

fled with those who are engaged in exploiting the masses. He believes in democracy and in the democratic party as a means of advancing democracy. Individually and through The Commoner he will exert himself to the utmost to secure to the country the blessings of democracy applied to government and to secure to the party the power and prestige which can only be earned by fidelity to public interests.

WITH A COMMON PURPOSE

In a letter printed in the Oakland (Cal.) Enquirer, J. W. Dutton, late of Company H. Fourth Ohio volunteer infantry, pleads for a better understanding between the men of the north and the men of the south, and adds: "As victors, we can well afford at this distant day to generously forgive and forget. There are other battles to be fought and other victories to be won before it can be truthfully said that we are a 'free and independent' people.

"Corporations are enthroned and scheming men by the grace and favor of special privilege have been able to absorb by far too large a portion of the wealth of the nation—the products of industry, 'injustice, swift, erect and unconfined, sweeps the wide earth and tramples o'er mankind,' and the signs of the times seem to indicate that if these conditions be not opportunely corrected they will precipitate this country into a struggle, compared with which the Civil war, terrible as it was, was but a skirmish.

"To avert this threatened danger let those of us who wore the blue, hand in hand with those who wore the gray, 'with malice toward none and charity for all,' unitedly resist the insidious encroachments of selfish men, who, masquerading as friends of the republic, would not scruple to sacrifice all of liberty for wealth and power."

EXPERT TESTIMONY

The Omaha Bee criticised Mr. Bryan rather severely for some observations concerning the bad practices of certain newspapers but during a moment when the Bee editor did not have Mr. Bryan's criticism in mind he wrote an interesting editorial charging that certain newspapers "go right on constructing card houses to be blown down and basing on mere gossip the minutest detail of what public men are going to do without even giving them a chance to affirm or deny."

The Bee editor added: "For these political clairvoyants no tale is so preposterous, and no yarn so far-fetched, as to require verification from the only people who could verify. Perhaps it is a harmless pastime, although occasionally some real damage is done. But the chief sufferers and victims are the newspapers, themselves, that make it a business to manufacture fakes sure to be quickly exploded, and to react upon their own heads."

Isn't the Bee editor just a bit too severe upon the press?

A HOT WEATHER ABSURDITY

Kansas City Star: It happens that a member of the Jewish race, Mr. Oscar Straus, was a prominent and efficient member of President Roosevelt's cabinet; that another member of the same race, Mr. Louis Brandeis, has proved one of the most useful citizens in private life today; that another, Mr. Jacob Schiff, is one of the most eminent philanthropists as well as financiers in the nation; that others of the race—men like Rabbi Hirsch, of Chicago and Rabbi Wise of New York—are leaders in the American pulpit; in short, that in every department of American life the Jewish people occupy conspicuous positions of honor and trust.

In view of these circumstances it is little short of humorous that an unknown officer in the army should attempt to bar a man from promotion on the ground that he is a Jew.

TAFT ON FIRST BALLOT

The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that a republican party poll indicates that Mr. Taft will be renominated on the first ballot. Seven states, he says, are likely to send anti-Taft delegations. These are California, Oregon, Washington, the two Dakotas, Idaho and Wisconsin.

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT ONE SIDED

The Baltimore Sun complains that "rebuking Bryan is like arguing with an echo." It is too bad the spokesmen for special interests can not have it all their own way. It is too bad that anyone has the temerity to criticise their attacks upon the public welfare.

PUBLISHING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

The national publicity law organization is urging the amendment of the present law requiring the publishing of the names of contributors to national campaign funds. It asks for the addition of the following provision:

"Sec. 5. That the treasurer of every such political committee shall, not more than fifteen days and not less than ten days before an election at which representatives in congress are to be elected in two or more states, file in the office of the clerk of the house of representatives at Washington, District of Columbia, with said clerk, an itemized detailed statement, sworn to by said treasurer and conforming to the requirements of the following section of this act. It shall also be the duty of said treasurer to file a similar and final statement with said clerk within thirty days after such election, such final statement also to be sworn to by said treasurer and to conform to the requirements of the following section of this act. The statements so filed with the clerk of the house shall be preserved by him for fifteen months, and shall be a part of the public records of his office, and shall be open to public inspection."

This was in the bill as it passed the house but was stricken out in the senate. It goes without saying that it will pass the democratic house—and it ought to pass at the special session—and it is likely to pass the senate by a combination of democrats and progressive republicans. The democratic national platform of 1908 demanded:

"We demand federal legislation, forever terminating the partnership which has existed between corporations of the country and the republican party under the expressed or implied agreement that in return for the contribution of great sums of money wherewith to purchase elections they should be allowed to continue substantially unmolested in their efforts to encroach upon the rights of the people.

