

THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1839

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Published Every Thursday
1323 O Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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\$1.00 Per Year
.50 6 Months
.25 3 Months
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VERMONT AND PENNSYLVANIA

The spirit of the times is contagious. The wave of independence in politics that is sweeping over the land is irresistible, and is brushing aside moss covered traditions as things not to be longer revered. If evidence were wanted to put to shame even such burbons as are trying to jeopardize the good name and best interests of the people of Nebraska by having the democratic convention reject sense and reason and prostrate itself before the fetish of a party name, it is furnished in the recent action of the democrats of Vermont and Pennsylvania.

The democratic state conventions of these two old states have just nominated as their respective candidates for governor two men that have been lifelong members of the republican party, neither of whom have ever been or have ever professed to be members of the democratic party. And, in so doing they have risen out of the dead past into the living present, and have challenged the good that is in the future.

Democratic principles are right and sound and include the best interest of all of the people. The party has traditions that are inspiring, but they are quite ancient. The party has been for many years under a leadership that has been stupid, antiquated and blind, such as forbid rather than encouraged growth. The party has lived on the charm of its name, to which it has not been true.

The great rank and file, the ground tier of the party, the men who produce wealth, pay taxes and fight the nations battles, found the desire of their hearts in the meaning of the word democrat, and voted for years for candidates bearing the name of that party who were mere adventurers and opportunists who kept the party trailing along behind the republican party awaiting the day when that party would be rejected on account of its crimes against the commonality, in the hope that in such event they

themselves would supercede the republicans in the favor of the corporate and predatory interests.

Democrats have been at all times in the great majority among our people. But the party bearing the name has never been attractive to the real democrat from a period antedating the civil war until it challenged the country in 1896 by a display of intelligence and courage, when, notwithstanding the party split in twain, its old leadership going over to the enemy, it rolled up a million more votes than ever before, was successful in a majority of the states and its candidates were elected for the first time in ten states in the union.

Between 1896 and 1900 the party leaders in many of the states together with many of the national leaders longed to return to the old life of indolence and mere negation. To the efforts of William J. Bryan it was due that the party was held in line for the principles enunciated in Chicago. And it was during the interium between 1896 and 1900, and in the national convention of the latter year, that the real worth and true character of William J. Bryan became known and established, known not only to the democrats in the party bearing that name, but to the democrats who have not yet affiliated with the party but who have learned to love and honor the man whom they regard as an exponent of genuine democracy.

In 1904 the leadership of the democratic party could no longer be held in the path of recitude by Mr. Bryan single handed and alone, and that it devolved upon him alone to maintain the integrity of the party principles as enunciated at the two preceding national conventions was amply demonstrated in the St. Louis convention of that year. But his voice was yet potent to reach the intelligence and conscience of the nation, and the leadership that turned its back upon him in that convention found itself unable to hold the traditional party vote anywhere, not even in the states of the South. The old leaders of the democratic party utterly discredited and practically without a following now recognize the inevitable and are adding their feeble voice to the spontaneous and universal call of democrats to Bryan to come and take helm. Such a course with the old leaders of the party has become a political necessity. This last ground-swell of opinion that calls Bryan back into the leadership of his party is co-incident with the waning power of the bourbons element everywhere, as is so strongly illustrated in the recent action in Vermont and Pennsylvania. The action of the new democracy in those states tells in thunder tones what is coming. The reign of the bourbon is over and an era of progress during which Jeffersonian principles will guide the constructive statesmanship of the nation is about to be ushered in with Bryan as its guiding genius.

And, strange as it may seem, the bourbons of the party in Bryan's own state are particularly active at this time. When party names mean less than at any time in a century, when the democratic party nationally would be a moral bankrupt without the leadership of William J. Bryan, and when Theodore Roosevelt with his many

weaknesses and faults is still able to wring some good out of a congress composed of the agents and attorneys of trusts, when the merits of men defy partisan bias and party lines set more loosely than ever before upon voters generally, does it not seem strange to find right here in Nebraska party leaders clinging to the grossest and most senseless form of party prejudice wherein a flimsy technical point, admitted to be such and nothing more, is sought to be maintained at the risk of party success, it being suggested that a fearless, faultless, recognized tribune of the people with ten years of loyal service behind him, who as the standard bearer in the last campaign, showed strength with the voters the state beyond all others and whose renomination is widely demanded by the rank and file of the voters, be humiliated and turned down because he does not wear an ancient brand. The folly of the suggestion passes all understanding in view of the fact that it is a slap at from thirty to fifty thousand independent voters who are ready to elect the whole democratic ticket including a United States senator.

The consideration thus offered is unworthy of men of this age or any other. It is opposed to the spirit of the times. Let them behold the example of Vermont and Pennsylvania and look to the East for light.

BRYAN AND SILVER

The normal individual experiences a feeling of inexpressable sadness and pity when in the presence of one of his own kind having the years of a mature person while in body and mind the development remains that of a child. Cases of arrested development, whether physical or mental, jar upon the natural sympathies oppressively and repulsively. But the shrinking from and sorrow for the unfortunate dwarf, the helpless and innocent victim of antecedent causes is soon softened into gentleness and pity before the kindling fires of charity and love that proceed from the higher law of human sympathy. The toleration, however, which our higher nature compels in us for the unfortunate victims of arrested development, where neither blame nor responsibility attach to the victims themselves, is as sternly forbidden in the case of the intellectual dwarf made so by self-stultification and slavery to prejudice.

In view of the recent labored attempts of a few editors of newspapers that are corporation organs to revive a discussion of the silver question in connection with the prospective candidacy of Mr. Bryan for the presidency in 1908. The Independent, in a brotherly spirit, warns such editors against allowing their zeal to serve their masters in the dire extremity in which they are placed by the political exigencies of the hour, to desist from doing that which will brand themselves as servile and idiotic, and thereby cause them to forfeit the respect of all intelligent men and impair their future usefulness.

The coinage of silver may again become a burning issue before the people of the western nations for the earth at some future time. But such

event is so remote that only such as are utterly ignorant of the nature and functions of money, and of the prospects of an adequate money supply from the gold mines for the indefinite future, and are dead to the all-absorbing issue of rescuing industry from the deadly grip of depotism will expose themselves to the contempt of mankind by suggesting that any intelligent American incur the burning issue of the day with the consideration of a question far removed from present interest and belonging to the future.

The editorials referred to, however, are replete with expressions that would suggest that the writers must have been born since the silver question ceased to be an issue in our politics, and that their research into the question was limited to the reading of old campaign speeches such as were formerly delivered on the stump in Nebraska by John M. Thurston. The slings made at the quantitative theory of money show such writers to be ignorant of the fact that since the denial of that theory ceased to serve the exigencies of republican party politics it has been abandoned, and that the arguments formerly employed by party organs and speakers to appeal to ignorance on the money question, having served their purpose in their day, are no longer held to be sound or correct by their authors. Those who, in the light of ex-

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