

A TRIBUTE TO MR. CLARK

All democratic candidates for congress in the Ninth Missouri district have withdrawn in order that Champ Clark may have an uncontested field. This gracious act will meet with the approbation of men of all parties. Unquestionably Mr. Clark met with a great disappointment at Baltimore and political disappointments are often very keen. They cut to the very quick the unsuccessful candidate himself, and they press most heavily upon those nearest and dearest to him. But such things are to be classed among the fortunes of war and men of experience and judgment may sweep them aside as altogether inconsequential. Surely Mr. Clark will find consolation in the assurances of affection that come from his old time neighbors and in the graceful act of the ambitious men of his district who would probably be glad of the opportunity to serve a term or two in congress. Mr. Bryan claims a place among those who are rejoiced by these incidents and who would be glad to see the highest sort of happiness enter the life of Champ Clark—and the life of everyone he loves.

A FINE TRIBUTE

The New York Sun congratulates the American people that as a result of the Baltimore convention Mr. Bryan has been "beaten, exposed, humiliated and discarded;" that "not a drop of toxin remains in his hidden fangs;" that he is "not even a wax figure Warwick;" that "he has been hamstrung;" that "his hollow instrument of expulsion is burst at both parchments;" that he may "curse like Ernulphus but his imprecations will now excite no emotion more than mirth."

Well, even if Mr. Bryan can only bring a smile to the immaculate editorial page of the New York Sun he will not have lived in vain.

In the meantime two facts are established in the American mind beyond all point of controversy. The one is that the New York Sun is a brilliant paragrapher—perhaps without a rival—and the other is that censure from such a source is the highest form of praise.

NATURAL

Mr. Clark Howell of the Atlanta Constitution likens Mr. Bryan to a "political trickster." Mr. Howell is very indignant because Mr. Clark was not nominated, but Mr. Howell went to the convention instructed for Oscar Underwood. Mr. Howell's antagonism to Mr. Bryan is not due to anything Mr. Bryan did with respect to Mr. Clark's candidacy. It is due to the fact that Mr. Clark Howell has been a reactionary for several years and Mr. Bryan has been unable to please the editor of the Atlanta Constitution or any other member of the group of distinguished and affable gentlemen who believe the democratic party should be democratic in name only.

IN DOUBT

The Springfield (Mass.) Union bets that Henry Watterson will vote for Mr. Taft. This is based on the mean things Mr. Watterson has said and is saying about Governor Wilson. That is not, however, a good basis. Mr. Watterson said meaner things about Mr. Bryan than he has said of Governor Wilson and yet we have Mr. Watterson's assurance that he voted for Mr. Bryan—at least in 1908.

Mr. Watterson's pen is an unruly member and you can no more understand the depth of his hatred by the length of his epithet than you can estimate the reality of his affections by his professions of friendship.

OUT OF ORDER

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal says: "In writing the platform, Mr. Bryan saw to it that it would not be consistent on the part of Governor Wilson to ask for a second term. Four years hence Mr. Bryan will be of the same age the New Jersey governor is now."

But the Journal forgets that when Mr. Bryan was in congress twenty years ago he introduced a bill limiting the president to one term of six years; and that he promised in 1896, 1900 and 1908, immediately following his nomination for the presidency, that, if elected, he would not accept a second term. The Journal is, therefore, out of order.

The Albany (Oregon) Democrat gives this reminder: There are worse things in the world than a deadlock. Democrats who are inclined to be pessimistic over the situation at Baltimore kindly remember that the Chicago convention nominated Taft.

THE WORK AT BALTIMORE

Dover Delawarean: In our judgment it is simply impossible to estimate the debt of gratitude which the democratic party and the country owe to William J. Bryan for his wonderful work at the Baltimore convention. In the performance of public and party duty, as he saw it, he was willing to risk and suffer personal humiliation, to be misunderstood and misrepresented, to lose friends and bear reproach. Other men did excellent work, and had an important part in bringing about the splendid result at the convention, but it seems only just to say that except for the work of Mr. Bryan the result would probably have been quite different and that the party and country are in large measure indebted to him for the ticket, the platform, the opportunity and the averted danger. We say "averted danger," for it is impossible to tell what would have been the result if the democratic party had blundered and had failed to meet the popular demand. All honor to a great patriot, a great democrat, a great American.

Practical Tariff Talks

If there remains any considerable number of persons who still believe that the Payne-Aldrich bill was a compliance with the pledge of the republican party as given in its 1908 platform, let them read the indisputable evidence to the contrary brought forward and presented by Mr. Taft's tariff board. Two of these reports may now be obtained from your congressman. One covers the cotton schedule, the other the wool schedule. The pledge in the republican platform was that there would be a revision of the tariff, and that the duties would be measured by the difference in production costs here and abroad. Later Mr. Taft said this meant revision downward, and that the yardstick defined in the platform would be applied in each case to determine what the duty should be.