"Any reasonable doubt as to the existence of this relation has been dispelled by the sworn testimony of witnesses examined in the insurance investigation in New York and the open admission of a single individual—unchallenged by the republican national committee—that he himself at the personal request of the then republican candidate for the presidency raised over a quarter of a million dollars to be used in a single state during the closing hours of the last campaign. In order that this practice shall be stopped for all time we demand the passage of a statute punishing by imprisonment any officer of a corporation who shall either contribute on behalf of or consent to the contribution by a corporation of any money or thing of value to be used in furthering the election of a president or vice president of the United States, or of any member of the congress thereof. We denounce the republican party, having complete control of the federal government, for its failure to pass the bill, introduced in the last congress to compel the publication of the names of contributors and the amounts contributed toward campaign funds, and point to the evidence of the insincerity of republican leaders when they sought by an absolutely irrelevant and impossible amendment to defeat the passage of the bill, as a further evidence of their intention to conduct their campaign in the coming contest with vast sums of money wrested from favor-seeking corporations. We call attention to the fact that the recent republican national convention at Chicago refused, when the issue was presented to it, to declare against such practices.

"We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law prohibiting any corporation from contributing to a campaign fund, and any individual from contributing an amount above a reasonable maximum and providing for the publication before election of all such contributions above a reasonable minimum."

And that platform is marching on to victory.

ELECTION OF SENATORS

By a vote of 64 to 24 the United States senate passed the constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators after attaching to it the Bristow amendment which gives the federal government supervision of senatorial elections.

On the adoption of the Bristow amendment the vote stood 44 to 44 and Vice President Sherman, as the presiding officer, cast the deciding vote in favor of the amendment, thus attaching it to the main measure. The whole proposition was then adopted by a vote of 64 to 24.

The Associated Press report of the proceedings says: "Mr. Davis of Arkansas arraigned Mr. Bristow. Referring by name to Senator

Cummins, Clapp and La Follette he declared 'the insurgent crowd never have been sincere on any subject they have brought before the country.'

"The chair called Mr. Davis to order. Mr. Cummins defied Mr. Davis' statement of an alleged instance as untrue. Mr. Bristow refuted the charge, saying that only under great provocation 'would he pay any attention to what the senator from Arkansas said.'

"Mr. Bacon aroused feeling by declaring that great interests had been bringing enormous pressure to bear to defeat the resolution, and Senators Works, Guggenheim and Cummins arose to refute the allegation. Mr. Bacon explained that he was imputing no impropriety to any member.

"The alleged defection of the progressives was scored by Senator Reed of Missouri, who declared the conversion of Mr. Bristow to Senator Sunderland's view point was 'because of the negro vote in Kansas.'

"Adoption of the Bristow amendment which omitted the house provision transferring supervision of senatorial elections from congress to the state legislatures, was made possible by Mr. Clark of Arkansas casting the only democratic vote for the proposition. The tie on that ballot would have been prevented if his vote had been cast with his party, with whom he later voted on adoption of the resolution. On this first ballot five republicans, Messrs. Borah, Gronna, La Follette, Poindexter and Works, all insurgents, voted against the provision. On the resolution as amended the vote sixty-four to twenty-four was six more than the necessary two-thirds majority. Of the twenty-four negative votes eight were cast by democrats and sixteen by republicans as follows:

"Republicans—Brandegge, Burnham, Crane, Dillingham, Gallinger, Heyburn, Lippitt, Lodge, Lorimer, Oliver, Page, Penrose, Richardson, Root, Smoot and Wetmore.

"Democrats—Bacon, Bankhead, Fletcher, Foster, Johnston, Percy, Terrell and Williams.

PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION

"The resolution as amended and passed is as follows:

"That in lieu of the first paragraph of section 3 of article 1, of the constitution of the United States and in lieu of so much of paragraph two of the same section as relates to the filling of vacancies, the following be proposed as an amendment to the constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states:

"The senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years, and each senator shall have one vote.

"The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

"When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies; provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

"This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the constitution."

"The amended resolution will now go into conference between the senate and house and some senators predict that the house will refuse to accept it."

GOOD FOR MR. TAFT

President Taft's act in censuring the Ft. Meyer colonel for opposing the promotion of a private soldier on the ground that that soldier is a Jew will be commended heartily by thoughtful men of every race and religion. Prejudice against the Jew is rapidly dying out among the men and women of America. It can have no place in our army or navy and it really has no place in our politics for some of the ablest of America's public servants belong to that race whose representatives have had to fight their way to the front in the face of great obstacles.

A QUERY

Query: Why complain of "the taint of protection" in the wool bill, now that the caucus has endorsed it? Answer: So that tariff reform democrats may warn their constituents against allowing the taint to attach itself to other schedules. A bad policy acquiesced in becomes permanent and universal.