

admitted that he had accomplished ratification.

By what right can Bryan and his disciples criticise the results in the Philippines? Did not the Bryans, Baileys, "Chump" Clark and other chumps brag that they had forced the administration? Are such statesmen estopped or not estopped from criticism?

A POSSIBILITY. To the unbiased and conservative citizen the political outlook, with McKinleyism and Bryanarchy the prevailing atmosphere, is not reassuring as to the perpetuation of the American republic.

It is quite possible that the best class of republicans and the gold standard democrats may yet formulate a new political party and proclaim its principles to be the constitution, economy, civil-service reform and a rigid adherence to the honest and patriotic methods of administration instituted by the founders of this government. Such an organization, when seventy million of people are menaced with candidature, which is controlled by two sets of political bosses, is a possibility, if not a probability in 1900.

But if no such new party is born this year, the study of thoughtful Americans will be to determine the least of the two evils presented for their suffrages by the Platt-Quay-Hanna bossocracy on the one side and the Allen-Butler-Coin Harvey-Altgeld and W. J. Stone syndicate of bosses on the part of Bryanarchy.

Who of the two fore-ordained candidates will be least destructive?

Possibly Bryan will gain numbers of voters in the East, but not enough to carry any electoral college. Possibly he will fall off in votes in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states and fail to get all the electoral votes in those sections which he did get in 1896.

Is it possible for any man to show where Bryan, with a reiteration of the financial and other vagaries of the Chicago platform of 1896, can get electoral votes which were lost in that year or possible to hold all those which he then secured?

RETRACTION NECESSARY. Mr. John P. Irish of California, one of the leading gold democrats of the country, has given out the conditions upon which sound money democrats will support Mr. Bryan. They consist in a complete renunciation of the Chicago platform and a public apology by Mr. Bryan for the many heresies he then advocated. The statement of Mr. Irish will be a revelation to those Bryanarchists who deceived themselves into believing that the calamity prognosticator of 1896 would receive the support of a reunited party. The conditions, laid down by Mr. Irish, will

hardly be complied with. Mr. Bryan is too skillful in politics to go before the people as a self-confessed demagogue, by acknowledging that he promulgated nothing but heresy in 1896 and admitting that every direful prophecy was false. He realizes that to be consistent he must persist in error.

Mr. Irish thus names the conditions of gold democratic support:

"First, that Mr. Bryan shall publicly disavow the Chicago platform of 1896; second, that he shall admit that the silver issue of that year was a false issue and that his advocacy of it involved the falsification of the financial views of Jefferson and Jackson. Then he must admit that every prophecy made by him in that campaign regarding the disastrous effects which would follow adherence to the gold standard has failed to come true. If he will do these things, repudiate the populist nomination given him at Sioux Falls, terminate all relations with the silver republicans and declare that the financial measures of Mr. Cleveland's administration were sound and democratic, he will easily receive the unanimous vote of the gold democracy of the country.

"If the attitude of Mr. Bryan remains unchanged, the gold democracy will stand with great unanimity in defense of the gold standard, already crystallized into the law of the land, and in urging the accomplishment by legislation of other financial declarations of the Indianapolis platform of 1896.

"Surely, as we were right in those declarations then, we will now be right in supporting these policies until all are imbedded in safety in the law. Everyone knows that if populism should succeed under the leadership of Mr. Bryan, not only would there be no further legislation in the interest of a sound system of finance, but what has already been accomplished would be swept away. Chaos would come again."

FREE WOOL. In the June Forum, Mr. Jacob Schoenhof contributes an article entitled, "An Unwritten Chapter in Recent Tariff History," that brings out some interesting truths about the Wilson tariff. Under this act, for the first time, manufacturers were able to purchase wool in the open market and were protected by a duty upon the manufactured product. That free raw materials greatly stimulated domestic manufacture is proven by the statistics for that period. For September and October 1896, after the economic principles of the law became operative, the imports of woolen goods were \$331,386 against \$2,086,762 for the corresponding period of 1895. For the four months ending December 31st, they were \$800,350 against \$4,028,684 for the like period of 1895.

This does not mean, however, a fall-

ing off in the use of wool. On the contrary the per capita consumption of wool was the largest it has been for the last twenty years, amounting to 8.2 pounds. The per capita consumption for the period 1884-86 was 7.55; 1887-90, 6.85; 1891-94 (McKinley tariff) 6.3; 1895-96 (Wilson tariff) 8.2; 1897-1900 (Dingley tariff) 5.9. The year 1900, depending upon domestic resources, will have a per capita consumption of but 4.8 against 6.59 for Germany.

Mr. Schoenhof establishes the fact that a tariff on wool only serves to raise the price of woolen goods to the consumer, thereby placing the manufactured product beyond the purchasing capacity of the wage-earning classes who must content themselves with shoddy goods, composed principally of cotton, for which they must pay more than the cost of a good all-wool article under the Wilson tariff.

RAILROADS. In the year 1877 thirty-nine per cent of the entire railway mileage of the United States was controlled by 362 different railway companies. Twenty-one years later, in 1898, the unification of railways progressed to such a degree that fifty-six per cent of the mileage of the country was under the management of only 44 companies. In these twenty-one years the rate of freight per ton per mile in the United States has declined from about 15 mills to 7½ mills per ton per mile.

JACKSON AND SIXTEEN TO ONE. Sixteen to one Bryanarchists, who claim to be Andrew Jackson democrats, will find small comfort in the opinion of Roger B. Taney, Jackson's secretary of the treasury. The following is taken from the Omaha Times (democratic) of Jan. 27, 1858:

"In 1834, the present chief justice of the United States, Roger B. Taney, at that time secretary of the treasury, laid down the following economical axiom, the truth of which has been abundantly corroborated by the experience of recent years:

"It will invariably happen, that when the circulating medium is composed of different kinds of money, and one of them is less valuable than the other, but not sufficiently depreciated to be discredited, the inferior will, after a time, become the general currency and the more valuable will entirely disappear."

It is quite evident from the above that Jackson was not an advocate of the use of 100 cent gold dollars and 50-cent silver dollars which Bryanarchists call "bimetallism." As Taney puts it the use of two metals of different value at the same time at a fixed legal ratio is a commercial impossibility.