

on various mooted questions in direct appeal to the people is worthy of praise:

"We have the same interest in good government as has any other citizen and the same right to display that interest. As the largest corporation in the state and the largest taxpayer we have a vital interest in sane and conservative legislation—and when (as has too often been the case) there is danger that the state will be swept off its feet by appeal to passion and prejudice made by designing demagogues for their own personal ends, it becomes a duty to oppose those men, by fair and legal means—in such cases, and in such cases only, will the Santa Fe be found in politics. Individual employes are unrestricted; they may hold and express such views as they think proper, but their action is not to be taken as that of the company, nor is the latter responsible for their political opinions or utterances."

This is a clever way of presenting the corporation as a legitimate factor in politics—the largest taxpayer of a state. But it cannot justify the conclusion as to the political privileges of corporations. This is where taxation involves no right whatsoever of representation. We are speaking now of private corporations and not of the persons or interests represented. It has been said of the corporation that "its personality is an abstract conception of the intellect, unassociated with that of the persons from whom it is created, and its existence is ideal only," and to admit an "abstract conception" to the standing in politics of a natural person is hardly to be defended. If the corporation may legitimately mix in politics, then it is entitled to the right to vote; and if entitled to the right to vote it should be stripped of its limited liability and exposed to the equivalents of the liabilities of natural persons such as imprisonment or complete suspension of all industrial functions for its own profit, service in war, and so on.

The corporation may fairly claim a right to be heard before legislative bodies, but beyond this it may fairly claim nothing in politics. It must look for political protection and consideration to the natural persons whose interests are bound up in it, and they have usually proved quite sufficient in this respect for all reasonable purposes. Mr. Ripley's contention would justify corporation campaign contributions, but the common sense of people has been quick to discern the impropriety of such a course and to pass upon it a general condemnation.

The corporations must get out of politics and stay out. It is enough that they may find representation in politics by the natural persons composing them, acting as individuals but in the light of their corporate interests.

"DEAD AND BURIED"

(From the Springfield, Mass., Republican.)

With all of the profound explanations of Mr. Bryan's renaissance as a political force, there are many who persist in saying that this is "one of the devil's own incomprehensibles." There is nothing to be said which can

relieve them of their stupefaction. From their point of view, Bryan seems to have been raised from the dead.

The amazement of these astounded people can be the better understood by recalling the final judgments that were passed upon the twice-defeated leader, in the press, after the presidential election of 1900. If ever it seemed opportune and fitting and absolutely safe to entomb a public man, with an appropriate epitaph, the time was immediately after the second great defeat. As a last tribute of esteem, a professor of the university of Pennsylvania, in the following winter examined the press of the country and made a collection of the opinions on Bryan of the representative newspapers. The professor must have thought his labor of value chiefly as a piece of obscure grubbing in contemporary history which might prove of interest a decade or a generation later to students of the Bryan era. He could not have supposed that within five years these same opinions could be reprinted as a demonstration of the utter blindness of political writers to the course of events and to the changes in public opinion in the immediate future.

The professor's collection is at hand, and, in view of the New York reception to Mr. Bryan the last of the present week, it is more than instructive, it is positively entertaining to read it over. The following is a group of newspaper opinions on Bryan, the man, after the election of 1900:

- "Dead and buried beyond hope of resurrection."
- "Janus-faced trickster."
- "Quack nostrum doctor."
- "Magician."
- "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."
- "Lightning rod man."
- "Safebreaker."
- "Court jester."
- "Anarchist."
- "Artful dodger."
- "Divvicrat."
- "Brazen footman to rapacious Tammany tiger."
- "Blatant demagog."
- "Constitutional pessimist."
- "Traitor."
- "Apostle of sedition and class hatred."
- "Unscrupulous expounder of emotional popocratic politics."
- "Un homme capable de tout."
- "Buried under an avalanche of votes."

The representative opinions of Bryanism were no less emphatic and to the point:

- "Stamped out."
- "Its end has come."
- "It stands condemned before the world with none so poor to do it reverence."
- "All that the democratic party, under Mr. Bryan, has contended for has been repudiated."
- "The election 'marks the deliverance from the combination of all the lunacies of the past.'"

