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NO. 18

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This year the Republican state ticket will be supported in the campaign by the best record made by any administration in the state's history. The Democratic ticket will be supported by the political agents of the great railway corporations doing business in the state. The voter must decide whether he will face forward under the banner borne by Governor Sheldon and his Republican associates, or face to the rear beneath the banner of the allies—democracy and the railroads.

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JOURNEYING IN LAND OF DREAMS

AN IMPRACTICABLE DEMOCRATIC PROPOSITION FOR TRUST CONTROL.

FROM SPEECH BY GOVERNOR HUGHES

Convincing Exposition of Fallacy of Bryan's Panacea For Solving Problems of Modern Business.

When we consider remedies that are proposed for the trusts, we find ourselves journeying in a land of dreams. Again the magician of 1896 waves his wand. At a stroke difficulties disappear and the complex problems of modern business are forgotten in the fascination of the simple panacea. And, as the free coinage of silver in the ratio of 16 to 1 was to destroy the curse of gold, so the new found specific of equal perfection is to remove the curse of industrial oppression. The delusion of 1908 is comparable only to that of twelve years ago.

The first suggestion is that the law should prevent a duplication of directors among competing corporations. However advisable it may be to have independent directorates of competing corporations, it would seem still more important to have independent stockholders, for a majority of the stockholders of a corporation choose the directors. If a law were passed preventing the duplication of directors it would easily be evaded in the selection of men who would represent the same interests. The most ordinary experience shows that it is not necessary to serve on a board of directors in order to control its proceedings. Whatever the advantage of such a law as is proposed, it hardly rises to the dignity of a "remedy," or vindicates its title to a place in an imposing scheme of reform outlined in a national platform.

But the more important proposal is "that any manufacturing or trading corporation engaged in interstate commerce shall be required to take out a federal license before it shall be permitted to control as much as 25 per cent of the product in which it deals." A license is permission, and the object of the remedy is not to regulate large businesses, but to destroy trusts. Hence the supposed efficiency of the plan is to be found in the prohibition of the control by any such corporation "of more than 50 per cent of the total amount of any product consumed in the United States." This is another delusion of ratio.

It might be interesting to inquire what is the meaning of "any product consumed in the United States." Does it refer to a class of commodities? And, if so, how shall the classes be defined? Or does it refer to each separate article of commerce? And, if so, what account does this proposal take

of the skill and initiative of manufacturers who have built up a more or less exclusive trade in particular articles, often protected by trade-marks, although in most active competition with other articles designed for the same general purpose and seeking the same market? In a desire to correct the evils of business are we to place an embargo upon honest endeavor whose activities present none of the abuses requiring remedies? And, if not, what statutory definitions shall be found to be adequate and just if we lay down our prohibition in terms of volume or ratio of business and not in terms of right and wrong? If we adopt Mr. Bryan's proposal, to what period of production is the prohibition to apply? Is the excess for a day or for a month to be considered? Or is the average production for a year to be taken? And what system shall be devised by which suitable information may be furnished in the nature of danger signals along the routes of trade so that the manufacturer may know when he is about to exceed the prescribed ratio? He may justly be required to govern his own conduct, but how shall he be apprised of the conduct of others upon which is to depend his guilt or innocence?

The patent laws confer true monopoly in the exclusive right to manufacture and sell. Are these laws to be repealed because a "private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable?"

Bryan's Crude Reasoning.
An example of Mr. Bryan's reasoning is found in his statement that "when a corporation controls 50 per cent of the total product it supplies forty millions of people with that product." There are, of course, specialties which have a limited market and are used by a relatively small number of the people of the United States. More than 50 per cent, and indeed even as much as 100 per cent of the trade in such articles may be in the control of a particular corporation. This may, in fact, be relatively a small corporation. It may never have aspired to the unsavory renown of a "trust." But by prosecuting its particular line with fidelity and meeting satisfactorily a limited want; or by reason of some secret processes or advantage of experience, it may control the trade in a given article of commerce. Or, suppose a concern controls the whole trade in some useful byproduct which it has found it advantageous to make, is the trade to be prohibited?

The Democratic platform makes no exceptions to cover such cases, and we have learned that it is equally "blinding as to what it oults."

If we could imagine such a crude prohibition to be enacted into law, and to be regarded as valid, what would be the effect? Mr. Bryan, with his usual readiness, suggests that the concern may sell as much of its plants as are not needed to produce the amount allowed by law. He speaks as though every manufacturing concern had as many fully equipped units of production as would correspond to any given percentage of trade which it might be required to lop off. Plants are not so easily dismembered. Reduction in output means reduction in work, reduction in the number of men employed and curtailment of the efficiency of a going concern. Let us suppose a concern which controls 80 per cent of a given product—that is to say, makes and sells \$8,000,000 in value out of a total trade in the product amounting to \$10,000,000. Is it to be compelled to reduce its output to \$2,000,000 because only \$2,000,000 in value are made by others? Then, if it could sell a part of its plant on Mr. Bryan's theory, what should it sell? Should it sell off enough to reduce its capacity to \$5,000,000, and allow three-fifths of its plant to remain idle until others developed a capacity for handling the other \$5,000,000? Should it assume that the total trade will increase and is not always to remain at \$10,000,000, and hence retain

a larger portion of its plant in idleness? Or suppose a concern controls 100 per cent of the trade in some article, what plants shall it retain? It can produce nothing until others produce; but it may produce an amount equal to the production of others, and it hopes the trade will grow. What a vision of business uncertainty and confusion, of idle and impaired plants, of the ruin of workmen whose lives have clustered around particular industries and who depend upon their continued efficiency, is presented by this fanciful remedy for the destruction of trusts!

