

CLEVELAND'S CHANCES

It may be well at this time to take a somewhat general view of the political situation, and in doing so base any conclusion upon undisputed facts. That there is serious division in the democratic party and that, as Louis F. Post says, the Bryan democracy is making the fight of its life, goes without saying. That there is a division in the republican party, wide and serious, is not so well known, but there are many facts that lead thinking men, even in the republican party, to fear that it will have most disastrous effects. The Wall Street Journal says:

"President Roosevelt, as it well known, has offended powerful Wall street interests in three ways: First, he directed his attorney general to bring suit against the Northern Securities company; second, he invited John Mitchell, president of the united mine workers, to the White house, and took steps to bring about a settlement of the anthracite coal strike in a way that was not pleasing to the coal operators; third, he has publicly advocated, and has had enacted into law, a policy of publicity to be applied to the industrial companies doing an interstate business. Any one of these things would have been cause enough, from the standpoint of that lesser Wall street, which looks at everything through the microscope of its own immediate selfish interests, to have merited President Roosevelt's defeat for a second term. All three of them together constituted an indictment against him so strong that it has been the general belief that no measure however drastic would be neglected to bring about his retirement at the end of his present term."

Taking all these things into consideration what conclusion can be drawn concerning the outcome of the next presidential election? Cleveland is and always has been the idol of Wall street. If the monied interests there throw their whole force and power to Cleveland, will he not carry New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and all the southern states? Cannot the monied interests buy Indiana which is always for sale? The republican party in Wisconsin is in a factional fight to a finish, and will not the railroad republicans there join forces with Vilas, who was a member of Cleveland's cabinet, and carry the state over to him? Is Illinois in any shape, after the disgraceful administration of Governor Yates, to put up a fight that will hold that state to the republicans?

Cleveland has always been an anti-imperialist and Massachusetts is honeycombed with anti-imperialist societies, every voter in them being persuaded that that is the all important question. The stagnation and suffering that has been caused by the stoppage of so many cotton mills, the loss that wage-workers have suffered in consequence of the tremendous fall in stocks which they were induced to purchase by the republican papers, and the rise in the cost of living on account of trust prices has put even old Massachusetts in the doubtful column.

The Independent called attention to the fact two or three years ago that the monied interests might conclude that it would be cheaper for them to take up the democratic party than to pay the awful assessments that Mark Hanna levied on them to buy elections, for they would have all the southern states without cost and would only have to buy two or three, whereas under Mark Hanna they had to buy a good many.

Think over all these things and each man ask himself whether the claim of the leaders of the Cleveland democracy that they "can win" is entirely groundless.

In such a contest as that, the west and the northwest would scarcely be factors in the contest. All these states might go for Roosevelt with overwhelming majorities and it would not affect the election of a president. Wall street would not spend a dollar in them and it would be "mighty poor picking" for the politicians.

Neither must it be forgotten that there are many shrewd republican politicians who think that the best thing for them to do is to let the Cleveland democrats have the next election. They believe that there will be a panic and hard times before long and if they can manage to have that come under a democratic administration they think that then they could come in and hold the government for many years without much effort or cost, as all that would be necessary for them to say would be: "Look at the misery and suffering a democratic administration always brings. If you want a reign of soup houses and starvation, vote the democratic ticket."

The quality of sophomore rhetoric in the republican state platform was never equalled at any commencement exercise in the last hundred years.

DOWNING BRYAN

The congressional committee of the democratic party, which is a very important part of the national committee, has a press bureau which sends out during the campaigns and sessions of congress correspondence to the weekly papers. That correspondence used to come to The Independent, but this paper seems to have been taken off the list. It is beginning its work at a very early period as we see it appearing in some of the democratic papers already, although congress is not in session and the national campaign is nearly a year in the future. Among the papers in this state that are printing it is the Fremont Herald-Leader. Here is an extract from it:

"Many men who supported Bryan in 1896 and 1900 agree that he cannot possibly be called a candidate again. They realize that the issues will not be the same next year and that the people have put the seal of their condemnation on some of the issues on which he twice led the party to defeat."

What The Independent wishes to call attention to is that the national committee of the democratic party has joined the crowd that has been determined to down Bryan and the Kansas City platform. This committee is the one that fought the Bryan campaign in 1900. These are the men who made the Kansas City platform and nominated Bryan. Now they have deserted both Bryan and the platform. They are in control of the democratic organization. With that fact staring every man in the face what possible hope can there be that Bryan principles will prevail at the next democratic national convention? The Denver conference sized the situation up right.

RACE PREJUDICE

The lying tendencies in the great dailies are not confined to matters political at all. They cater to every vice and every prejudice of mankind. They endeavor to create the idea that there is but one section of one race that is really entitled to be called "men" and that is the Anglo-Saxon. Everybody else in their plan is "inferior." Instead of cultivating the broad principle of "the brotherhood of man" they teach race prejudice. It crops out against the Indian as well as all other races. That has gone to such an extent that Colonel Pratt of the great Carlisle Indian school felt called upon to make a protest against it in his official report to the commissioner of Indian affairs. He says:

"From time to time throughout the history of the school illustrated stories have appeared in the public prints, especially in the Sunday editions, making most flagrantly false allegations against returned Carlisle students. Within the past five years as many as twenty such stories have been printed, all of them entirely false, and some of them most malignant in character. There has seemed to be a syndicate of fabricators moved by a common purpose to disparage and manufacture prejudice. My repeated contradictions of these stories to newspapers themselves did not stop these misrepresentations."

