

## What Honest Lobbying Can Do

Editor Independent:

To many people the word lobbying is as a red rag to a bull. To a few people in Missouri it seemed the only way to get any real legislation. So a few of the faithful organized a direct legislation league some three or four years ago and got a direct legislation amendment introduced into the legislature and they were able to bring enough influence to bear to get it to a vote. Of course it was defeated.

Then they paid a small salary to one of their number, Mr. S. L. Moses, and his expenses. Mr. Moses is a lawyer, tactful, able, thoroughly devoted man. He traveled back and forth over the state saying they would do all they could to kill off every man who was renominated who had voted against direct legislation, no matter what his party and that they would throw all their strength to those candidates who would pledge themselves to direct legislation. His position was invulnerable. He wanted no office, job or contract for himself and they could not hurt him that way. He did not openly espouse any party though I personally know he has strong political convictions. Some of the men he opposed called him some rather hard names but he smiled back and said: "Come out for direct legislation and we won't hurt you." He did not oppose or advocate candidates on other grounds than direct legislation and he mainly tried to prevent the nomination of candidates opposed to direct legislation.

He traveled up and down and back and across old Missouri for a year with this singleness of purpose and back of him was shrewd, patient, semi-invalid, Dr. Wm. P. Hill of St. Louis and others, financing, writing letters, pulling wires. Toward the end, the trade unions, under Mr. Sarman's lead, commenced questioning candidates on direct legislation.

When the legislature was elected, only one man who had voted against the direct legislation amendment in the previous legislature, was re-elected and a majority of the legislature were pledged to vote for a direct legislation amendment that should have a 5 per cent condition for a referendum petition and an 8 per cent for the initiative.

But the 1903 Missouri legislature was the culmination of the corruption in Missouri and rottenness in legislation. Of course the venal politicians did not want direct legislation and they only pledged themselves to it because they did not well see how they could help it. Of course they did not intend to keep these pledges, and their masters, the bribing corporations, did not mean to have it either.

But Moses and Sarman, aided by some others, camped on their trail for three or four months and by hon-

est lobbying they forced the legislature to pass a direct legislation amendment. It was a hard fight and less determined and tactful men would have been beaten but Moses and Sarman hung on; even when an adverse vote was given and it looked as if the amendment was finally killed, they got it reconsidered. Of course the politicians did all they could to emasculate the amendment and have hugely succeeded. Instead of living up to their pledge of making the percentage five for the referendum and eight for the initiative petition, they made them ten for the referendum, fifteen for the initiative and twenty per cent for constitutional amendment initiative petitions. Not content with this, they made it that these percentages must be gotten in every congressional district in the state and there are sixteen.

But it was the best the direct legislation men could get and they took it. Seven of the honorable members who voted against it are either in state prison or under indictment or in foreign countries for their health. Now it goes to the people for a vote and quiet but determined Dr. Hill has persuaded the democrats to put the following in their state platform:

"We congratulate the people of the state on the fulfillment of the party's pledge, made in its platform two years ago, to submit for the voters' approval a constitutional amendment which, if adopted at the November election, will always secure to the people a veto power over bad legislation, as well as a means of initiating new measures when desired, thus rendering ineffective the results of corrupt methods in legislation and lessening the inducements to the same."

And then he visited the republican convention, having previously pulled some wires, and here is the result in the following plank from the republican state platform:

"We condemn the insincerity of the democratic party in proposing a plan of initiative and referendum so cumbersome as to make its operation impracticable, and we are in favor of a just and honest measure that shall give to the people of this state the largest control of and participation in legislation and government."

He has also gotten letters from the state chairman urging their voters to vote for it. Thus much has persistent honest lobbying, but back of it is the growing sentiment of the people which this lobbying focussed on the legislature.

A large majority is wanted for this amendment. If you can aid in increasing its vote, you will aid the direct legislation movement. If you are in another state, can not you follow this example.

ELTWEED POMEROY.

### New York Correspondence.

New York, Aug. 19.—All New York is in a state of excitement this morning over the great populist meeting held in Cooper Union last night. Wall street had supposed that such an affair as that was one of those things that could never happen. The great hall was packed, and long before the hour of opening the doors arrived, people crowded around the entrances. When the doors were finally opened the masses of the people crowded in and within five minutes every seat was taken. A string of policemen stood around the walls and prevented the aisles and corridors from filling up as that is against the law in this city. There was an overflow meeting which was addressed by local speakers.

It was a most brilliant and intelligent audience and was in full sympathy with the speakers from the beginning to the end. When Mr. Watson and Mr. Tibbles appeared upon the platform, the audience rose to its feet and cheered for many minutes. Each person had provided himself or herself with an American flag, and while they shouted they waved the flags. No speakers, even during the exciting campaigns of 1896 and 1900, ever had a more enthusiastic reception in this great city.

Mr. Bolton, the great labor leader of Brooklyn, was chairman. Judge Williams of Indiana made the formal speech of notification to Mr. Watson and Mr. Jay W. Forrest of Albany, N. Y., notified Mr. Tibbles. Even these introductory speeches were cheered at almost every sentence.

There were many distinguished men present from adjoining states, some of whom had seats on the platform and some in the body of the audience. All the great dailies were represented in the press seats. There are twelve papers in New York city alone that will

openly support the Watson and Tibbles ticket.

The promoters of the meeting were all former Bryan democrats. The overwhelming success of the meeting was chiefly due to the enthusiasm, hard work and good judgment of Judge Seabury and Mr. Palliser of New York city and Messrs. Forest and Mahony of Albany.

