 18 (the newspaper that called the Baltimore conference) printed the following fine description of "democracy:"

DID DEMOCRACY FEAST LAST NIGHT?

WELL, JUST READ THIS

The Edibles Consumed

- 18 barrels of salt water oysters.
725 pounds of diamond back terrapin.
566 canvasback ducks.
229 Jersey capons, averaging 8 pounds each.
20 Smithfield hams, totaling 300 pounds.
\$100 worth of celery.
16 gallons of hominy.
5 barrels of white potatoes.
1135 cakes of individual ices.
56 cases of champagne (one dozen quarts to a case).
17 cases sauterne (one dozen quarts to a case).
12 cases White Rock (one dozen quarts to a case).
3500 cigars.
28 gallons of Holland gin for the starting cocktail.

Who Prepared It

To prepare this feast twenty cooks were employed in a temporary kitchen provided in the basement of the Fifth Regiment Armory.

To serve it 200 waiters were constantly in action, but without confusion, so well had everything been arranged.

The banquet was under the direct supervision of Colonel William A. Boykin, chairman of the committee. To assist him he had Mr. James J. A. O'Connor, formerly of the Rennert, who supervised the cooking and serving.

GOOD FOR THE TRIBUNE

The Chicago Tribune shows a commendable zeal in its effort to prevent the whitewashing of Senator Lorimer. Would that all of the metropolitan papers were as outspoken against this threatened disgrace to the senate.

REMEMBER 1904

Parties, like individuals, must seize the opportunity when fortune offers. The door of opportunity is now open for democracy to save this country from plutocracy in 1912. That opportunity must not be frittered away through Wall Street connections as in 1904. As Shakespeare made Brutus say before the battle of Phillipi: "There is a tide in the affairs of man, which, taken at its flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in misery." On such a full sea are we now afloat and we must take the current when it serves or lose our victories.—Kansas Commoner.

"The Passing of Bryan"

A. Rejected Manuscript

To the Editor of the Toronto Globe: Recently in an editorial you gave one side of the question concerning the alleged "Passing of Mr. Bryan." Will you now have the fairness to give a hearing to the other side?

The writer has for some time past enjoyed and profited the while by his weekly perusal of the Globe since it came under its present able editorial management—regarding it as one of the limited instances which conspicuously adorn the great profession of journalism on the American continent; and he hopes that his suspicion is unfounded that its able editor has by force of habit become effusive in his encomiums upon those whose fortune it is to bask for a season in the sunshine of political and official power and derogatory in comment of even conspicuous worth which does not happen to be enjoying the aforesaid salubrious atmosphere.

Regarding the "passing of Mr. Bryan" it may be observed that this eminent man has been alleged to be "a dead one" many times before, and the occasion of the editor of the Globe devoting something like a column of his valuable space to one who has "passed" when it might have been used to the more timely and profitable advantage, namely, of continuing to hold down tight the wicked conservatives, constitutes presumptive evidence that, like some others, he is experiencing some difficulty in getting away from the fact that there is considerable life left in the corpse yet.

To many your exclamation that "Roosevelt may again become president," and its really dramatic ending, "but never Bryan!" will only serve to provoke a smile. It sounds very like one of those over excited chieftains of plutocracy some of whom, by the way, are now sojourning in jail.

But with reference to Roosevelt and the presidency it may be said that when the time comes it is just possible that there will be those in sufficient numbers by their action if not by their declamations—as doubtless there would be at the Guild House in London should occasion ever again offer—who will say: "Never again!"

But your whole misguided notion so far as Mr. Bryan is concerned, is exposed in your possession of the idea that the sole aim of Mr. Bryan has been to obtain the presidency, as when you say: "Even yet if he gets the presidential bee out of his bonnet he may yet do a man's work," and, "the trouble with men like Bryan is that they desire position rather than power. They think that to be president or prime minister would be great, not knowing that greater far is he who moulds the people's will."

Now sir, Mr. Bryan's own words furnish the most telling answer to that, and the writer respectfully asks you to lend to them your ears:

"I am not seeking leadership; neither am I concerned about my political position in future years. No man is in position to do his duty who is controlled by the ambition to be a leader or who is always looking out for his own political future. Leadership in thought and in political action is entirely independent of caucuses and conventions. He leads who proposes the wisest measures and defends them with the strongest argument. No one can see the truth who constantly gazes at himself. Those find truth who seek for it earnestly and constantly. The best evidence that one can give of his faith in a truth is to be willing to suffer for it. Christ gave utterance to a principle of wide application when He said, 'He that findeth his life shall lose it, and he that loses his life for My sake shall find it.' So it may be said of truth. He whose only object is to save his own political life will lose it, and will deserve to lose it, but he who is willing to lose his life for the sake of a cause or a principle triumphs with that cause or principle."

Now, sir, may I ask, how do your words of disparagement appear in the light of a fearless outspoken declaration like that? Does it sound like a man with but a "presidential bee in his bonnet?"

Mr. Bryan's relations to the presidency have been but incidents in a remarkable career brought about simply and solely by the impelling and compelling force of a great character accompanied by equally great gifts.

When you speak of Mr. Bryan's "monetary vagaries," and say: "If he had but mastered Cobden's problem (as you are pleased to express it) with Cobden's thoroughness, he would