

### THE REAL UNDERWOOD

The Washington Post, one of the most unblushing representatives of the plutocratic propaganda, has the following to say in regard to Mr. Underwood as a presidential candidate:

"The democrats are not only within their rights in presenting Oscar W. Underwood as a candidate for president, but they can do so with good logic and an appeal to the sentiment that the war is over and the south just as much a part of the union in its new development as any other section of the country. Mr. Underwood represents the new south in sentiment and in environment. He was born after the civil war had had its beginning, in Old Kentucky, and as a young man he took up his home in Birmingham, which perhaps better typifies the new south than any other city or community.

"When the civil war closed there was a ruined and abandoned cotton plantation where now centers the greatest industrial development of the south. President Harrison no doubt had that development in mind when in his inaugural address he said: 'Mill fires were lighted at the funeral pile of slavery. The emancipation proclamation was heard in the depths of the earth as well as in the sky; men were made free, and material things became our better servants.'

"What place more appropriate for the home of a candidate for president of a sensible and sane democratic party, tired of the old slogan that protection is a fraud and unconstitutional, than Birmingham, which has risen absolutely a new creation and which shines brilliantly among the southern cities by the mill fires lighted at the funeral pile of slavery? The old abandoned cotton plantations which were left as a desert after the civil war have, through the riches from the depths of the earth, taken the place as the center of population and industrial development in Alabama. There is no place in all this country where there has been such a complete revolution in industry and sentiment as here, where the emancipation proclamation was heard in the depths of the earth and material things became the better servants of the people.

"Mr. Underwood has the proper environment for a southern candidate for the presidency. His work as a public servant is in harmony with his environment. He looks at the tariff through eyes that have become accustomed to the new light of industrial development, and has directed his effort toward tariff reduction without utterly abandoning the policy of a tariff that will give incidental protection. Mr. Underwood has also shown that he is a capable and conservative leader in the house, and he has more recently given evidence of conservative democracy in expressing his opposition to the populist vagaries of initiative, referendum, and recall, which some democratic leaders have recklessly seized upon as a good enough Morgan for a campaign of opposition to the present administration. Let Alabama continue to claim a place on the national stage and keep Oscar Underwood there as a safe and sane democrat, representing the new south in its best and most brilliant development as well as the old south in its best traditions."

It will be noticed that he possesses three qualifications for the position:

First—He has shown himself a "CONSERVATIVE leader in the house" and "has more recently given evidence of CONSERVATIVE democracy in expressing his opposition to POPULISTIC VAGARIES OF INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM and RECALL."

Here his fitness is made to depend upon his opposition to the progressive element of the party and upon his hostility to reforms that rest upon confidence in the intelligence and patriotism of the people. He is put forward as a "sensible and sane" candidate—that sounds quite like the "safe and sane democracy" of which we heard so much in 1904.

Second—He has the proper "environment" for a candidate. Birmingham, we are told, is "tired of the old slogan that protection is a fraud and unconstitutional." Birmingham is the home of one branch of the Steel trust and the atmosphere, according to the Post, has become fairly charged with protective sentiment.

Third—Mr. Underwood's "work as a public servant is IN HARMONY WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT. He looks at the TARIFF THROUGH EYES THAT HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE NEW LIGHT" and "has directed his efforts toward tariff reduction WITHOUT UTTERLY ABANDONING THE POLICY OF A TARIFF THAT WILL GIVE INCIDENTAL PROTECTION."

There you have it. When Mr. Bryan suggested that Mr. Underwood was tainted with protection it made him very mad. Some democrats who had not become acquainted with him accused Mr. Bryan of misrepresenting him. What will he and they say now, when he is praised for his conservatism, for regarding protection with a friendly eye and for being envied by the Steel trust?

Will he rise to a question of personal privilege and denounce the Post for this praise, more damning than any criticism Mr. Bryan has uttered?

And yet with the corporation papers picking out presidential candidates and urging them BECAUSE they are AGAINST PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION some democrats are shouting harmony. Is it possible that the masses will cherish the delusion that all is well while Wall street lays its plans to capture the con-

vention, write the platform and nominate the ticket? Is it treason to expose the plot and urge resistance to it?

### THE PRIZE PLUTOCRAT

The New York Herald quotes Rev. James R. Day, chancellor of the Syracuse university, of Syracuse, N. Y., as saying at a recent New York banquet:

"James R. Day, chancellor of Syracuse university, opened his speech by saying of the Sherman law that its father was political expediency and its mother demagoguery.

"It is a fine law for the politician," he said. "It is an efficient instrument of torture for the demagogue. It is a wonderfully efficient menace for the unsuccessful competitor. The law is tying up our vast movements, while Germany is capturing the commerce of the world and even little Canada snaps her fingers in our face and laughs at our proposal of reciprocity.

"Has this law helped anything it has touched? Has it promoted trade? Its purpose is to secure competition, and competition is called the life of trade. Competition is a fetich which should have come off its pedestal long ago. It is not the life of trade; it is the destruction of trade. As a matter of fact nothing has promoted trade for all the people like those mighty organizations which the Sherman law is today paralyzing. This law proposes to undertake a work that the Almighty has never attempted to do—give all men an equal chance. The law should be repealed because it restrains trade and destroys traders."

