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Pen and Picture Pointers

THE recent visit to Lincoln of Thomas E. Watson, candidate for president on the populist ticket, was the occasion of his first meeting with his running mate, Thomas H. Tibbles, and that meeting will ever be remembered by the people of the capital city. Remembered not only because it was the first time Lincoln has had an opportunity to entertain two such candidates at one time, but because it was the first time on record where two such anti-plutocrat, anti-Wall street candidates ever rode together in an automobile. That is what Watson and Tibbles did. But not until the matter had been thoroughly canvassed and the effect on the election duly considered. Of course, Mr. Watson was not in on the discussion; he was in the hands of his friends, but Mr. Tibbles was. When the proposition was branched to him he pondered long and earnestly, then he said: "Well, I have done lots of things without a precedent and I guess there is nothing I won't try once. Bring on your automobile." The committee brought on the automobile and the populist candidates whisked through the streets to the home of Frank D. Eger at a rate of speed prohibited by ordinance.

The meeting of the two men at the station showed how thoroughly each desired to break away from the demagogue and go it alone. Mr. Tibbles was the first to reach the Georgian, and he was recognized by Mr. Watson as readily as he himself had been recognized. Before a second man had reached them Mr. Watson said:

"Have you made any arrangement for union?" And his face looked his anxiety.

"Not a thing has been done," smilingly answered Mr. Tibbles.

"This well," said the presidential candidate, and at once the crowd surged forward to shake his hand.

Mr. Watson had distinguished honor paid him in Lincoln, not the least of which was the adjournment of a democratic state convention to hear him speak. It was not an adjournment exactly, either. The leaders of the democratic convention found they could not muster a corporal's guard in the large auditorium during the Watson speech, consequently they magnanimously deferred their time of meeting for a couple of hours, for the rank and file of the party wanted to hear Watson. During his stay in Lincoln Mr. Watson was a guest at the P street home of Frank D. Eger, business manager of the Independent, and on the evening preceding the two conventions a public reception was tendered him, at which also Mr. Tibbles was a guest. Democrats, populists and many republicans called during the evening to pay their respects to a great man.

Unlike his running mate, Mr. Watson during his visit to Lincoln proved himself a poor subject for the newspapers. Preceding his address at the populist convention he very courteously received all callers, but when asked to make a statement for publication he smiled a sad, sweet smile and answered: "I believe I'd rather not, if you will excuse me." And it was not long before the newspapers knew that "I believe I'd rather not" meant "I won't."

The coming to Lincoln of Mr. Watson was a clever piece of work on the part of the midroad populists, and that he accomplished all that had been expected of him a look at the fusion state ticket will show. He was brought to Lincoln to brace up the wavering pops and he braced them. At the conclusion of his dramatic speech he had not only brought the pops back to the fold, but he had scared the wits out of the democrats. So frightened were they at the way in which their old-time allies, whom they had subdued on all previous occasions, took the bit in their mouths and started running that they gladly accepted the few crumbs thrown out to them in the nature of nominations. They accepted Berge with little protest, though before the Watson speech they had not even thought of Berge as a likely man. The remainder of the ticket they swallowed without so much as a grumble. Watson had awed the democrats.

Watson is the kind of a man that does awe those who are about to forsake an old-time principle. He appears absolutely sincere. That he is a southerner he shows all over. He is tall and slight; his face is thin, though full of expression; his voice has that peculiar southern twang that makes it pleasant to listen to; he is dignified always and always courteous. The people of Lincoln irrespective of party affiliation, were pleased with Thomas E. Watson.

