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FROM THE CENTER OF THINGS

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 28.—(Special Correspondence.)—A feeling of absolute confidence in the election of Bryan pervades the breasts of the men who have been intimately connected with the management of his campaign. This confidence is born of the thorough unification of the democratic party, the dissensions in the republican party, the magnificent campaign of Bryan, the "me too" echo of a campaign made by Taft, the rallying of the workmen to Bryan, the popular demand for a revision downward of the tariff, the explosion of the old theory of panics coming only under democratic rule—and a thousand and one other things the presage the triumph of the principles espoused by Bryan.

Personal letters and public statements from leading democrats who are in a position to know every phase of the situation all go to show that Bryan's election is assured.

In many respects this has been the most unique campaign in the history of American politics. On the one hand is a candidate who was not the choice of the rank and file of his party, but a selection foisted upon them by a president who seeks to enforce the law of entail and, and impressed federal office holders to help enforce his will. On the other hand is a candidate who was unanimously nominated by the rank and file of his party; a man who had nothing to offer save his own unstained record, his ability, his honesty, his sincerity, his patriotism and his love of popular rights. On the one hand a candidate backed by the trusts and syndicates and supported by a president who has loudly boasted of his opposition to those same trusts and syndicates. On the other hand a candidate who has fought special privilege, who offers an adequate remedy for present injustice. On the one hand a man who says an appeal for the right of trial by jury is "the most insidious attack ever made upon the integrity of the courts." On the other hand a man who says that an honest workman should not be denied a right guaranteed the most confirmed criminal.

There has been little of the spectacular in this campaign—unless the tremendous ovations tendered Bryan everywhere may be called spectacular. The people are not making much noise, which may be taken as an indication that they are "keeping up a de'il o' thinkin'."

But there is something doing the last week of the campaign. The railroads are threatening to reduce wages if Bryan is elected. Manufacturers who employ the profits of an iniquitous tariff threaten to close their factories if Taft is defeated. "Calamity walls" loud and long descend from the lips of tariff barons, political bankers and trust beneficiaries who see the signs of Bryan's triumph. Everything that will coerce, browbeat and club workmen into voting for Taft is being brought into use. Millions have been poured into the republican slush fund during the last ten days. Every cabinet officer is on the stump in an effort to stem the Bryan tide. Roosevelt is working like a ward politician, and working hand in glove with the interests that he has claimed along to be fighting to the finish. But despite it all the tide is still running Bryanward, and a victory for the people is in sight.

The other day, George L. Sheldon, republican candidate for re-election as governor of Nebraska, spoke in Adams, Neb. While walking down the street he saw a beautiful parrot in a cage.

"What a magnificent bird," exclaimed the governor. "I never saw such a beauty. Hello, Polly."

"Hello," replied Polly.

"Polly want a cracker?" inquired the governor.

"Hurrah for Bryan!" shrieked the parrot.

Now the last days of Governor Sheldon's campaign are made miserable for him by joking friends and political opponents who greet him with the query:

"Polly want a cracker?"

In the closing days of last year President Roosevelt hailed Morgan, Perkins, Schwab and their coterie as "public benefactors" and "saviors of the national credit" because they came forward and put up \$35,000,000 in cash to help tide over the "Roosevelt panic." It now develops that in so doing Morgan, Schwab, Perkins, et al only made a little profit of about 1,500 percent on their benefaction. Before putting up the money they made it a condition that they should have in return a controlling interest in the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co., the steel trust's only competitor. President Roosevelt admits that he agreed to prevent the consolidators from being prosecuted under the anti-trust law. Now it transpires that for this \$35,000,000 the steel trust gang secured possession of a property worth up-

wards of \$750,000,000, and at the same time wiped out the steel trust's only competitor. Of course the whole gang is for Taft and is contributing liberally to the g. o. p. campaign fund.

J. C. Harpham, one of the largest manufacturers of harness and saddles in the west and the employer of many men, has always been a republican. He is today a member of the excise board of Lincoln, having been nominated and elected as a republican. He is actively supporting Bryan and has contributed liberally to the democratic campaign fund.

