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ISSUED WEEKLY

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DEMOCRATIC DATES

Democratic primaries or conventions will be held as follows:

- April 27—Primaries for Tennessee.
- April 29—Colorado democratic state convention.
- April 30—Massachusetts primary.
- April 30—Primaries for Florida.
- May 1—Georgia primaries.
- May 1—Connecticut state convention.
- May 9—Iowa state convention.
- May 14—California primaries.
- May 16—Iowa state convention.
- May 21—Ohio primaries.
- May 28—Primaries for New Jersey.
- June 4—Primaries for South Dakota.

extended so as to give us publicity in three other directions:

"First—Publicity as to the expenses of persons who seek a presidential nomination.

"Second—Publicity as to the recommendations upon which the president makes appointments.

"Third—Publicity as to the ownership of newspapers.

"The house has it in its power to secure these reforms; in fact, it has already passed a bill looking to publicity as to recommendations for presidential appointments.

"With Speaker Clark and Mr. Underwood, both presidential candidates, in the house, there ought to be no delay in the passing of a bill compelling publicity as to the expenditures made by candidates for that nomination. And what objection can any democrat make to publicity as to the ownership of newspapers, after the party has suffered so much at the hands of a subsidized press?

APPROVAL OF TARIFF REFORM MEASURES

"The tariff measures have been good; not what everybody would desire, but compromise is always necessary as to the details of tariff measures. My only regret is that the revision of Schedule K did not begin with free wool. A tax on wool necessarily left the woollen trust in possession of a higher duty than it could have secured if wool had been put upon the free list. The free sugar bill and the income tax bill are the best measures that the house has passed dealing with the subject of taxation. I was astonished to see that two-thirds of the republicans voted for the income tax measure.

"I was glad to see a bill reported recently providing for the physical valuation of railroads. The most serious mistake that congress has made is its failure to act on the trust question. A caucus ought to have been held the day after the supreme court decision and a measure prepared restoring so much of the strength as the court had taken out of the law by inserting the word 'unreasonable.' And yet nothing has been done in spite of the fact that the alleged dissolution of the Standard Oil and Tobacco trusts has raised rather than lowered the value of the stock of those trusts.

"I think the democratic caucus erred also in not providing for an investigation of the money trust by a special committee. A man must

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chloroform his own mind before he can justify the turning over of such an investigation to a committee whose chairman had already signed the Aldrich report.

"But in innumrating some of the faults of the democratic congress I reiterate that its record—all things considered—is a brilliant record, and the failures, as far as there have been failures, only show what tremendous pressure the predatory interests can bring to bear upon the people's representatives."

"Will the progressives in the national convention insist on the incorporation of planks favoring the initiative, referendum and recall?"

STATE ISSUES NOT NATIONAL

"No, I do not expect any effort to be made to secure the indorsement of any of those reforms. They are state questions and not national issues. The opinions of candidates for the presidency on these questions are important only in so far as they indicate a fundamental bias. A man who is opposed to the initiative and referendum, for instance, is quite likely to be opposed to the election of senators by the direct vote of the people. This is not a universal rule, because sometimes opposition to the initiative and referendum is due to a lack of understanding of the principles involved. But when the subject is clearly understood the man who favors the popular election of senators is quite likely to favor the other reforms, and the man who opposes one is likely to oppose the other; and this distrust of the people is apt to show itself on other questions."

"What prospect is there for the organization of a third party?"

"None whatever. There may be two republican conventions and two republican candidates, but there is no likelihood of there being a third party organized. If there are two republican tickets in the field, it will not be fair to call either a third party, for they will not be permanent in character. They would simply be intended for one campaign, the purpose of the candidates being to defeat each other and not to form a new alignment."

WHY NOT?

Congressman Randall urges a bill prohibiting congressmen and senators from accepting legal employment which might influence official action on their part. What objection can be urged to it? Our national legislature acts as a jury. Why should its members take employment from corporations that appear as parties to the controversies that come before congress?

And now Congressman Lindburgh introduces a resolution requiring congressmen to make a list of their corporate holdings. Any objection to that? Why should congressmen object to letting the public know whether they have a pecuniary interest in matters coming before them for official action? If they "love darkness rather than light," is it "because their deeds are evil?"

"Light" is the watchword now: Day is at hand and a democratic congress can not afford to shield those who shun publicity. Turn on the light.

