

POLITICS OF THE DAY

Evading Responsibilities.

The Republicans in 1896 had no doubt of who should be blamed for the panic of 1892-3, which was brought on by the reckless silver purchase act of 1890. That law was proposed by a Republican administration and passed in the House of Representatives with a unanimous vote in its favor and a unanimous Democratic vote against it. Therefore, the Republican party proceeded to resolve that the Democratic party was responsible for "It has precipitated panic, blighted industry and trade with prolonged depression, closed factories, reduced work and wages, halted enterprises and crippled American production."

The Democrats can now retort in kind by adopting that Republican plank at Denver as exactly fitting present conditions, for "every consideration of public safety and individual interest demands that the government shall be rescued from the hands of those who have shown themselves incapable of conducting it." The Republican party having had full control of the government for the past twelve years, there can be no just accusation that the devilish Democrats have "precipitated panic, blighted industry and trade with prolonged depression," etc.

But the brazen effrontery of our Republican friends was quite equal to the occasion, for to get out of the panic mess they could not charge to the Democrats. The platform just adopted at Chicago declared that:

"Nothing so clearly demonstrates the sound basis upon which our commercial, industrial and agricultural interests are founded, and the necessity of promoting their continued welfare through the operation of Republican policies, as the recent safe passage of the American people through a financial disturbance which, if appearing in the midst of Democratic rule or the menace of it, might have equalled the familiar Democratic panics of the past."

But have the American people had a safe passage through "the financial disturbance?" That great barometer of trade, the iron industry, is still sleeping, to all intents and purposes; bank clearances show a universal decline; many thousands of unemployed workmen still hunting a job; railroad earnings still falling, and many dividends unpaid or reduced; many industrial plants closed or running on short time, does not clearly show "their continued welfare through the operation of Republican policies," but rather the reverse. But, of course, the Republican party still holds to the familiar theory that Providence is backing the party of "great moral ideas," but of most astounding political corruption and viciousness.

Fat Frying and Publicity.

What Republican is to do the "fat frying" this year? There is no doubt that Mr. Cortelyou would be best able to undertake it. He knows all about the weak spots in the armor of the trusts and protected monopolists, and, therefore, just about how much fat can be squeezed out of each corporation without making them feel they are being imposed upon. Then the Wall Street financiers, who have heretofore been charging up their donations to some corporation, must also be dealt with tenderly, now that they have to draw against their own bank accounts, and no one knows better than Mr. Cortelyou just how much to assess them.

But there are peculiar difficulties this year in making collections, because the interests that give do not repay for what has been done for them, but expect promises of protection and advantages in the future. The tariff-protected trusts will require assurances that their particular schedule shall not be revised, and with a platform promising all kinds of reform, although none is intended, it will be difficult to make a skittish trust magnate believe he and his interests will be let alone, when the Republican spellbinders and candidates are assuring the gullible Republican voters that real reform is intended. Rockefeller and Morgan will evidently have to do the bulk of the giving for the financial interests, for they hope to have the currency law made perpetual.

But there is a rich kettle of fat in the railroads that will yield enough to grease all the Republican machinery and allow the politicians to live in luxury. The railroads are poor now, in consequence of the Republican panic and the continued business depression, but if they don't yield to the fat fryer they may expect that reform legislation, heretofore threatened, might become a reality. Then, too, nearly every railroad has been a lawbreaker, and some are still at it, and the evidence is on file in the secret archives of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Yes! Harriman will have to come down again. The Republican fat fryer will have the evidence of rebating and restraint of trade and high rates at his fingers' end before he starts on his mission of collecting the tainted funds to save the country, and incidentally, of course, to save the railroads and the Republican party.

Handicapped Republicans.

The Republicans evidently believe that the constitution does not count

for much nowadays, for the word constitution does not appear in the speeches of Senator Lodge or Mr. Burton, made at the Republican convention, and only one reference to that instrument is made in the platform. This reference occurs in the resolution relating to the enforcement of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments.

Standpatters in the Saddle.

The "joker" in the tariff plank of the Republican platform is the guarantee of a "reasonable profit to American industries." The standpatters insisted on this, and finally prevailed. They contended that a tariff which would guarantee a "reasonable profit" to American manufacturers would prevent any scaling of the schedules.

A "reasonable profit," they realized, would be as difficult to define as a "reasonable rate" was when the railway rate bill was under consideration. In the elasticity of the phrase lies their hope of preventing any great changes or reduction in the schedules. The high tariff men have figured out that they will only have to go before the Ways and Means Committee when their particular protective schedules are endangered, and say:

"But we are only making a reasonable profit, under the present tariff, and the Republican platform promised us that specifically."