Sieges of Recent Times Recalled

CAPTAIN WILLIAM G. HAAN of the general staff, United States army, reviews in the Philadelphia Ledger the great sieges of history from conquest of Jerusalem to struggle at Port Arthur. The more recent sieges, covering a period of fifty years, will bear recounting, as they represent evolutions in methods of attack and defense. Captain Haan writes, in part: The siege that attracted most attention in the nineteenth century was that of Sebastopol, in the Crimean war, 1854-5. It began in September of the former year, the besiegers being the French and English, with a small force of Turks. Sebastopol, by the Russians, was accounted impregnable. The fortress occupied some rugged heights, enclosing a part of the town. The principal and stronger parts were the fort known as the Malakoff, the central bastion, the Redan and the Little Redan. The besiegers suffered much from inadequate commissary arrangements and supplies, while the Russians were able for months to maintain their communications with the immense productive country behind them. A very severe winter interfered seriously with the siege operations, but in the spring they were renewed with very great vigor. Several battles were fought around Sebastopol, with great losses on both sides. The more famous of these were at Inkerman and Balaklava. On August 16, 1855, a Russian army sent to relieve Sebastopol was defeated at Tchernaya. There were many destructive bombardments, in which ironclad ships in the harbor for the first time took part. The allies were able, with their heavier and more numerous ordnance, to inflict much more injury than they received.

A great assault had been delivered on June 18 by the French on the Malakoff, and by the English on the Redan, but failed. From August 19 to September 8 a continuous and terrific bombardment was kept up. On the latter date the second great assault was made. The French carried the Malakoff, the Little Redan and the central bastion of the fortress, but the British were again driven back from the Redan. The success of the French, however, had rendered the place no longer tenable, and after setting fire to Sebastopol and to their ships the Russians withdrew. The victory had been won by superior battering power. The siege had lasted eleven months and eight days.

In the civil war of 1861-65 in this country there were but two very remarkable sieges—that of Vicksburg and the Petersburg-Richmond siege.

Vicksburg is almost a natural fortress, and as it was the key to the possession of the Mississippi river the confederate government had fortified it as well as lay in its power. The movement against Vicksburg was begun by Sherman, under Grant's orders, in December, 1862, and temporarily failed. In January, 1863, Grant himself took the immediate direction of it. With the assistance of the navy he cut loose from his base above Vicksburg to cross the Mississippi at Grand Gulf with his army and begin the attack from the lower side. His line, when complete, was fifteen miles long. He whipped the confederate armies which were hovering about his rear and right flank while the investment was proceeding and taught them to keep at a safe distance. On May 19 an assault was ordered and was repulsed with great loss. A second assault was made on May 22 with like result. Reinforcements were sent to Grant and Vicksburg was tightly held, with daily and nightly bombardments, until after six weeks of harrowing peril and privation it was forced on July 4, 1863, to surrender. The besieged had suffered much from lack of food, and many of the noncombatants had burrowed chambers in the clay bluffs facing the river for protection from the federal bombs.

Vicksburg was chiefly subdued by the tightness of its investment. It was not provisioned for a long siege. A tremendous labor was required of the federal troops to make their works of circumvallation as strong as those of the defense, which Grant knew to be necessary. In spite of his superior force, to prevent a successful sortie. The heaviest cannon used by the besiegers were lent to the army by Admiral Porter of the navy. The only other siege guns were six thirty-two-pounders. But the field artillery was abundant. The investing lines were at no point more than 600 yards distant from the works of the besieged and the artillery fire had proved very effective.

The siege of Petersburg was one of the largest military operations known in history. It began in June, 1864, and lasted until April 2, 1865. The lines of circumvallation finally enclosed the defenses of Richmond, as well as those of Petersburg, and were many miles in length. General Grant had about 150,000 men and General Lee some 50,000. Formal investment was not resorted to until the federal army had made repeated assaults upon the Petersburg defenses and had been repulsed with the loss of more than 5,000 men. The federal right flank rested upon the James river, above Bermuda Hundred, and the left was near the Weldon railway. On July 30 a mine was sprung under one of the principle confederate works and an as-