Many men have spoken foolishly on the trust question but it is doubtful whether any one of equal prominence ever uttered as much tommyrot in the same length of time. He is the prize plutocrat of the country and his offense is the greater because he professes to be a follower of the Nazarene. Has he ever read the story of the Rich Young Man who went away sorrowing?

### PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

The defeat in the republican committee of the presidential primary plan was not in the least surprising to students of politics. The republican machine is in the control of men who have no sympathy whatever with popular government reforms and a presidential primary might endanger Mr. Taft's chances for renomination. The presidential primary plan was defeated in the same spirit that antagonized the admission of Arizona with its popular government constitution—the same spirit in which the republican party has been persistently led and firmly held within the corral of the special interests. Referring to the proceedings before the national committee the Chicago Record-Herald says:

"The Borah plan was sensible, moderate and practical. It left the choice between presidential primaries and the convention method of electing delegates to the state committees. The majority plan actually adopted permits the state committees to disregard or override presidential primary laws and require the selection of delegates to the presidential convention by caucus and state convention. This is needlessly bourbon; it is calculated to offend insurgents and progressives everywhere. It will, however, stimulate the idea of legal, carefully regulated presidential primaries, and thus may prove a blessing in disguise."

### WIRELESS OPERATORS

Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska has introduced the following bill:

"A bill to amend an act entitled 'An Act to Require Apparatus and Operators for Radio-communication on Certain Ocean Steamers,' Approved June 24, 1910. \* \* \*

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the act entitled 'An act to require apparatus and operators for radio-communication on certain ocean steamers,' approved June 24, 1910, be amended by the addition of the following words to section 1: 'Provided, also, that on and after the first day of July, 1912, it shall be unlawful for any ocean going steamer of the United States or of any foreign country, carrying passengers and carrying 100 or more persons, including passengers and crew, to leave or attempt to leave any port of the United States unless such steamer shall be equipped with an efficient apparatus for radio-communication in good working order, in charge of two or more persons skilled in the use of such apparatus, one of whom shall be on duty at all hours of the day and night, which appara-

tus shall be capable of transmitting and receiving messages over a distance of at least 100 miles, night or day.'"

In a letter addressed to The Commoner, Senator Hitchcock says: "I find that the statute as it exists now provides for an operator for every vessel carrying 50 or more people, crew and passengers included. By the amendment, of which I herewith enclose you a copy, you will see that I add a proviso that after July 1st any vessel carrying 100 persons, including crew and passengers, shall have at least two operators. I think perhaps it would be easier to secure the enactment of this than to make it apply to vessels carrying only 50 people."

### PASS THE HENRY BILL

The Henry bill, providing that the first session of congress shall be held soon after election instead of thirteen months later and providing also for the change in the date of inauguration ought to be passed. Now the congressmen elected in November does not begin his congressional work until December, thirteen months later, and the congressman who may have been repudiated in November goes to Washington in December following the election and has the opportunity of again misrepresenting the people. The congressman chosen in November should begin work as soon after the election as possible and the second session of congress ought to close before the succeeding election in order that the people may have a chance to pass upon its work.

The Henry bill will have the effect of abolishing the "job session" as the session of congress in December, following the election has come to be known.

### HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

A London cablegram, carried by the Associated Press, says that the British government has decided to exclude the American meat packers against whom prosecutions have been instituted in the United States from contracts for the supply of meats to the British army and navy, pending the settlement of the suits. This cablegram adds:

"It was explained by officials of the war office that the government's action was in accordance with its regular policy. In case any company with which the government dealt became involved in serious litigation, the government immediately refrained from giving it contracts. British firms received the same treatment under the same circumstances."

The members of the meat trust will learn the old, old story, that honesty is the best policy. They have everything to loose at home and abroad for the violation of the laws of their country.

### A "LOSING CANDIDATE"

The New York Evening Mail, a republican newspaper, prints an editorial entitled, "Taft a Losing Candidate." The Mail says: "A leaderless republican party staggers along toward a presidential campaign with the slow and halting step of 'The Dead March.' If hope abides, it is not centered in Mr. Taft; if conquering spirit lingers, it is not quickened or vitalized by the thought that a president always controls the nominating machinery of his party.

"Mr. Taft now proposes to do this, just as President Harrison did in 1892 when he found his renomination opposed by a substantial element in his party. If he persists, the same fate awaits him on election day. An unwilling support never achieved victory in politics or elsewhere, and Mr. Taft can not be blind to the unwillingness of the republican party to name him for president. He is not its choice. He has lost its leadership and its confidence."

### BETTER GET ON GUARD

The Houston (Texas) Post quotes former Governor Shallenberger of Nebraska as saying that the proposed initiative and referendum amendment to the state constitution will fail of adoption when submitted to the people next November. All parties in Nebraska are supposed to favor this great reform but it is very clear that there are in the democratic party as well as the republican party powerful influences that are seeking the defeat of direct legislation.

Nebraska democrats, particularly, should be on their guard. They should see to it that not only their own party again goes on record in favor of this constitutional amendment, but they should talk about the reform to their neighbors and by this missionary work seek to impress upon their thoughtless fellows the importance of an active interest in popular government.