The whole effort of the revisionists was to prevent the insertion of some such joker as was put in. The genuine tariff reformers and believers in a real revision realize that, while promising tariff changes, a standpat high tariff plank has been adopted. In fine, the dominant control is no more in favor of a revision now than it had been in the past, and is again attempting to delude the country with vague promises.

So, if a Republican Congress is again elected there will be perhaps a maximum tariff added, and the present rates still be the minimum tariff.

There must be a goodly number of Republican voters who really desire to see the high tariff rates that protect the trusts so revised that trust prices may meet the decline in wages. There are others that would like to see the tariff so reduced that the trusts would be compelled by foreign competition to sell their products to American consumers as cheaply as to foreigners.

But with the Republican platform declaring that the trusts are to be protected with a reasonable profit, of which these corporations will be the sole judge of how much that profit must be, the only prospect of revision is to revise the tariff higher, for most of the industrial trusts are declaring their profits are not sufficient to pay "reasonable" interest on their capital. Republican tariff reformers are thus "sold again" to their trust masters, unless the Democrats can redeem them from their bondage.

Loss by Fire and Flood.

It is not creditable to the inventive genius of the American people that nearly one million dollars of property is on the average lost each day by fire. The total output of gold in this country is much less than the loss by fire. Then there is the havoc by flood. Fortunately the figures are less startling, but still the actual loss is estimated at \$10,000,000 by reason of the floods now occurring in the Mississippi valley. Both loss by fire and flood are preventable, and are problems worthy of the best talent of the country. As far as the loss from floods is concerned, the remedy is a simple one, the only need being the money to control the rivers. A Republican Congress can spend \$1,000,000,000 and more for one year, and yet be so negligently about river improvements that the work already done is made practically worthless. There is a despicable partisan cause that really prevents the necessary money being appropriated, because most of the States where it is needed send Democrats to represent them in Congress, and the Republicans can, therefore, gain no party advantage by doing the necessary work.

Bogus Trust Busting.

It is getting rather monotonous to be compelled to record another rise in the price of meat. Last week the price was boosted 2 cents a pound, and now another advance of 3 cents is again added, making a 5-cent increase during the past week. The packers' combine is allowed full sway by President Roosevelt, and his Attorney General is evidently afraid to tackle the beef octopus, so the public will have to grin and bear it until the Democrats get into power and really curb the trust. A year or two ago the administration took great credit to itself for its supposed success in a suit before the Chicago court, which decided the packers were combined in restraint of trade. A fine of comparatively small amount was assessed against the members of the combine, and the result was heralded far and wide as the preliminary step towards further control of trusts. Alas! the price of beef proves how we have all been humbugged by this bogus trust busting.

What you were, others may answer for; what you tried to be, you must answer for, yourself.—John Ruskin.

W. J. BRYAN IS NAMED FOR THE THIRD TIME

Democratic Party Hoists Him as Standard Bearer in Battle for Presidency.

CHOSEN ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

Convention's Progress Is Delayed by Slow Work of the Resolutions Committee.

Denver correspondence:

William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska was nominated for the presidency by the Democratic party in national convention at 3:10 o'clock Friday morning. At the same session the platform on which Mr. Bryan and his running mate are to make their political bow to the American electorate was adopted unanimously. It was a Bryan platform from first to last, even the anti-trust plank being finally adopted as Mr. Bryan wanted it. Both the nomination of Mr. Bryan and the adoption of his platform were accompanied by scenes of wildest enthusiasm.

Mr. Bryan was nominated on the first ballot, the vote standing:

Bryan	802 1/2
Johnson	46
Gray	59 1/2

The nomination was made unanimous on motion of W. S. Hammond, of Minnesota, who had nominated Governor Johnson.

The convention was called to order at 11:30 o'clock Thursday. Henry D. Clayton of Alabama took the gavel as permanent chairman, and delivered a speech lasting an hour. Clayton's speech was well received by the 11,000 persons crowded into the auditorium. It was radical, compared with the address Bell of California delivered when he took the platform Tuesday. Chairman Clayton denounced the Republican party, President Roosevelt and the Chicago convention in scathing terms. He did not mince his words in characterization of the sins of omission and commission of the Republicans as he saw them. His remarks were taken as a message direct from Bryan. He had conferred with the Nebraskan and revised his speech at his suggestion, according to common report.

Thursday was the biggest day of the convention, with the stage all set for the nomination of William J. Bryan for the Presidency on a platform practically drafted by himself, the only exception being the anti-injunction plank, which was more radical than the Nebraskan demanded. It was planned that after the address of Mr. Clayton the convention would take a recess until night, which meant that the nomination of a candidate for the presidency would not come until



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then. The recess was also made necessary because the resolutions committee was not ready to report.

Delay of the nomination until the late hour was brought about not alone by platform perplexities, but it was said by the strong desire of many of the states to share in the honor they believed would come from seconding the name of the Nebraskan. Every delegation that desired, so it was given out, would be given the opportunity to endorse the chief candidate after the first nominating speakers had had their word.