sault was again made, but was repulsed with a loss of 5,000 federal soldiers. In the autumn the besieging lines were extended north of the James river, close to the Richmond defenses, and were also steadily extended to the left. The situation of Lee's army grew worse with each day. The lines of supply leading into Richmond became fewer and more slender, and early in the year 1865 the southern commander saw the necessity of attacking the investing army, with a view to forcing his way out of the city. Fort Stedman, on the right of the northern works, was taken by the confederates in a heavy assault on March 25, but was recaptured. Lee was thus compelled to wait the movements of his antagonist. The final operations of the siege began in the last days of March. From this time on there was continuous and heavy fighting. Grant sent a strong column to flank the confederate right and to cut Lee's sole remaining communication with the army under Johnston and the country south of him. The movement culminated in the battle of Five Forks which determined the immediate fall of Petersburg. The evacuation of Richmond followed two days later, and the surrender at Appomattox on April 9 virtually marked the ending of the war.

In the Franco-German war of 1870-1 the siege of Metz and that of Paris are the two great sieges of the century, and they had a certain dependence upon each other. Had Marshal Bazaine's army not been shut up in Metz and held there for seventy days by the Germans, it is not likely that they could have remained before Paris for 129 days, as they did, without a severe struggle. A more reprehensible thing than Bazaine's surrender was the rendering of his troops powerless within the fortress of Metz at a moment when they were most needed in the open field. Almost as soon as the news of the fall of Sedan and the capture of Napoleon III reached Paris in September, 1870, steps were taken to form a government of national defense, and means of protecting Paris were organized. The Germans, who were already before the city, completed its investment on September 19. Gambetta left Paris in a balloon in October to set up a provisional government in the provinces. All able-bodied males were called to defend the capital. The defense was active and ardent, but proved from the first futile against the great odds opposed to it. The Germans repulsed successive sallies at Malmaison, Champigny, Le Bourget and other suburbs. Disturbing news came from Metz. The French army within its walls had either to starve or surrender. It submitted on October 27. The army of the Loire was the only hope of Paris. It attacked the Germans to the north of Orleans, and, after several days of combat, was defeated. A sortie at Champigny, at first successful, ended in the Germans recovering their positions. Near the end of January, 1871, there remained in Paris provisions only for another fortnight. More than 40,000 inhabitants had already succumbed to privation. Negotiations for capitulation led to an armistice on January 31, followed by the Prussians taking possession of the city.

Plevna, the Turkish stronghold in the Balkan region, held out against the Russians in the war of 1877-78 from the early part of July until December 19 through the sheer valor of its defenders. Some of the most terrific fighting of modern times took place on its steep slopes. The Russians, who were the assailants, were put upon the defensive, and only the lack of a competent leader on the part of the Turks probably saved the czar from a bitter defeat. Reinforcements were quickly brought forward until the total Russian strength was 120,000 men and 400 guns. The Turks were estimated to have 55,000 men. After a desperate sortie on December 10, which failed to break the line of investment, Osman Pasha surrendered. The Russian killed and wounded in this siege are said to have been 18,000 and the Turkish about 12,000.

In the Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1900 the siege of Ladysmith in Natal stands out most prominently. It was the capital of a district and the junction of two railways, and had been used by the British as a depot for military stores, although this choice was severely criticized. It has been described as "a teacup in a saucer," the edge of the latter being represented by the high surrounding hills. When the Boers, in October, 1899, began to invest it the British had 12,000 soldiers there, including four regular cavalry regiments, and the colonial mounted troops; six field batteries, a mountain battery and a naval battery. General Joubert, in command of the Boers, opened a bombardment of the town at 5,000 yards. On the night of October 20 General White, in command of the British, made a sortie with his entire force. One column became isolated, was surrounded by the Boers and the mountain battery and an Irish and an English battalion were captured. The Boers made a feat of entering Ladysmith and the British retired thither, recapturing two cannon on the way.

