

OUR NEW YORK LETTER

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

New York, Sept. 24.—Editor Independent: The important political event of this week has been the democratic state convention, which completed its work at Saratoga on Wednesday, the 21st instant. The convention was a scene of an intense, almost bitter contest between Tammany Hall leader Murphy on one side, and ex-Senator McCarren, leader of the Brooklyn democracy on the other side—the latter being supported by ex-Senator Hill, who, as usual, had a purpose to accomplish not entirely in harmony with that of Senator McCarren, who he was ostensibly backing up. Senator Hill desired to secure the nomination of John B. Stanchfield of Elmira, a close personal friend, a subservient tool of Hill's, and one of Hill's school of politics, who was defeated for the governorship in 1900 by about 111,000 votes.

Senator McCarren advocated most strongly the nomination of Comptroller Grout of New York city, who, by his opposition to Tammany Hall, had endeared himself to Senator McCarren, who, as your readers undoubtedly know, has been engaged in a bitter warfare with Leader Murphy of Tammany Hall for the last six months. Mr. Murphy's object was to defeat both Mr. Hill and Senator McCarren in their purposes and bring about the nomination of a democrat who is friendly to Tammany Hall—preferably Mr. Palmer, member of the state legislature from Schoharie county.

Without entering into detail, I may say that after a most intense contest, beginning at Saratoga on Sunday and extending till Wednesday noon, a re-

sult was reached in the nomination of Judge D. Cady Herrick of Albany, which, while not a distinctive victory to either Hill, McCarren or Murphy, effected the nomination of a gentleman who, not being allied with anyone of the factions mentioned, is acceptable to all. This outcome was a distinct surprise to the public, as it was believed that the convention would blunder, as has every democratic convention, for more than a score of years.

The New York World very fairly states the strength of Judge Herrick when it says "Judge Herrick's superior ability is conceded. He has wide knowledge of the state government. He has courage. He fought Hill. He fought Tammany in the past. He is honest and under no obligation to contractors or corporations. He has no passion for money making. He is above pecuniary influence. He wears no man's collar. Even as a political boss he belonged to the better school of Tilden, Robinson and Cleveland. He could unquestionably give New York a clean, vigorous, rascal-scourging administration."

The editorial of the World expresses the sentiment of all the papers in this state who are supporting Mr. Parker, except the New York Evening Post which refuses to support Judge Herrick on the ground that Herrick has by his constant mingling in county politics, as a local boss of a faction of the democratic party, grossly infringed judicial propriety. On the other hand, the New York Sun refuses to support Mr. Higgins, the republican nominee for governor, on the ground that he will be controlled by present Governor Odell, the boss of the republican party of this state. As the Post and the Sun have about equal political influence, which in the case of neither paper is very great, the newspaper support of the respective candidates for

governor of this state is not materially affected by the action of those papers. Neither do I think that the fact that Judge Herrick has been peraciously active as leader of the Cleveland ring of the democratic party of Albany county lose him any considerable number of votes, as the republicans can not make much headway with the charge of official impropriety, when Governor Odell, chairman of the state committee, is giving scant or no attention to his duties while he is managing, as has been the case for the past four months, the republican politics of the empire state.

The fact is, that the democrats have nominated the strongest possible candidate for governor. His nomination has united the party as it has not been united in ten years. He will poll every democratic vote in the state, save those of radical democrats, which shall be thrown for Watson and Tibbles. The people's party has therefore become a tremendous factor in the election in this state, and consequently the election of the president, as it is conceded on all hands, that if Roosevelt carries this state he will unquestionably be elected, whereas, if he fails in his own state he will probably be defeated. This closeness of situation in New York, instead of discouraging those who are supporting Watson and Tibbles, will only spur them to renewed effort, since they are men of such character that the greater the burden thrown upon them, the more vigorous a contest they make.

We are, therefore, pushing the organization and enrollment of the voters throughout the state as vigorously as possible. Owing to the wise and efficient work of Mr. M. A. Palliser, chairman of the executive committee, the verified petitions required to be obtained in every county of the state, will be in readiness for filing in the

secretary of state's office on Thursday, the 29th instant, the first day upon which the statute permits their filing. Our national and state ticket will then have been legally nominated, and we shall then be in position to begin the speaking campaign.

This campaign will be opened by a popular dinner given at the Palm Garden, this city, on Wednesday evening, October 5th, at which Mr. Watson will speak. Not less than 1,000 guests, all radical democrats, and to a great extent members of labor unions, will sit at the tables. Ex-United States Senator Pettigrew of South Dakota, William Lloyd Garrison of Boston, and Clarence Darrow of Chicago, have also been invited to speak. The dinner will undoubtedly be a great success. Every paper in the east will publish the speech of Mr. Watson, and those of the other speakers, so that the greatest publicity will be obtained in the way of the dissemination of people's party principles. Immediately after this formal opening of the campaign, Mr. Watson and Tibbles speakers will be on the stump delivering speeches in all the principal towns and cities of the state. We have set our mark at 50,000 votes for Watson and Tibbles in the empire state, and we shall leave no stone unturned to achieve that result.