Bryan was placed in nomination before midnight by Ignatius J. Dunn, of Omaha, but it was after 3 o'clock before the balloting began. Between the nomination and the balloting came the reading of the platform by Governor Haskell of Oklahoma, chairman of the resolutions committee. The platform was unanimously adopted by the convention after the committee on resolutions had spent fifty-seven hours in framing its many planks.

Mr. Bryan's third nomination was made amid scenes of frenzied enthusiasm. The result came after an all night session, which was kept in a constant state of turmoil up to the culminating moment when the Nebraskan was proclaimed the choice of the convention as the Democratic standard-bearer.

Speeches Before Platform.

Despairing of hearing from the resolutions committee the convention sent a committee to call on that body at 8:30 o'clock Thursday night and secured from it consent to proceed with the nominating speeches. The roll call on the nomination was withheld until

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.



after the platform was adopted. When the call of States was begun, Alabama promptly gave way to Nebraska and Mr. Dunn, of Omaha, took the platform to name Bryan. The convention gave him an ovation. Twenty-two minutes after he began Mr. Dunn named Bryan and the whole convention, including the galleries, rose en masse, excluding only the delegates from New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Delaware and Georgia, and rendered tribute.

If yelling could elect a President there would be no necessity of counting the votes in November. Leather-lunged Democracy simply had a carnival while for five minutes the human lungs poured out a Niagara of sound. Then the band added to the din. Mayor Dahlman of Omaha took the rostrum and led the uproar. White pigeons were let loose from the galleries. An immense picture of Bryan hidden behind a shield over the speaker's rostrum was lowered in sight of the convention. Thousands of flags were waving all over the hall. After ten minutes of cheering the parade of the States began.

Delegates surged from all parts of the hall toward the rostrum with the State standards. Not for one moment did the wild clamor cease. One after another the band reeled off popular airs. The convention sang the national songs, while the remainder of the convention yelled with all its might. Little girls were hoisted on the shoulders of men and beat time to the music. Women fell into the parade about the hall by the dozen. New York and Georgia were beseeched to join the riot in vain.

Leather-Lunged Demonstration.

The announcement of the vote was the signal for a wild demonstration, equaling in disturbance, if not in duration, the record-breaking display which on Wednesday afternoon greeted the first mention of Mr. Bryan's name in the convention.

The scene within the amphitheater at the moment the nomination was made was one of stirring animation. From pit to dome the vast building was packed with 10,000 people, thinned out in the remotest galleries after hours of waiting and the intense discomforts of the hot night. It was a great spectacle—tier on tier and gallery on gallery of agitated forms, the women in white, the delegates massed below, many of them coatless, a myriad of fans fluttering.

As the announcement of the Nebraskan's actual nomination was made the whole assemblage rose en masse, waving flags, handkerchiefs, newspapers, hats and coats, anything and everything which hands could lay upon to wave aloft or hurl into the air, while a deluge of sound poured out from these 10,000 throats in exultant yells, cat-calls, Comanche war whoops, with the added din of shrieking horns, the roar of megaphones and the strains of the band playing an exultant air.

When for a moment order could be secured out of this tempestuous chaos of demonstration State after State which had at first recorded its vote for Johnson or Gray fell into line with the overwhelming column and the nomination was made unanimous by acclamation.

Without cessation or lessening volume the roar continued for forty-five minutes before anybody in the hall resumed his seat. The yelling continued unabated for a quarter of an hour longer and was finally hushed when the sergeant-at-arms turned out the lights of the auditorium. The Taft ovation at Chicago was mild in comparison to the ovation tendered the name of Bryan.

The convention adjourned at 3:50 o'clock Friday morning until 1 o'clock in the afternoon, after having been in session continuously for more than eight hours. As the delegates and spectators left the hall the echoes of enthusiasm continued to reverberate throughout the building, while crowds outside took up the shout and bore it along the dark and silent streets, awakening the city just as the first pale rays of dawn were breaking in the east, with resounding cheers for Bryan.

Sees Father as Hero.

The amazing tribute to her father was witnessed by Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of William Jennings Bryan. Mrs. Nicholas Longworth was also a spectator of the scene. Thus both of the "presidential daughters," as Denver termed them, were on the spot for the big spectacle of the convention.

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS COMPARED.

