

OUR NEW YORK LETTER

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

New York, Sept. 17.—Editor Independent: The people's democratic party of New Jersey held, as indicated in my last letter, their state convention at Atlantic City on the 19th instant. Over 100 delegates representing every county in the state except out, were present. The managers of the democratic party of New Jersey stimulated, it said, by a considerable amount of money furnished by the democratic national executive committee, attempted to pack the convention. They succeeded in introducing ten or twelve facile and easy-mouthed lawyers who tried to wear the convention out by long continued speeches. They did not, however, succeed as the people's party men firmly suppressed these orators and placed the convention on a business basis.

The convention nominated by unanimous vote, George A. Hornecker of Jersey City for governor, which is the only state officer to be elected this year. Mr. Hornecker is a lawyer, having a large and successful practice. He is 35 years of age, of fine presence, and a very able campaign speaker. He stumped the state of New Jersey for Mr. Bryan in both 1896 and 1900, being regarded as one of the most effective speakers engaged in those canvasses. He will undoubtedly poll the full radical vote in the state of New Jersey. The nomination of electors was referred to a committee consisting of James A. Edgerton, Albert S. Dulin, Marion Owen, John Rauch, and Edmund A. Whittier. This is a representative committee, and will unquestionably select an electoral ticket composed of staunch and able radicals. The platform, which is a high class political paper, declares that "we decline to follow the lead of commercial politicians into the camp of Wall street, and refuse to recognize the Hillis, the Sheehans and the Belmonts as proper exponents of popular rights."

"We vigorously resent the attempt by these minions of special privileges to deliver the party of the common people to the enemies of the common people."

"The attempt to achieve success at the expense of principle is not only destructive of patriotism and the public conscience, but approaches, if it does not cross, the line of deceit and dishonesty. In the republic, the political party which no longer aspires to be right threatens the very existence of free institutions."

"That it was the deliberate intent of the managers of the St. Louis convention to deceive the people is proven by the fact that in no essential particulars do the platforms of the dominant parties differ nor do we find heroism in the act of a candidate, who, by concealment of principles for months prior to the convention, and for twenty-four hours after the platform was

announced, secures a nomination which he would have lost had they been known earlier. Holding in contempt the shifty, the evasive and the insincere, and well knowing that honesty toward the body politic is the first of civic virtues, due consideration for the safety of men whose knowledge of statecraft is coupled with the heavenly gift of purity of heart;

"Wherefore, we, the people's democratic party, in convention assembled, endorse the candidacy of Thomas E. Watson for the office of president of the United States; and of Thomas H. Tibbles for the office of vice president of the United States."

The platform continues by pronouncing in favor of the public ownership of railways and of telegraphs; the adoption of the system of initiative and referendum; the regulation of the hours of labor by the government; the establishment of unbiased courts of arbitration to settle disputes between employer and employe, and the election of United States senators by the people.

The platform is one upon which all radicals can stand. There are thousands of New Jersey democrats who are greatly incensed against the democratic party on account of their representatives being deprived by the most irregular and high-handed methods of their seats in the state convention which elected delegates in the St. Louis convention.

The Evening Mail of this city, in commenting upon this condition, says: "The Watson people are naturally taking advantage of the situation, as the Georgia candidate promises to poll an unexpectedly large vote. The Bryan counties are rounding up for him. The Watson boom, started by Warbesce of Sussex county, mentioned in the Evening Mail of Friday, is spreading. The nomination of George A. Hornecker by the Saturday convention, means a joining of forces on the gubernatorial ticket by the Watson men and the independent democrats. Robert Lavis of Hudson county, is the undisputed democratic leader at the moment. He will probably run the convention on Thursday, the 15th instant, to suit his wishes. Davis will go to the convention at the head of a large and enthusiastic delegation for Charles C. Black, the choice of Hudson county for the nomination for governor."

The prediction of the Mail as to Davis running the convention, turned out to be correct, as he nominated Mr. Black without opposition. I may say that Mr. Black is a classmate of mine, having graduated from Princeton university in the same year. He is an eminent lawyer of high character, thoroughly honest and fearless in every respect. He is, however, an ultra-conservative. He voted against Mr. Bryan in 1896, and if he cast his ballot

for him in 1900, he did it so quietly that no one knew anything about it. Although, as I have indicated, Mr. Black is a close friend and a man for whom I have great admiration, I shall endeavor to defeat him by giving all the aid and comfort I can to the managers of the people's party in New Jersey.

In this connection I may say, that I am thoroughly opposed to fusion on any candidate nominated by the republican or democratic parties, or the endorsement of such candidates. Putting the matter on the low ground of expediency alone, the policy of fusion and endorsement when pursued by any party, has always proved fatal. Unquestionably, had the people's party maintained its integrity in 1896 and in 1900, instead of merging itself with the democratic party, it would have been much stronger with the people today. In fact, I believe, had the policy which I have stated been pursued, and had the democratic national convention of this year taken the course which it did at St. Louis, the people's party would have polled at least the second largest vote in this campaign, and quite possibly have elected its candidate for the presidency.