Mr. Watson made a great speech and was often overwhelmed for some minutes with prolonged cheers. Mr. Tibbles was the last and the fourth one of the evening, and the hour was 11 p. m. He did not attempt a set address and spoke for only a short time, but it was received also with round after round of applause.

After the speeches there was a reception at the Union Square hotel. For an hour or more Mr. Watson and Mr. Tibbles stood at the back end of the parlor and shook hands with the throng as they passed rapidly by.

The New York city dailies treated the meeting with great respect and gave fairly full reports. The Hearst papers printed Mr. Watson's speech in full and most of them printed cuts of both of the populist candidates.

The managers of both the old parties are dazed at this populist uprising in the east. Every New England state, as well as New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland will have full electoral and state tickets in the field. One of the most distinguished men in New Jersey has consented to accept the populist nomination for governor. Prominent men are coming into the movement in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Strange as it may seem, the people's party is on its feet all over the eastern part of the United States.

J. T. FRAMTON.

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### Maryland Jeffersonian

The people's party is looking up in Maryland. Hon. F. A. Naille has been made chairman of the state committee and Messrs. Naille, H. F. Magness and R. A. Chapman, members of the national committee. Under direction of Chairman Naille the work of securing the necessary 500 signatures, to a petition for placing the electoral ticket on the ballot, is being carried forward vigorously. As an indication of the trend of thought among the reform democrats of Maryland, the following communication to the Baltimore American is reprinted. Its author, Thos. O. Clark of Baltimore, is well known to readers of The Independent. Mr. Clark said:

"To the Editor of The American: The failure of the Parker candidacy is now apparent to everyone. The two campaigns of Mr. Bryan were distinctively educational, and ever since his first notable tour of the country there have been thousands of thinking men in every community who have definite ideas in politics and who will refuse to vote for any man who does not embody their views.

"The nomination of Judge Parker has left thousands of these men without a political home. Most of the progressive thinkers favor an enlargement of governmental powers in the control of those great necessities of civilized society, the railroads and the telegraphs, and in the establishment of postal savings banks and a parcels post. Those who advocate these basic reforms have a strong argument to support their views, for they can point to England, Germany and Switzerland, where they are in daily operation.

"One of the strongest planks in the Chicago and Kansas City platforms was that favoring direct legislation, or the placing of the law-making power in the hands of the people. This is considered the basic reform by many profound students of political economy. The almost universal corruption in legislatures, which prevents the enactment of many laws necessary for the general welfare, simply because powerful corporations oppose them, and at the same time the passage of many laws favoring these predatory combinations, at the expense of the people, calls for some method by which the government can be brought nearer the people. Direct legislation is that remedy, for by it the people can literally rule themselves and thus eliminate the political boss and the lobbyist. In the last platform of the democratic party no reference is made to direct legislation.

"The limitation of the powers of the federal judiciary within their proper bounds is another of the vital reforms demanded by the Kansas City platform and now passed over in contemptuous silence.

"Those who denounce as anarchists any who would abridge the scope of the federal courts are, as a rule of that class which profits by the usurpation of royal powers by federal judges who imprison men without due process of law and trial by jury, and launch against the despoiled victims of corporate greed the 'injunction' to obey their masters and starve.

"If an English judge dared to deny a British subject the right of trial by jury there would be an uproar in that country which would soon impress that functionary with the idea that Englishmen are not disposed to surrender any of those liberties for which seas of blood have been shed

in the past. Yet in free America it has been frequently done.

"The real anarchists are those who uphold tyranny and counsel men to submit to it. It is entirely possible to have respect for law and a desire for an unbiased judiciary at one and the same time.

"The 'beef' strike at Chicago and the reign of terror in Colorado are not dealt with in the St. Louis platform as seriously as they deserve. When it is realized that these men in the stockyards had been earning about \$7 per week and had been notified of a reduction in that meager wage, consumers of beef at high prices will have hard work to bring themselves to sympathize with the 'beef kings.' In Colorado, whatever the faults of the miners, the crimes against them far exceeded their own. Military satraps imprisoned men in spite of orders of court to release them, and 'injunctions' failed to work when launched against bayonets.

"The money question has been ignored by the democratic managers, thereby implying that it is no longer an issue, in spite of the fact that the last republican congress seriously contemplated a further surrender of the governmental function to issue money and to control its volume by allowing banks to issue notes based on their assets, the destruction of the legal tender qualities of the silver dollar and the establishment of 'branch' banks of issue, thus contracting the supply of real money while increasing the government's obligations, the inevitable effect of which must be the issuing of bonds by the government and to still further enrich the creditor class at the expense of those who produce the nation's wealth.

"The control of the money volume is a dangerous power to be placed in private hands. Against this kind of 'sound money' real democrats will always oppose themselves. The money question is the most important of all economic problems, and its rightful solution will never come from those who deal in money as a commodity.

"In view of these facts and of the infidelity of the democratic party to true democracy, many thousands of true followers of Jefferson will support the people's party ticket this fall. The people's party has promulgated a platform which deals with all the pressing problems of the hour in a Jeffersonian manner, and it appeals to all true democrats. If the efforts now going on are successful the party will have an electoral ticket on the Maryland ballot this year. It is to be hoped such will be the case, and that those who desire to vote for Jeffersonian democracy may have an opportunity of so doing.

JEFFERSONIAN."

### Watson's Napoleon.

Among Mr. Watson's writings one of the most interesting is his history of Napoleon. It is a splendid study of a great genius.

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