DEMOCRATIC.	REPUBLICAN.
Anti-Injunction.	Rules of procedure in cases of injunctions should be more clearly defined by statute, it is declared, and no writ should be issued without notice except where great injury would result from a delay, in which case speedy hearing should be granted.
Modification of present injunction law is urged, to provide for a trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt, and it is declared that injunctions should not be issued in any cases in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.	
Trusts.	Amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law urged, to give the federal government greater supervision and control over and secure greater publicity in affairs of corporations engaged in interstate commerce.
Determination to exterminate trusts is announced, with promises to enforce criminal law against magnates, legislation to prevent duplication of directors, and a license system to check watering of stock.	
Tariff.	Unequivocal pledge for revision by a special session of Congress is made.
Immediate revision promised and free list for articles competing with trust products.	
Currency.	Emergency measures of the present administration are approved and the need of a more elastic and adaptable currency system is emphasized.
Republican party denounced for using treasury funds in crises, and government control of an emergency currency with insurance of bank deposits urged.	
Railroads.	Amendment of interstate commerce law to allow roads to publish traffic agreements is declared for.
Physical valuation and the strict enforcement of the interstate commerce law is insisted on.	
Roosevelt Policies.	Unflinching adherence to the policies inaugurated by President Roosevelt is declared.
The President is condemned for using patronage of his office to nominate one of his cabinet officers.	

MILESTONES IN BRYAN'S LIFE.

- 1860—March 10—Born at Salem, Ill.
- 1880—Made his first political speeches for Hancock and English.
- 1881—Graduated from Illinois college, Jacksonville, Ill., being valedictorian of his class.
- 1883—Graduated from Union College of Law, Chicago, and began practice in Jacksonville.
- 1884—Married to Miss Mary E. Baird at Perry, Ill.
- 1887—Removed to Lincoln, Neb.
- 1888—Refused to run for Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska.
- 1890—Elected to Congress in a nominally Republican district.
- 1892—Attracted attention by his tariff speech.
- 1893—Opposed the repeal of the Sherman silver purchase act.
- 1894—Choice of Nebraska Democrats for United States Senator.
- 1896—Editor of the Omaha World-Herald.
- 1898—Nominated for President after his "cross of gold" speech.
- 1898—Colonel of Nebraska volunteers.
- 1900—Nominated for President by the Kansas City convention.
- 1901—Began publication of the Commoner.
- 1905-'06—Made tour of the world with his family.
- 1908—Nominated for President the third time.

Bryan Cheered for 88 Minutes.

William Jennings Bryan, although from hundred miles away, was cheered for one hour and twenty-eight minutes in the Democratic convention. It was the longest political demonstration and unquestionably the greatest in the history of the United States. Bryan's record surpasses the Roosevelt stampede in the Chicago convention by forty-one minutes. They cheered Roosevelt forty-seven minutes. They cheered Bryan eighty-eight minutes. Had the tumult continued six more minutes Bryan would have just doubled the Roosevelt record.

The words that ripped the lid from the great assemblage and sent the thunder rolling over the 12,000 men and women were spoken by blind Senator Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma. Senator Gore was discussing the Oklahoma constitution when he said this:

"Oklahoma rejected the advice of Mr. Taft and accepted the advice of William Jennings Bryan."

Denver Had Time of Its Life.

Denver had the time of its life. Cowboys from the plains emitted Indian war-whoops. Loud voiced men from Cripple Creek and other mining districts, yelped with bank fanatics from the agricultural region in piercing the night with Bryan yells. High rolling revelers from the East dashed along the crowded streets in automobiles. Gaping thousands from the mountains and plains, Indian braves from the Uncompagne, Warm Springs and White River reservations, decked out in the spectacular dress of their tribes, all moving under vari-colored ropes of electric lights and under a canopy of flags and bunting made the Coney Island carnival look like a Sunday school picnic.

Cowgirls March in the Hall.

The picturesque features of the demonstration in Denver Wednesday were heightened by the cowboy band and the twenty-five cowgirls, who are an auxiliary part of the organization. Both the cowboys and cowgirls were dressed in the typical western costume of cow country, buckskins, leggings, and wide hats. The girls carried six shooters in their holsters. When the band was brought down to the speakers' platform from the music stand near the roof of the building, the cowboys and cowgirls formed into a procession in single file and marched across the main floor in regular formation.

Diplomats Marvel at Scene.

Foreign eyes looked with curiosity upon the wild scenes in the Denver convention hall. The visiting diplomats who had come to Denver for the convention were there in force. And the sentiments of all of them were described with fidelity by L. A. Coronidis, minister of Greece, when he said, with a shrug of his shoulders and a smile:

"Oh, you Americans. What don't you do? I would not have failed to see this scene even if I had to sit up all night in order to get into the convention hall."

Many Lived in Sleeping Cars.

During the Denver convention many of the eastern visitors lived in their sleeping cars, which were "parked" in the railway yards. There was a great outcry from the Denver hotel keepers at this. During the Chicago convention the railroads were made to agree that not a single sleeping car should be kept on tracks and used for sleeping quarters. Not being so experienced, the Denver hotel keepers forgot to insist on such an agreement.