As a matter of fact, the lines must henceforward be drawn closely. The voters of the country are divided into two camps, the "stand-patters," namely those who desire a continuance of present conditions, and the radicals, namely those who are earnestly in favor of the election of executives and legislators who will make the principles of the people's party platform effective.

The opinion to which I have just referred, is rapidly taking possession of the minds of many of the most careful thinkers of the country, as is indicated by the following extract from the Washington, D. C. Post (ind.) of recent date. The Post says: "William J. Bryan of Nebraska and Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, are the only promising possibilities yet in sight for the leadership of the radical party the formidable organization, made up of the radicals of all parties, that is bound to be evolved from existing conditions? The Post claims no special gift of prophecy, but judges the future by the past, applying the instruction derived from that which has been to that which is to be, when it declares that the conditions of 1904 are a decree that such a party will be in the field in 1908. The Americans are too practical a people to maintain two great parties—the two leading and competing parties—whose only serious difference or contention relates to the personalities of presidential candidates."

The only other important political events occurring in the east during the week, are the letter of acceptance of

resident Roosevelt and the republican New York state convention. The letter of acceptance is a vigorous, incisive, straight-out document. The president stands squarely upon the record of his party and himself. While one may disagree entirely with republican principles and policies, and may, to use the terse language of Watson, "fight them (the republicans) to the end," the manner in which the president and the leaders of his party have, so to speak, nailed their flag to the mast, is admirable. In striking contrast is the policy of Mr. Parker, backed by his advisers in amending the St. Louis platform by his infamous gold telegram, in emasculating, as shown in a previous letter, the platform there adopted and in shifting from time to time, as he and his advisers have been attacked, every position which they have taken thus far in the campaign. It has now reached a point where the only issue upon which the democratic party managers are willing to stand, is that of Rooseveltism. The traditional principles of the party have all been thrown to the rear, and the fight is now being waged against Mr. Roosevelt as an individual. No candidate has ever won the presidency where the issue has been made the personality of his opponent. Like failure will certainly follow the policy being pursued by Mr. Parker's managers.

The republican state convention held at Saratoga on the 15th instant, nominated a very respectable ticket, headed by present Lieutenant Governor Higgins for governorship.

In closing, I may say that while the ticket nominated by the republicans in this state is not what might be termed strong, yet it is respectable, and although it may not add any votes to Mr. Roosevelt, it will not take any from him. It simply leaves the contest in this state in the situation that it has been up to date, namely, close and doubtful in its result. The democrats hold their state convention on Tuesday next, the 20th instant. The result of that convention, of which I will tell you in my next letter, will have great influence in determining whether Roosevelt or Parker will carry the state.

HENRY M. McDONALD.

Out west we are in the habit of holding very large state conventions. Sometimes, in fact, very often in Nebraska, a state convention will have over a thousand delegates in attendance. Down east a convention of 250 is considered a monster affair, even in such states as New York or Pennsylvania. This is said to explain to certain populists in the west why populist conventions in the eastern states having 100 or 200 delegates are spoken of as large.

Those Colorado Officials

The governor, and those whom he is serving, point with evident pride to the decision of the supreme court which upholds that the civil authority is subordinate to the military, but when we remember that the chief justice of the supreme court, who wrote the decision, is a mine owner and president of the Bank of Telluride, and when we remember that the chief justice of the supreme court did drag the ermine of the judiciary so low as to accept transportation from a railroad

corporation, we submit that he may not be above contamination. The following letters throw no luster upon the purity and integrity of the supreme court of the state of Colorado:

"Denver, Aug. 29, 1903.—State of Colorado, Supreme Court Chambers.—Gentlemen: Please accept thanks for transportation inclosed in your favor today. W. H. GABBERT.

"Messrs. Teller & Dorsey, City. "State of Colorado, Supreme Court Chambers, Denver, Colorado, June 16, 1904.—My Dear Sir: I thank you most sincerely for your favor. I asked Mr. Rogers to speak to you, because he knew better than any one else what I had done for the railroad attorneys, and stand ready to do whenever I can. I hope to be able to prove my appreciation of this favor. Yours very truly, JOHN B. COOKE. "C. C. Dorsey, Esq." — Miners' Magazine.

Jays of the Revival

Editor Independent: You can scarcely imagine the pleasure and satisfaction it gives me to read of the revival of the old Peter Cooper ideas of government. They have been my political creed ever since Grant's first election. I have voted the people's party ticket nearly ever since that time or since the party was organized.

The party is starting on the right principle this time and advocates my principles to a "t."

The common people are getting wonderfully tired of piecrust and no pie. The pie is all for the other fellow and the laboring masses can look on while this pie is being eaten by the pie eater for the pie faced man gets there just the same. There are a great many Bryan democrats in these parts and

few Parker men. Goldbugs on the Ozarks, think of it!

The St. Louis convention is sufficient to warn all men of ordinary intelligence what is coming. Soon we will be called upon to array ourselves upon one side or the other as to which shall rule—monopoly or the people. Colorado has just shown us a sample of military government strong

enough to shame the devil, but the republicans point to it with pride.

JAMES CARLILE.

Hahatonka, Mo.

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