In conclusion I may say that the republicans seem to be cock-sure of carrying the state. This being, in my judgment, is one of the greatest dangers of Mr. Roosevelt's defeat. It may produce the same results as in 1888, when the democrats felt themselves assured that Cleveland would be elected, but Harrison defeated him, and again in 1892, when the republicans were positive that Harrison would carry the state, and Cleveland secured its electoral vote, thereby making his election sure. HENRY M. McDONALD.

The Pulse of Populism

Among the scores of friendly letters received by The Independent every day, there are always to be found noble expressions of hope for the future and courageous words in defense of the principles of populism. All of these communications are well worthy of space, but they are unlimited in amount while space is limited. However, here are a few extracts from a few of them, selected indiscriminately:

Speaking of the platform of 1892, John C. Stiles, Linden, N. Y., says: "I believe if the platform and principles of the populists are the same they were then, not only I, but many more of my neighbors will vote the ticket on November next."

A. J. Anders, president of the Aetna State Bank of Oelwein, Ia., writes: "I have always been a bimetalist. I am 55 years old and have never known that I was insane until a copy of the Brooklyn Eagle was sent me. I can not realize yet that I am not sane; and it seems strange that this government exists with six million insane voters in it."

Single taxer, Theodore Lattan, 1682 West Madison, Chicago: "A copy of The Independent got into my office. No one in the office can tell how or when. It found me at sea politically, since Parker's nomination. I have wasted twenty years in that party, since Cleveland's election, leaving the party of that grand old man—Lincoln, for whom I cast my first vote forty years ago. I left my party solely on the tariff question then agitated. Now in desperation I thought of voting the g. o. p. ticket again, to the end that the sooner they get to the end of their rope, the sooner the people would have something to build on. However, you people seemed to have solved the problem in my mind by sending me Tom Watson's address before your state convention, for whom I shall vote and get others also. Please send me your paper for one year."

John G. Ferrell, Equality, Ill., sends a list and says: "I voted my first for Peter Cooper and have never since the action. The cause of the people is being up in this sec-

can I will try to get you some subscribers, as you preach the ideas I believe in. Pops are pretty numerous in this section. All for Watson and Tibbles. Hurrah."

From Prof. A. A. Burkett, Queen, Pa.: "I have received several copies of The Independent, and must say it is a very interesting paper. I had been blind, voting the republican and democratic tickets. I am now a populist. I can not support those Wall street sharks. I hope your paper will live long. It has converted me. Brother populists, let us all get to work. There is much work to do. We are going to win out. The blind are leading the blind, and they will all fall in the ditch. I have been in the ditch and with the blind. Now I can see the gold standard iniquity—the rich man's paradise, the poor man's enemy."

S. D. S. Bond, Jackson, Tenn.: "You never saw the rank and file of democracy with as little enthusiasm. Our backwoods pops are going them, and hardly a sound can you hear, unless the timid thing happens to be a 'pie hunter.' Our boys are very much enthused over our action at Springfield, and are clamoring for the frey. I have thought Bryan the greatest hero of the nation, and have loved him as I have loved no other political leader, but he has surrendered and is no longer the leader of the masses. But God bless Tom Watson, for he has always come next to Bryan, and now is first, and will remain so. His speech in Lincoln was the finest and most patriotic I ever read. It will live in history. Would that we had a Tom Watson in every southern state. Send me copies of the speech to the amount of the enclosed check."

N. A. Palmer, Comanche, Tex., sends club lists, saying: "This county is the banner populist county in Texas, and we expect to carry a reputation by carrying Watson and Tibbles."

Perry D. Plain, The Independent: "Things seem to be going all right. The people's party is doing well. Parker is doing well. The Independent is doing well."

R. T. Abernathy, Forsyth, Ga., sends club lists, adding: "The heaven is beginning to work. No man can arouse the masses here like Mr. Watson. The most bitter democrats here are frank to say he is a man to be dreaded before a jury of the people, for no one can say aught against his honesty and ability."

I. A. Wesson, M. D., Wengo, Ky., sends club lists, adding: "The boys are waking up. There is great dropping off here from Roosevelt and the Bryan democrats are sick of Parker. This is the time to get in our work. There will be 3,000,000 votes for Watson and Tibbles, and a rattling of dry bones."

A. B. White, Mt. Pleasant, Texas: "I hope The Independent will convert many Bryan democrats. They think Bryan will lead them back in 1908. Hurrah for the two Toms and The Independent."

W. W. Vaughn, Nashville, Tenn.: Enclosed please find \$2 which I think pays my subscription to June, 1905. It is a source of gratification to me now to think that I have been for years a reader of The Independent. Watson's books for I shall be all a stranger in populist. 42 years of age and ever since cast has been dem. leave them now vote as full of hope. November vote as to sort of

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