

## FUTILE BRYANISM.

It is announced by a member of the Bryan national committee that during a recent tour in the south he found a general sentiment in favor of dropping free silver in the next national convention and raising other issues. He reported the party to be weary of thrumming on the same old single string and desirous of more varied music. This feeling was disclosed in the gulf states and up the Atlantic coast, even to North Carolina. As to the candidate, however, he reported the feeling universal that it must be Bryan. The plan illustrates the futility of the present plans of the party management. The large independent and thinking democratic vote of the country is left out of the new calculation, and there seems to be no appreciation of the fact that the voters are divided into several classes. There are those who follow the party any way and look to its politicians for reward. Others look more to political principles than to mere expedient declarations made by the party. Still others are moved by consideration of principle and weigh carefully the character of party leadership. The two latter classes control elections in this country. They are the voters who elected Mr. Cleveland and who turned and elected President McKinley, and will elect him again regardless of what platform declarations may be made by Mr. Bryan's party.

They will do this because of the profound distrust of the leadership of Mr. Bryan's party. Even this last proposition proves those leaders to be either without convictions or to lack the courage to carry them out. There is a total lack of what is called character in the Bryan leadership. The politicians who have charge of Mr. Bryan's party go up and down the country jauntily remarking that white is black, prophesying and predicting, jumping from issue to issue, out of the frying pan into the fire and back again, and telling the public that frying pan and fire are both cold when they are both hot. The great dividing line of principle between the two parties is lost sight of by these men. They fail to understand that the views held by men on either side of that line meet always at one point, are focused upon one place and are patriotically intended to accomplish the same purpose, though by widely different methods. From the beginning of our party divisions these two schools of political principles have for the most part sought the welfare, happiness and prosperity of all the people, and the issue between them has been upon methods, not upon the result desired.

The Bryan cult has taught a blind and deaf opposition to everything that is. It began in a platform attack on the constitution itself. It threatened to break down judicial protection to life and property. It menaced the civil service

and declared its purpose to return to that sum of all diseases in government, the spoils system in the public service. It shook a portentous fist at every interest, grudged the success of the prosperous and called the unthrifty to prey upon the thrifty. The leaders who made such a fight and lost it, and have kept on and lost in every election since, until their party has not a governor nor a senator in the north, are men who do not enjoy the confidence of the best men in their own party, and whose ways and purposes are scoffed at and repudiated by the independent and thoughtful voter.

Mr. Bryan never had any but a spectacular value in politics. He paid himself out for all this value that was in him in 1896, and got value received, in defeat. He put nothing on the political market and got nothing in return. But he personally enjoyed it as a boy enjoys playing circus, and being so self-sufficient that he cannot be flattered, has kept himself before the public, and has only impressed a few of his party to take him at his own estimate of himself. His oratorical displays are gilded platitudes. They rank with those articles of household ornamentation which are constructed by gilding flour barrels and pasting lithographs on them, or illuminating soap boxes and wheelbarrows, "to make home beautiful." The commonplace among phrases are uttered by him, with uplifted hand and eye, in tremolo, but, after all, they are commonplace and non-impressive to any thinker.

He will no doubt again lead his party through an eruption of the parts of speech, armed with mullein stalks, to worse defeat than before, and will then take his place in the limbo of the forgotten, a speaker who never gave plain utterance to any great principle, a leader who never won a victory, a prophet as uncertain as a nickel-in-the-slot machine, and a politician who was merely a curiosity by reason of his eyes being set in the back of his head.—San Francisco Call, January 2, 1900.

The Chicago Times-Herald (rep.) advises the Michigan legislature to repeal the sugar bounty law. "State bounties for sugar-beet growers or manufacturers represent the most obnoxious form of state paternalism and class legislation," it says. "The legislature has no more right to divert the revenues to such a purpose than it has to pay five cents a head for a particular species of cabbage or turnips. A bounty on beet sugar accomplishes no good purpose. The incentive it supplies to grow sugar beets or to make beet sugar is unnatural and hence pernicious in its ultimate results. It is a tax on the community, for the bounty that is paid to a few manufacturers out of the state treasury must come out of the pockets of the people. It has no defense."

## CRUMPACKER.

It is doubtless true that President McKinley will use his influence to smother the scheme pushed by Representative Crumpacker of Indiana, for cutting down the representation of the south in the house of representatives and the electoral college to an extent corresponding with the reduction in its votes since the negroes have been generally disfranchised. Very likely, too, the President will succeed in preventing any radical action, although it will be difficult for him, even with all of his power, to suppress the proposition for a collection of census statistics on the subject of voting in the different states. One difficulty about that is the fact that Mr. Crumpacker, who is pushing the scheme, appears to be a man of strong convictions, who is deeply impressed with the justice and necessity of some action by congress. Another is the fact that many of his associates in the house share his opinion that, at the very least, there should be an investigation of existing conditions, even if the party be not now committed to an attempt to change these conditions by cutting down the representation of the south.—New York Evening Post.

**WATERED STOCK.** THE CONSERVATIVE is indebted to Paul Morton, vice-president of the Santa Fe railway, for the twenty-ninth annual report of the Kansas City stock yards.

This document shows that five million nine hundred and sixty-three thousand and fifty-seven head of cattle were handled, fed and watered during the year 1899 by those yards. The money value of this "watered stock" was one hundred and twenty million nine hundred and forty-six thousand four hundred and thirty-nine dollars. More than ten millions of dollars worth each of the twelve months of the year.

If there had been "real prosperity" in the country, such as our populist friends prate about, the enumeration table would have been dead of "nervous prostration." How long will the farmers persist in their plutocratic extortions for watered stock?

"The president has given his whole tariff case away," says the Springfield Republican (ind.). "The exigencies of his imperial policy have compelled him to kick over the ladder by which he climbed first to a national reputation, and then to a presidential nomination, and the presidency itself. It is a queer situation, which will vastly amuse the free traders; but there is no fun in it for those who are engaged in industries, which the president in former days had assured them were absolutely dependent upon tariff for existence."