Apart from this, if the dissolution were effected in the manner desired and portions of plants could be sold and were sold as suggested, to whom would the sale be made? Would it be necessarily to foes or to those ambitious to be competitors and anxious to take advantage of its plight?

This proposal in its utter disregard of the facts of business, in its substitution of the phantasies of the imagination for the realities of life, stamps the Democratic platform with the fatal stamp of 1896. The commerce and industry of this country, the interests of its wage earners and of its interdependent masses, who must rely upon the stability of business, cannot afford to give license to such vagaries.

In the solemnity with which this proposal has been declared, and the insistence with which it is advocated, we find an appropriate test of the capacity of our opponents to deal wisely with the problems of the day.

Mr. Taft's Marvelous Methods.

Mr. Taft's methods of work have always been a marvel to those who have been in close official association with him. He turns from one task to another with the utmost facility, allows himself to be interrupted on trivial pretexts while immersed in consideration of important matters, and seemingly never wastes a minute, with it all keeping untrifled and good natured. He was at his desk in the War Department up to the very second of his start to the Philippines in 1905. When but twenty minutes remained in which to catch the train he was notified but continued to sign papers.

"Only fifteen minutes," said his secretary.

"All right," replied Mr. Taft, dipping his pen freshly into the ink.

"Five minutes," urged the secretary.

"All right" was Mr. Taft's response, seizing another document.

Six minutes later the secretary said he thought that Mr. Taft had missed the train.

"All right," said Mr. Taft, sliding into his coat, "we'll go and see."

Mr. Taft was busy with his papers in the carriage as it dashed to the depot, where the train had been kept waiting for twenty minutes.

"I thought it would wait," commented Mr. Taft, as he climbed aboard. "It is better that we should keep a train waiting than the business of the United States should be delayed because a few papers weren't signed."

Mrs. Taft in the White House.

Mrs. Wm. H. Taft will move amid familiar scenes when she becomes the first lady of the land and is at the head of the White House menage. Mrs. Taft is a daughter of John W. Herron, who was a law partner of former President Rutherford B. Hayes. The Hayes and Herron families were closely connected by ties of friendship, and to Miss Herron, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were always "Uncle" and "Aunt." Miss Herron spent many of her holidays from school with the Hayes in the White House. In a recent conversation Mrs. Taft said: "Nothing in my life exceeds the



I feel that the country is indeed to be congratulated upon the nomination of Mr. Taft. I have known him intimately for many years and I have a peculiar feeling for him, because throughout that time he worked for the same object, with the same purposes and ideals.

I do not believe there could be found in all the country a man so well fitted to be President.

He is not only absolutely fearless, absolutely disinterested and upright, but he has the widest acquaintance with the nation's needs, without and within, and the broadest sympathies with all our citizens.

He would be as emphatically a President of the plain people as Lincoln, yet not Lincoln himself would be freer from the least taint of demagoguery, the least tendency to arouse or appeal to class hatred of any kind.

He has a peculiar and intimate knowledge of and sympathy with the needs of all our people—of the farmer, of the wage earner, of the business man, of the property owner.

No matter what a man's occupation or social position, no matter what his creed, his color, or the section of the country from which he comes, if he is an honest, hard working man who tries to do his duty toward his neighbor and toward the country, he can rest assured that he will have in Mr. Taft the most upright of representatives and the most fearless of champions.

Mr. Taft stands against privileges and he stands pre-eminently for the broad principles of American citizenship which lie at the foundation of our national well being.

climax of human bliss which I felt as a girl of sixteen when I was first entertained at the White House. The thing that seemed remarkable to me was that although the Hayes occupied the most exalted position in the land, they were just as they had been in Ohio. They weren't changed a bit; I couldn't understand it, then, for I supposed, of course, that their manners must change with their advent to the White House, to be in keeping with my conceptions of the alternation in their position in life."

More Than Three to One.

That is how Judge J. S. Benjamin found that our people would vote in Broken Bow after making a careful canvass of the business section of the city. In his rounds he only ran across one Republican who said he was going to vote for Bryan, and when pressed for a reason, the only one this man could give was "Because Bryan lived in Nebraska." It is a poor reason and as the man is a pretty shrewd business man we look for him to change his mind and vote for Taft after he considers this question more thoroughly.

Should be Elected.

W. D. Gardner of Westerville was a pleasant caller at our office last Saturday and while here had us push the date of his subscription a year in advance. Mr.

Gardner is the Republican candidate for supervisor of District No. 1, and he says that he is going to be elected by a good majority. Mr. Gardner is in every way qualified to fill the position of supervisor from District No. 1 and should be elected.

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