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OUR NEW YORK LETTER

Weekly Letter on the
New York Situation by
Hon. Henry M. McDonald.

Editor Independent: In this, the first of a series of weekly letters, which I shall be glad to write you until the close of the campaign, relating to the political situation in the eastern states, and more particularly the state of New York, I think it may be of interest to your readers to briefly state the political conditions existing in this state.

The state of New York polled for presidential candidates in 1900, 1,535,043 votes. The total electoral vote of the United States for that year was 13,874,970—so that this state polled more than one-ninth of the entire electoral vote. The magnitude of this vote indicates the vast amount of work required to canvass the state, and also the small percentage of votes which is needed to shift the electoral vote of the state from the republican to the democratic column, or vice versa. The managers of these parties recognize fully the importance of the vote of this state. The democrats unhesitatingly acknowledge that Mr. Parker can not win without the state, while on the other hand the republicans, although they claim that it is possible that they can win without the electoral vote of New York, at the same time concede that it is probable that Roosevelt will be defeated if he loses in the empire state. Consequently this state will be the hardest fought portion of the battlefield of 1904. Both parties knowing this are using the most strenuous effort to advance their canvass in this state.

Referring to the closeness of the vote of this state in a normal election, I may say that we have not had an election in which the republicans and democrats gave fair expression to their natural party preferences since 1892 until 1902, when ex-Comptroller Coler, of this city, ran as democratic candidate for governor. Mr. Coler was entirely acceptable to the radical democrats, or Bryan men, having supported Mr. Bryan earnestly in 1896 and 1900, being in the first mentioned year the largest contributor to the campaign fund in this state.

On the other hand, Mr. Coler being a New York banker, coupled with the

fact that national issues were not prominent in the campaign of 1902, secured practically all of the so-called gold democratic vote, which defeated Mr. Bryan in this state in both 1896 and 1900. In a poll of 1,357,873 votes, Mr. Coler was defeated by only 8,803 votes, which plurality was entirely caused by local fights which Senator Hill had on his hands in Albany, Rensselaer and Clinton counties. It will be noted, a change in the vote of less than two-thirds per cent would have elected Mr. Coler. This poll, as I have indicated, shows the closeness of the vote of the two great political parties of this state.

The managers of these parties, realizing this closeness of vote, view with great concern the organization of an independent party. Radicals of this state—more especially the most earnest supporters of Mr. Bryan in the two last campaigns, knowing the pivotal position of the state, and believing it their duty to stand for radical principles under any and all circumstances, have determined to organize a people's party in the state, for the purpose, not so much of defeating Mr. Parker, although it is believed that will be the result of the organization of the party, as to further a political movement which will in 1908, or at the latest in 1912, place an exponent of Jeffersonian democracy in the presidential chair.

I say, organize a people's party, since that party which polled in this state in 1892, 16,429 votes, and in 1894, 11,049 votes, passed out of official existence in the state in 1896, since no people's party candidates were, as was the case in many other states, nominated in the last mentioned year, in the state. Consequently, the party did not poll 10,000 votes in this state, which vote is necessary in order that a party may claim a place on the official ballot.

In order to secure such a place again, the state statutes require the verified signatures of not less than fifty voters in each of the sixty counties of the state, and in addition a sufficient number of such signatures to make up a total of 6,000. As a matter of fact, in order to guard against the failure of

any county petition, through the attack of the democratic managers upon the validity of some of the signatures, which attack will surely be made, it is proposed to obtain not less than 100 signatures in each county, and not less than a total aggregate of 10,000. Your readers will see at a glance the vast amount of work and the very considerable expense involved in this undertaking. Directly after the masterful speech of acceptance of Mr. Watson, delivered at Cooper Union, this city, on August 18, preparations began to be made for putting the above ticket in the field.

With this end in view, and in order that a close canvass of the state may be made by the people's party, county organizations have been effected in all counties in the state, in which cities of importance are located. Some of the strictly rural counties have also been organized, and the organization work is being vigorously pushed in the remainder of such counties.