"I am for Bryan for many reasons—one of them being that he is my neighbor. Another is that he is an ideal citizen, an able and patriotic man and a lover of humanity. I have no patience with this threat of panic. If the election of this high-minded, God-fearing, able, patriotic and sincere man will bring on a panic, then in God's name let us have the panic and by so doing forever break the power of a few men to make or unmake good business conditions. I have no use for the man who is always boasting of his willingness to die for his country, but who can be scared into perpetuating gross wrongs by the threat of being forced to miss an occasional meal."

L. C. Burr, one of Nebraska's most prominent attorneys, has always been a republican, and is today. But he is energetically supporting Bryan. W. A. Woodward, a republican councilman of Lincoln, is openly and energetically supporting Bryan. More than 90 percent of the republican trades unionists of Lincoln and Omaha are supporting Bryan. In one family in a town near Lincoln are eight votes—a father and seven sons. Not one of them ever voted for a democrat for any office. Only the father is for Taft—the seven boys are for Bryan.

Last week in Lincoln a literary club composed of men and women met in regular session. Among other topics discussed was "bank guaranty." Two republican bankers present opposed it as "revolutionary," "socialistic" and "unfair." After they had spoken a woman nearly 70 years of age arose and spoke. For seventeen years she has been caring for an invalid husband who for two years was in the asylum. She and her husband worked and saved and invested until they had accumulated \$37,000. They had it in a couple of Lincoln banks and were winding up their business affairs in the expectation of retiring and living in ease and comfort. One night they retired to rest well to do and happy. They awoke in the morning to find themselves paupers. The two banks in which they had deposited the savings of a lifetime had gone broke. This man and woman got less than \$4,000 back. The husband became mentally deranged through brooding over the loss. The woman had to fight the battle alone. She told her story to that literary club.

"Friends, that is my story," concluded this brave woman. "I leave it to you to decide whether a law that will prevent future injustice of this kind is 'revolutionary,' 'socialistic' or 'unfair.'"

In 1891 the Capital National Bank of Lincoln failed, owing private depositors upwards of \$400,000 and the state about \$300,000. Of this \$700,000 practically nothing was recovered. The loss was caused by a dishonest banker. He was tried and convicted and sentenced to FIVE YEARS IN THE PENITENTIARY. The judge who sentenced him a short time afterwards sentenced for life a highwayman who held up a star route mail carrier in western Nebraska and robbed the mail of two copper pennies.

In conclusion, and as a final word in this series of letters:

For President, a man who won his nomination by virtue of his ability, his battle for the plain people and his unswerving allegiance to the doctrine of equal rights, or—

For a president, a man who has held appointive office for a quarter of a century, the beneficiary of inherited and matrimonial wealth and an effort to entail the office of president, whose experience as an administrator is confined to two year's service as the absolute despot over 7,000,000 subjugated people and who is supported by every robber trust and predatory corporation.

A statesman who has studied and worked and wrought, or a man who has held appointive office and had everything he has today given to him by others who are selfishly interested in his success.

If it is possible that the election of an honest, able, God-fearing and humanity loving man to the presidency of this republic will result in a panic, is it not time we suffered a little bit in order that we may be strong? Country or corporations? God or Mammon?

—WILL M. MAUPIN.

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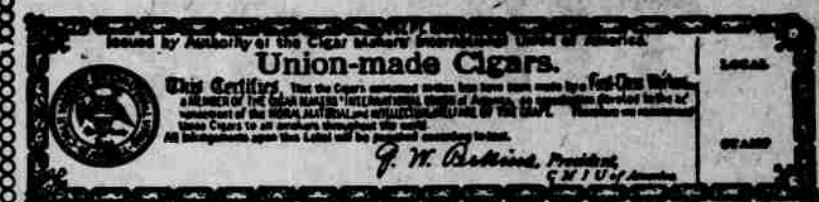
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