He then calls attention to the story about White Buffalo which was printed in the Philadelphia North American, which was profusely illustrated, concerning this graduate of Carlisle who was said to have murdered two or three wives, every word of which was a lie made up out of whole cloth. Colonel Pratt sued the North American for libel, but that paper made a full retraction and prosecuted the correspondent who sent the article.

All the great educators and large numbers of the best citizens of this country look upon the great dailies as distinctly demoralizing in their tendencies.

The idiocy of the claim that the possession of the Philippines strengthens the military power of the United States should be so plain that a mullet head could see it. We are weaker by just as much force, naval and military, as it will take to guard and defend a thousand islands 7,000 miles away, whose inhabitants will join with the first nation that proclaims war against us. How many soldiers and how many ships will it take to keep control of those islands against a foreign enemy and all the inhabitants thereof? The European monarchies were jealous of the power of the United States and every one of them urged the imperialists on to subjugate the Philippines for the purpose of restricting the power of these states.

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A WORD TO POPULISTS

It is hard for the ordinary man who is not acquainted with "the proposition that reform papers are up against" to fully realize the nature of the difficulty that confronts every person who attempts to print a paper that is opposed to trusts and corporations. Competition we will meet without a word of grumbling, but when we are forced to enter a field where our competitors give away their goods that is another proposition. The Independent has often called attention to the fact that the farmers' homes are flooded with newspapers that are given away. During the last year these plutocratic papers have invented a new scheme which enables them not only to give away their papers, but to get unlimited advertising of the fact. Their form of procedure is illustrated in an item in the Greeley (Neb.) Citizen. The Citizen says:

"The Nebraska State Journal sends us an advertising proposition, offering to furnish their weekly edition to us at 15 cents a year. We presume our democratic neighbor will advertise the Journal's proposition, as it did that of the Chicago Inter-Oceans a short time since, and as the price of the Journal is so small it might offer it free to new subscribers."

The Greeley Citizen has guessed right. That is just what the corporation papers have been doing for over a year. They first tried it by putting their papers down to 25 cents a year in clubbing offers with country weeklies and now they have reduced it to 15 cents. The State Journal is not the only one in that sort of work. The whole gang is at it. It is not to be supposed that the publishers of these plutocratic sheets foot the losses. There is a fund somewhere to be drawn upon.

That is the proposition that The Independent and every other reform paper is "up against." We must enter a field to supply a newspaper demand where our competitors give away their papers. It will be a hopeless fight unless the readers of The Independent take a hand. They have done so in all the years of the past. They and they alone have given this paper the wide circulation that it has. The war upon plutocracy is no child's play. It takes brave men to carry it on and they must have self-sacrificing supporters to back them. No greater calamity could happen to this nation than to drive out of existence every paper that will not sell its editorial columns to the worshippers of Mammon, and no more truly patriotic work can be done than in extending the circulation of a paper that fights plutocracy and corporations from one end of the year to another.

The eastern dailies hold up their hands in holy horror because Mr. Bryan called Cleveland a "bunco steerer." It is the opinion of The Independent

that Bryan let Cleveland off altogether too easy. It was a common practice with senators of national reputation when Cleveland sold J. Pierpont Morgan those bonds at 13 cents on the dollar less than the market price and out of which Morgan cleared about \$9,000,000, to call him worse names than that. It has also been the practice of these same dailies whenever they wanted to round up the mullet heads up to "vote 'er straight" not only to talk about "Cleveland soup houses," but to apply to that individual epithets such as only those schooled in political strife can invent and apply. Now they would have us believe that their tender sensibilities have been most severely shocked because Bryan called Cleveland a "bunco steerer."

Judge Brewer's advocacy of the extension of government by injunction and abolishment of the rights of appeal for persons accused of crime indicates that he has become a believer in the doctrine that the judge can do no wrong. He would abolish all safeguards that the people have set up against the human frailty and fallibility of men elevated to the bench. There is no need of them "for the judge can do no wrong." The editor of The Independent once told the corporation lawyers who were assembled before the board of transportation that when the patriots of '76 shot the doctrine clear across the Atlantic that "the king could do wrong," there went along with it that other and more infamous doctrine that "the court could not err."

The power that railroads exercise over their employes is shown in the state of affairs in the First and Third wards of Lincoln. The populists and democrats carry those wards and have now the two councilmen, but there are scarcely enough known populists and democrats to be found in them to fill the delegation to a county convention. Most of the voters are railroad employes and are known on primary registration books as republicans. When it comes to voting the republicans are largely in the minority.

The words "populist" and "populistic" and "populism" have become a permanent part of the English language. What the final meaning that will attach to them will be cannot be told. All the plutocratic papers use them at present to describe anything that is opposed to the continual domination of money, the schemes of the trusts and consolidators of railroad systems. In this they include all the reforms demanded in the Kansas City platform as well as the distinctly defined populist principles. Such expressions as "out-Bryan Bryan in populist principles" is often used. In the eastern papers and reform, any change from the doctrine of laissez faire is called "populism."