In prosecuting the organization of the counties, some significant results have developed. For example, in Chautauque county Ernest Cawcraft, the secretary of the regular democratic county committee, resigned some two weeks ago, organized a new county committee and has already secured the pledges of about 1,000 democrats to vote for Watson and Tibbles. Mr. Cawcraft writes that the regular democratic county committee in his county is practically disorganized, and that the same results will be achieved in three or four adjoining counties within the next thirty days.

New York county, which polled 346,542 votes in 1900, or about a two-fifths greater vote than the state of Nebraska in that year, has organized with a county committee of forty-five, which number will be gradually increased to about seventy-five. The officers of the county committee are Louis B. Parsons, chairman; H. C. S. Stimpson, vice chairman; John R. Waters, treasurer; W. J. Fitchett, secretary; and George M. Everett, sergeant at arms. An executive committee, composed of seven members of the county committee, has also been elected. The officers of this committee

are M. G. Palliser, chairman, 100 William street, New York; H. C. S. Stimpson, secretary, 25 Broad street, New York; and John R. Waters, treasurer, 46 Cedar street, New York. Additional members of the committee are Edward Polak, S. G. Levy, John J. Young, H. M. McDonald, George W. Thompson and L. B. Parsons.

A convention will be held upon the 12th inst for the nomination of a full electoral and state ticket. Immediately thereafter, signatures will be obtained for the verified petitions, which I have described.

As indicating the concern which a people's party movement in this state is exciting among democratic party managers, I may say that ex-National Committeeman Chairman Jones of Arkansas, ex-Secretary Walsh of Iowa, National Committeeman Johnston of Kansas, and other prominent Bryan democrats, who until within the past few days have been entirely ignored by Taggart, Sheehan, McCarren, Nicoll and Belmont, who have been in exclusive control of national democratic headquarters, have been hurriedly summoned to New York, and are now installed at democratic national headquarters in many instances on fat salaries. These men are endeavoring in every way to check the movement in this state for the organization of the people's party. They will not, however, succeed, as the men leading the movement can not be bribed, cajoled or coerced. They are in the contest to the finish and fully expect to poll from 25,000 to 50,000 votes for Watson and Tibbles.

Preparations have been made to put a full electoral and state ticket in the field in Connecticut. These tickets, which have been partly made up, will be fully completed within the next ten days.

A convention has been called for New Jersey, to meet at Long Branch on September 10, at which a full people's party ticket, both electoral and state, will be nominated.

The outlook is certainly very encouraging, and bodes well for the future of the country.

HENRY M. McDONALD.
New York, N. Y.

Judge Tharin's Call To Arms

Tells Why He Will Vote For Watson and Tibbles. Asks Dissatisfied Democrats to Call Another Convention

Immediately following the Cooper Union meeting at New York, after reading Mr. Watson's speech of acceptance, Judge Tharin of Washington wrote Mr. Watson the open letter which appears below. Since that time Judge Tharin, after carefully considering the situation, has come to this conclusion: That a call should be made for a national convention some time during the latter part of this month, signed by every dissatisfied democrat who is up in arms against the Parkerization of his party, whose signature can be secured, the convention having for its object the utter repudiation of what was done at St. Louis and the formal endorsement of Watson and Tibbles.

In a recent letter to Secretary De France of the national committee Judge Tharin says:

"The strategic movement is this: The rapid arrangement of a (radical 'democratic convention' to repudiate that of St. Louis and to re-adopt the democratic platform of 1900, and then to endorse T. E. Watson, etc., and adjourn to work individually for our candidate.

"Your committee will confer upon me the greatest favor by at once associating with my humble name as many other names as possible, so as to offset the acceptances of Roosevelt and Parker as to time if possible, and, anyhow, to get through with the convention by November.

"Dear sir, look at the apathy now stagnating the blood of the democratic party! The greatest events of the world have been sudden. Victory is even probable to enterprising activity, when torpid indifference would

otherwise leave opportunity unappropriated.