MR. BRYAN AND THE ISSUES

Editorial in the New York World: Comparison is inevitable, in the light of the interview with Mr. Bryan in The World, between the democrat who has three times been nominated for the presidency and the republican who is seeking a third term.

In a number of their personal doctrines Mr. Bryan and Mr. Roosevelt are in general sympathy. Certain radical ideas Mr. Roosevelt has appropriated without credit from Mr. Bryan, whom he used to denounce as a "windy but amiable demagogue," and labelled them as his own in the hope of regaining office. They are alike in calling themselves progressives, but Mr. Bryan is fighting only for principles, while Mr. Roosevelt is fighting for a third term.

Mr. Bryan would be satisfied with the nomination of a democrat whose political views are acceptable to him. Mr. Roosevelt would be satisfied with the nomination of no republican but himself. Mr. Bryan places the cause above self. With Mr. Roosevelt "the cause is I."

On the whole, Mr. Bryan shows that he is disposed to be more reasonable than on certain occasions in the past and that in a general way he is working for party harmony. For definite progressive policies he is determined to fight on the floor of the convention. He will not surrender his individual convictions, but he does not pose as dictator to his party who must rule or ruin. He will be always with the progressives against any candidate he considers reac-

tionary, but he proposes to remain neutral where progressive candidates are concerned.

While still holding firm to his faith in the initiative and referendum, Mr. Bryan makes it clear that they should not go into the national platform, because they are state issues. In this way again he helps to remove difficulties from the future pathway of his party. Experiments which separate states may choose to try for themselves they can not and should not seek to put to wider application.

In still another respect Mr. Bryan presents a striking contrast with Mr. Roosevelt. There have been periods in his career when his interest in tariff reform has been slack, but he is alive to the present importance of the issue. He does not take refuge in vague generalizations about how in theory the tariff might be revised, but he has precise opinions to offer as to tariff bills actually before congress at this moment. As a progressive, as a foe to privilege, he states exactly how and where he would strike off unjust or excessive duties for the benefit of the people; he is for or against measures that he names, and he dares to offend special interests of his own locality.

If Mr. Roosevelt could ever have brought himself to show the same courage or frankness when he was president, before now real tariff revision might have been well under way; or if at the present time he dared to go as far as the western republican insurgents in the house and senate, he would at least be dealing in a straightforward fashion with the voters whose support he is soliciting in his chase after delegates at Chicago.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCES

A circular letter was sent out from the office of Mr. Bryan's Commoner on December 18, asking for opinions as to whom the democratic party should choose as its standard bearer this year. One reply closed with the following paragraph:

"I trust you will see the wisdom and great benefit which would come to the democratic party by having such a man as Harmon at the head of the ticket. The warring factions in the republican party would indicate that Taft will be nominated, whom if we must have a republican president, I would much rather see there than a man of La Follette's type, as I think the greatest calamity that could happen to this country would be to have Robert M. La Follette as the next president."

This letter was written on the stationery of the Union Pacific Railroad company and was signed by the assistant superintendent of that road, Mr. George O. Brophy. There is a reason why the railroads and other special interests in politics want Harmon to be the democratic candidate, and most anybody except La Follette to be the republican candidate. The voters know that reason. That is why in a great state like Wisconsin they roll up tremendous majorities for Wilson and La Follette. — La Follette's Magazine.

A SERIOUS CHARGE

Speaking to a Chicago audience composed largely of ministers, Rev. W. E. Biederwolf brought the following charge against a portion of the church membership:

"You have women in your churches today who are thinking much more about the coming bridge party than they are of the salvation of their children; you have merchants in your churches who think more of gold than of God; and you have in your churches too a great number of those demasculinized creatures who give more thought to the crease in their trousers than to the crisis of their soul's affairs. The Men and Religion Movement means to see that conversion shall not give way to culture."

It is a serious accusation and, if true, should quicken the activity of those in authority in the churches. The great mass of the church membership is earnestly at work raising the moral standards; their efforts should not be paralyzed and odium brought upon the church by the inconsistencies of a few.

STAR 48—ARIZONA

Arizona is a state and her advent was duly celebrated by her people. Mr. Bryan was fortunately in the state at the time and participated in the rejoicing. He had the pleasure of hearing Governor Hunt's inaugural address. It was a democratic document from start to finish—worthy of the splendid man who has the honor of being the state's first executive. The address will be printed in next issue of The Commoner and will repay perusal.