

commission will be thorough and sweeping, and the commission expects to be able at the beginning of the next session of congress to lay before the senate such information as may be of value to it in the formulation of legislation regulating the interstate grain traffic of the country.

CAN MAKE THEIR OWN BOXES

Concession From Postoffice Department to Rural Patrons

Washington, D. C.—On the first day of August next a new order, designed to simplify the regulation in regard to rural delivery boxes will go into effect. The postmaster-general has directed that on and after that date patrons of rural delivery need not purchase their rural boxes from one of the 200 listed manufacturers who have put upon the market 300 different styles of boxes, approved by the department, ranging in price from 50 cents up to \$4, but may, if they choose, construct their own boxes or have them made to order, provided that in so doing they conform to the requirements of the department as to size, durability, safety and protection from inclemencies of weather.

In order to maintain the essential principle that all boxes established on rural routes must be brought under the protection of the United States statute, which provides penalties for anyone molesting a letter box "established by order of the postmaster-general or approved or designated by him," the modified order provides that individuals who desire to make their own boxes or to have boxes made to order after their own design, must submit a sample of the material of which the box is to be constructed, or of the box itself, to the postmaster of any first or second class post-office in the county where the rural service is in operation, and the postmaster, if he finds such box conforms to the specifications and requirements of the department, is authorized to require the owner to paint conspicuously thereon the words "approved by the postmaster general."

The same order provides for an early reinspection of boxes heretofore approved with a view to the gradual elimination after reasonable notice, of such boxes as are not found to comply with the requirements of the department. With this object in view it is directed that all sample rural boxes on file at the former headquarters of rural delivery or in the offices of post-office inspectors in charge shall be transmitted to the fourth assistant postmaster general at Washington, D. C., to be examined and tested by a committee to be appointed for that purpose.

NOTICE—\$1.00 pays for seven subscriptions to the Independent until after the November election. 25 cents pays for a single subscription until after election. Send in your subscription. Address The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

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HE HAS NOT CHANGED

Bryan Says Time Has Strengthened Convictions, Not Changed Them—Is More Radical Than Ever

An Associated Press cablegram under date of London, July 12, follows: "William J. Bryan, having had the opportunity of reading American newspapers, consented today to discuss some of the questions which have been raised since he has again become prominent as a presidential possibility. He said:

"I notice that I am described by some as conservative, and in order that there may be no misunderstanding on that subject, permit me to say that in one sense I have always been a conservative. The democratic policies are conservative in that they embody old principles applied to new conditions. There was nothing new in principle in either of the platforms on which I stood. We were accused of attacking property, when in fact the democratic party is the defender of property, because it endeavors to draw the line between honest accumulation by honest methods on the one side and predatory wealth and immoral methods on the other.

"It is to the interests of every honest man that dishonesty should be exposed and punished; otherwise the deserving are apt to suffer for the undeserving.

"If, however, by the word conservative they mean that I have changed my position on any public question or moderated my opposition to corporate aggrandizement, they have a surprise waiting for them. I am more radical than I was in 1896 and have nothing to withdraw on economical questions which have been under discussion.

"The only question we discussed in 1896, upon which there has been any apparent change, is the silver question, and that has not been a change in the advocates of bimetalism, but in conditions. We contended for more money and urged the free coinage of silver as the only means then in sight of securing it. The increased production of gold has brought in part the benefit we expected to secure from the restoration of silver. The per capita volume of money in the United States is almost 50 per cent greater now than it was in 1896, and the benefits brought by this increase have not only vindicated the quantitative theory of money, but have proven the benefits of the larger amount of money. No advocate of the gold standard can claim the triumph of his logic.

"I believe in bimetalism and I believe that the restoration of silver would bring still further prosperity, besides restoring par in exchange between gold and silvery using countries but I recognize, as do all other bimetalists whom I have met abroad, that the unexpected and unprecedented increase in gold production has for the present removed the silver question as an issue.

"While the money question has waned in importance, other questions have been forging to the front and to these questions we must apply the same principles we applied to the money question and seek to secure the greatest good to the greatest number by legislation which conforms to the doctrine of equal rights for all and special privileges for none.

"On the new questions many will act with us who were against us on the money question, for notwithstanding the discussion of that question, millions did not understand it and were frightened into opposition. We can not expect the support of anyone who is interested in taking advantage of the people, either through trusts or through any other illegitimate form of business. Our efforts should be to distinguish between these

corporations which are legitimate and those aggregations of wealth which are organized for purposes of public plunder and appeal for support to those only who are willing to have the government protect each person in the enjoyment of his own earnings.

"The newspapers have been trying to create friction between what they call "old friends" and "new friends" in politics. Those are friends who are working toward a common end, and each campaign brings to some extent a new alignment. In 1896 the party lost many democrats and was recruited by a great many who had been republicans up to that time, and we welcomed them. In 1900 some came back who were against us in 1896 and we did not shut the door against them. I have no idea that the party will require tickets of admission in the coming campaign. Usually parties are so anxious to secure recruits that past differences are not emphasized if there is a sincere agreement on present issues.

"I do not know that we can find a better plan than the Bible plan, which admits the eleventh hour comer to a place in the vineyard and to share the reward with those who began earlier. I think this sound politics, as well as sound religion, provided the new recruit comes to work and not to interfere with the other laborers. But of course when an overseer has to be selected experience can not be left out of consideration. The worker who came late, if honest, would be too modest to assume an attitude of superiority over those who had toiled during the earlier hours.

"While the question is one of purpose, a man who recognizes the dangers that threaten our country and is anxious to avert them will not find it difficult to establish friendly relations with those who saw the dangers at an earlier date.

"If the differences between the sincere and the pretended friends of reform can not be discovered before, they will become apparent when the platform is written, for, if present indications count for anything, that platform is likely to be so plain that no one can mistake it and so strong that no enemy of democratic principles will be drawn to the party."

"Mr. Bryan added that he would discuss the trust, the tariff, railroad and labor questions, imperialism and other issues at length when he reached America."

Trust Sued for Damages

St. Louis—Suit for \$250,000 damages and reasonable attorneys' fees, was filed today in the circuit court by the Coyne Brothers Plumbing company against the Crane company, the L. M. Rumsey Manufacturing company and the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing company. The petition alleges that the three firms sued are in a trust and that they refused to sell plumbers' supplies to the Coyne firm because it was not in the master plumbers' association. The suit is brought under article one of chapter 143 of the revised statutes of Missouri, concerning pools, trusts and conspiracies.

Petroleum to Fight Plague

Bombay, India—Dr. Turner, health officer of Bombay, successfully demonstrated the extraordinary efficiency of crude petroleum as a plague disinfectant. It is believed that his experiments have materially advanced the prospects of the expiration of the plague.



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