"Your committee can doubtless find enough names of dissatisfied democrats who would issue the call. Dissatisfied democrats would respond. The convention would ensue. From the time the call was made until the true democracy speaks, repudiates St. Louis, and with a democratic platform endorses our candidate, the conditions will change more and more in the right directions, and victory itself would be in reach, if activity keeps the start after beginning."

Judge Tharin seems cognizant of the fact that a large number of dissatisfied radical democrats would come out openly for Watson and Tibbles—if they were certain that others would step out and stand with them. His plan for holding an unofficial and informal national convention to repudiate Parker and endorse Watson, is to afford the opportunity for thousands of these democrats to step out together. Every radical democrat—who is either actively or passively in rebellion against the Parker-Belmont-Hill crowd—is invited to write Judge Tharin (addressing: R. S. Tharin, 1229 Penna ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.) giving him authority to sign the proposed call.

Judge Tharin's open letter to Mr. Watson is one of the classics of this campaign. Read it and receive new inspiration:

THE "OPEN LETTER."

Washington, D. C., Aug. 19.—Hon. Thomas E. Watson, My Dear Sir: Your speech of acceptance lies open before me in the columns of the Washington Post.

The present writer did all he could to send from this anomalous town to the St. Louis convention six delegates instructed for William R. Hearst. On

the eve of the assembling of that non-descript "convention," it came to my mind (how I need not say) that the "two great parties" were one and the same anti-Roosevelt party and that a change of men and a continuance of the "republican" system of Wall street plutocracy had been secretly agreed upon for years before the time came for making nominations. Roosevelt was the wolf whom the republicans caught, as was very well said by the gentleman from North Carolina, whom his captors "could not hold on to and could not let go." So they held on to him at Chicago in order to let him go at St. Louis. The mute stander turned out to be a pat-stander for all the republicans are concerned about Wall street plutocratic supremacy by the sagacious expenditure of money.

When I saw the monster protruding his horns from the womb of the St. Louis convention, I was so disgusted that I immediately renounced all party affiliations and became a social democrat, a Christian socialist. My intense Americanism exposes me to the criticism of these socialists whose "country is the world, and not America."

I believe that I ought to have waited longer; and my present purpose is, in view of the tremendous confusion caused by the St. Louis abortion, to revise and correct my own action. Surely when such a somersault has been perpetrated by the pretended democrats at St. Louis, I am justified in taking a sober second thought and in acting with the true American social democratic party, viz: the people's party, generally known as populists. Others may see in this step an example worth following.

The candidates of the populist or "other the people's party are to all intents and purposes collectivists for popular sovereignty, individualists for

democratic liberty and patriots for the restoration of sovereignty in practice to the sovereign people of the United States.

Another reason for my present action is the Fabian policy of the socialists, who seem to think that to seize upon the opportunity of 1904 is "opportunism" and it is a treason to socialism in its international capacity to anticipate their world-wide revolution by an American victory.

Another reason is that the class-consciousness of the socialists is un-American. Here we are "one people" and as such declared our sovereignty and independence. This was recognized by all the nations of the earth. A citizen of the United States is the peer of the crowned head of any country in the eastern hemisphere and this is the consciousness which ought to array the entire people in the people's party against the artificialism which seeks to classify our population into an upper stratum of a few plutocrats, a middle stratum of well-to-do's, and a lower stratum of the producers of the wealth of which they are to be deprived by class-consciousness of the European kind, as if the people are subjects, and their oppressors the one-man power and its historical concomitants.

I invite all American citizens who are of the truth and who aspire to the "general welfare," in contra distinction to the welfare of the generals, to crowd to the polls and vote for Watson and Tibbles, as the next president and vice president of the United States.

The suddenness of the blow will crystallize all good citizens on the side of constitutional liberty, and legislation in all wholesome directions must follow to be obediently executed by the chief executive without refer-