This unfortunate sortie reduced the garrison to less than 10,000 men, and soon

afterward the force besieging the place was increased to 18,000. The Boers, with heavy guns, fired shells into the town daily from a long group of hills which commanded it. Entrenchments were constructed and strengthened day by day. Those of the inhabitants who did not leave the town by permission of the Boer general deserted their dwellings and lived in bomb-proof caves. Cavalry and light artillery sallied forth from time to time, but accomplished nothing to compensate for their losses. Armored trains went back and forth between Ladysmith and Colenso until, on November 2, the latter place was occupied by the enemy. The bombardment of the besieged was then begun in earnest. On November 9 a general assault was made, but was repulsed. The British drove the Boers from positions which they had held near the city. Lyddite shells thrown into the Boer lines demoralized them, but they were strengthened soon afterward by the arrival of cannon from the Transvaal. They mounted these on all points of vantage within range. The rigors of the siege were, by the end of November, severely felt. Rations were reduced and fevers were prevalent. There were several sorties, in which the British destroyed some of the Boer guns.

Meanwhile General Buller was advancing with 20,000 men to relieve Ladysmith, and in view of his approach the Boers themselves began to convert their position on the Tugela into fortresses. They had trenches on both sides of the river, protecting each other, and all protected by cannon on the elevation back of them. Entrenchments extended along the Tugela for twenty miles. Buller attacked the Boers, and lost all his field artillery and 1,100 killed, wounded and captured. The Boer position was so well planned that both their entrenchments and their gun emplacements were completely hidden from the attacking force. The fire from the rifles, smokeless powder being used, caused almost all the British casualties. After Buller had retreated, the Boers, on January 6, 1900, carried some British entrenchments south of Ladysmith three times, but were finally driven out of them at the point of the bayonet.

General Buller resumed the movement against the besiegers with a reinforced army, amounting now to 31,000 men. An attempt to break through the Boer line at Spion Kop failed after hard fighting extending over several days. A third attempt was made in February, but the British were again compelled to retreat. General Buller then, on February 14, began a turning movement of the left flank of the Boers. After several days of heroic fighting the way to Ladysmith was cleared on February 27, and on March 1 Lord Dundonald's cavalry entered the town.

The siege had lasted 118 days. The rations for the fighting men just sufficed to keep them on their feet. The only water which they could procure was so polluted that it caused fever and dysentery. Toward the end the cavalry horses were killed and eaten. The stock of medicine became exhausted in January, and the death rate had increased enormously. Three hundred and forty-six soldiers and officers died of disease and 259 were killed.

Aged Widow Nabs Lover

Mrs. Sarah Bosler, a wealthy widow of Pittsburg, who confessed that she is 70, walked into the office of Alderman Mc-Masters and took out papers charging Willis Levine, her boy admirer, with obtaining money under false pretenses.

Levine is a beardless lad of 23 years, who looks much younger. Soon after her husband died, six years ago, Mrs. Bosler and Willis became friends, and she now alleges that this friendship has cost her heavily. Her charge was in effect that Levine had some days ago secured \$500 from her to buy a pop factory, giving her a promissory note, then "jehided" her until she gave back the note, which he destroyed.

Mrs. Bosler says she then became suspicious and looked after the pop factory, but found it not. She then accused Willis of being faithless, and the boy lover giggled in her face. Then she went to law.

"Willis ought to be ashamed of himself," she said severely. "He told me he was awful fond of me and that he loved to kiss me. He had a very sweet way about him—but I know him now."

Tabloid Philosophy

You can seldom size up a man by the opinion he has of himself.

It generally costs an effort to live up to an established reputation.

It doesn't make the year any shorter to steal a March on your rivals.

It's easy enough to love your neighbors if you can make use of them.

The crust of society is generally made up of people who have the dough.

An engine can't get up steam, even 'n mid-summer, unless it is coaled.

The pen is mightier than the sword when it comes to signing checks.

No, Maud, dear; we have never heard of a bootblack who stines in society.

All the world loves a lover, except those who have been disappointed in love.—Philadelphia Record