Heretofore, some extracts have been given in this column from the report of the tariff board on the cotton schedule. They were to the effect that difference in production costs were not considered in the making of the new tariff at the session of 1909. Here is an extract or two, from the report on the wool schedule: "The duty on ordinary warp and filling yarns is two or three times in excess of the difference in production. In the case of many cloths of plain weave the American cost of weaving seems to be lower than the foreign cost, due to the greater number of looms tended per weaver in this country. This reduces the labor cost per yard, despite the higher earnings per weaver. In the greater number of cases, the duties are greater than the total domestic costs of spinning and weaving." It is also stated that in some instances the American mills included in the tables presented were old and of low efficiency, while the English mills were all of a modern and efficient type.

Columns of The Commoner could be devoted to similar evidence adduced by the president's own experts. In view of this wealth of material at hand, it will be interesting to note what position in defense of the law which contains all these extortions and which was signed and approved by the president as the best bill ever passed the republicans will take. A repudiation of the law will be an indorsement of the democratic position, while a defense will be impossible. In making up these tables the board has assumed that the country is to continue under the protective system, and has neglected to state a very important factor entering into production costs in this country, and that is that protection enhances these costs. The manufacturer who must pay duty on his raw material, upon his machinery and upon the lumber and steel and other things that enter into the construction of his buildings starts with a handicap that would be materially less under a tariff for revenue system.

Most men who have paid attention to the tariff question are convinced that the protection

system is nearing its end, for the reason that the voters are seeing clearly the fallacies upon which it has rested. With so many great trusts flourishing and dominating nearly every avenue of trade it is idle for a republican to talk of the tariff as a necessary protection to infant industries. With the manufacturers drawing more and more upon the labor market of Europe for their operatives the pretense that it protects American labor is impossible of being maintained. With many manufacturers reaching the limits of the home market and with opportunities to enter the foreign markets beckoning them if they can only lessen their production costs through lower tariffs on the things they utilize, another new factor enters.

Perhaps the greatest factor in this disintegrating process, however, is the realization by American labor that wherever protection has raised wages it has also raised the prices of those things that wages purchase, and that wherever the tariff wall has kept out the products of European labor it has resulted in drawing to this country the European workmen thus deprived of employment. When American labor sees that the only result is to make it less profitable to it to have the European laborer live and work here instead of at home, the end won't be far away. C. Q. D.

SENTIMENT IN VIRGINIA

Mr. Thomas Fortune Ryan and the newspapers that speak his language do not faithfully represent Virginia sentiment. A democrat sends to the Richmond Times-Dispatch the following letter:

"Referring to your editorial of the 28th inst., commending Congressman Flood's so-called 'defense of Virginia' when Mr. Bryan offered a resolution at the Baltimore convention to unseat certain delegates from Virginia and New York, as a voter, a reader of your paper and one of the 'common people,' may I venture the criticism that the defense most needed by Virginia was one against the men and methods responsible for the presence in Virginia's delegation of a recognized member of 'the corporate interests,' which appear to dominate more or less, both great political parties. Virginia has been misrepresented in her preference for the presidency, her intelligence insulted and her dignity degraded in the eyes of the nation, and the majority of her own people as well, by an apparent majority of those delegated to express her wishes and represent her at the national convention. Such a betrayal should have been exposed, and if no Virginian was equal to the emergency, why not Bryan, who always stands for and fights for the people? This about expresses the view of every citizen with whom I have talked—and there are quite a number of them. I should be glad if you will publish this."

Referring to this letter, Mr. W. O. McCorkle, of Harrisonburg, Va., writes to Mr. Bryan to say:

"The enclosed clearly expresses the true sentiment of 'the bone and sinew' of the Old Commonwealth. The Big Four machine's stench in old Virginia can not well be expressed in polite language. They are Ryan and you know what that means. God bless you for the puncture. The best of both parties are with you."

"Use as you wish. I travel in many counties of old Virginia."

THE BUSINESS AT BALTIMORE

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, standpat republican, says: "It is a satisfaction to Mr. Bryan to believe that he transacted business in Baltimore in such a way as to block the plan of Colonel Roosevelt to make off with anything like a large asset from the democratic party. The most the colonel can do is to contribute to the success of Governor Wilson; and that the colonel is left to this occupation broadens the smile of Mr. Bryan."

But all genuine democrats are smiling. They appear to believe that "the business at Baltimore" was transacted in good order in spite of some turmoil.

In 1904 the presidential candidate amended the platform by a telegraph message; this year the voters coerced a convention by telegraphic protests against a reactionary cause.

The Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeye says: "When it comes to operating a steam roller, Mr. Bryan is something of an engineer himself."

Try progressive democracy—"not a headache in a barrel."