We have left behind "the whole congeries of fads and follies and hatreds that greedy and unscrupulous men have gathered together in a modern cave of Adullan for a menace to ordered popular government."

Bryanism drew votes from a "conglomeration of wild theorists, of discontented ignorance, of dishonest

debtors, of selfish silver owners, of self-seeking politicians, of objectors to law and order and the sanctity of the supreme judiciary," who followed that "Jack O'Lantern light of a man void of understanding."

These sober judgments were almost universal, and they were delivered so recently that there is no American voter who finds himself startled in reading them once more. The quaint lesson they teach today is that of all our public men the "dead and buried" one may be so full of life that no grave can hold him. Mr. Bryan's presidential prospects need not concern us; they are highly uncertain. But the present situation at least is one of the most instructive in our political history concerning the possible longevity of a public career. From the "dead and buried" viewpoint, we have nothing in our annals to match Mr. Bryan.

The state fair is a hummer.

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Roosevelt evidently is not a member of the proof-readers' union.

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The corn crop of Nebraska alone this year will exceed in value the total output of the combined gold mines of the United States.

Bryan's New York reception was the greatest tribute ever paid by the people of a nation to a private citizen since the dawn of history.

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Bryan's speech at his reception at Madison Square Garden, New York, did not please everybody, but there is no doubt that it finds a response in the hearts of a very large majority of the American people.

People may be hopeless slaves of a political party if that does not involve the mutilation of the language. It is well to remember that all things have a limit, and Roosevelt has committed the unpardonable sin. His case is hopeless.

President Roosevelt's edict in favor of mutilating the English language has settled the question of a nomination for another term by his party. No sensible republican will longer consider him available for re-election under any circumstances that may arise.

President Roosevelt's name has been mentioned as the probable successor of President Elliot of Harvard University. Since his edict adopting the idiosyncracies of the so called spelling reformers whatever chance there might have been of his becom-

ing the head of that ancient and foremost seat of learning has disappeared forever.

Campaign subscriptions to The Independent have already begun to come in in large numbers. Remember that one dollar pays for seven subscriptions until after the election.

Every farmer, that can do so, ought to attend the state fair and bring his boys along with him. It will afford them needed recreation and at the same time furnish enlightenment and inspiration in the line of their occupation. The expenses of the trip will prove to be money well invested. Come and bring the boys along with you.

In the reception given to Mr. Bryan by the citizens of Lincoln upon his return home, politics were forgotten and the residents of the capitol city and of the state, who were present on that occasion, gave free expression to their pride in welcoming home a son whose character sheds lustre upon the city and state wherein he resides.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "The devil is always an ass." The creditor interests and the annuitants clamored loud and long for the demonetization of silver in order to make money scarce and dear and thus enhance the purchasing powers of their incomes and fatter their bonds and mortgages. Through the ignorance of the people whom they sought to rob and oppress they finally succeeded. When, lo and behold, it turns out that they demonetized the wrong metal. Gold, which was scarce and in the opinion of the most eminent scientific authority, at the time the mints of India and the United States were closed against silver, was sure to become still scarcer year after year is now produced in greater abundance than ever before, the annual output of gold alone exceeding the combined output of gold and silver in 1906. Gold is thus constantly depreciating in value to the great injury of the creditor classes and those receiving annuities or fixed salaries, while the production of wealth under the stimulus of rising prices has reached such proportions that many industries are complaining of a labor famine with wages at the highest figures ever known.

The publishers of The Independent want agents everywhere to canvass for subscriptions and sell Mr. Berge's new book, "THE FREE PASS BRIBERY SYSTEM." See advertisement of book elsewhere in this paper. We receive hundreds of orders through the mails. It is the only book written upon a subject in which the people are just now vitally interested. The people everywhere will want the book. Ex-Governor Larabee of Iowa ordered ten books before same were off the press. We receive orders from all parts of the country. This book is a seller. All you have to do is to tell about it. You can make \$100 per month. Write at once for terms.

THE INDEPENDENT, Lincoln, Neb.