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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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DEMOCRATS AND THE SENATE

In his appeal to the members of the Kentucky legislature to elect former Governor Beckham to the United States senate, Mr. Bryan offered an argument which, in its final analysis, proves the hopelessness of the democrats, no matter what the outcome at the polls next November. Mr. Bryan, of course, had another purpose in mind in presenting his argument, but the effectiveness of it remains just the same. In emphasizing the possible importance that might attach to the election of a democratic senator from Kentucky, Mr. Bryan said:

I know this, that while we may succeed in getting the house, and will probably succeed in getting the house if we get the president, the senate is more difficult for us to get. It will require quite an overwhelming victory to give us the senate, or enough democrats in the senate acting with the republicans to secure the passage of democratic reforms during the last two years of the administration. But I am hopeful that we can make gains this year that will give us the assurances of enough gains the second year to assure us the senate for these democratic reforms. And yet, my friends, the vote may be so close that upon the vote of one senator will rest the fate of a bill; and the point that I want to make to those who have an opportunity to vote in this legislature is this: Are you prepared to express an individual dissent upon which may rest the fate of national legislation? Upon one vote in this legislature may depend the election of a senator. Upon the vote of that senator may depend the passage of a bill that means well or woe to eighty millions of people.

The records and a knowledge of the political conditions of the country show the magnitude of the task before the democrats if they undertake to secure a majority in the United States senate for the last two years of the administration beginning March 4, 1909. The changes necessary to realize on this democratic dream of future power would have to be made by the legislatures choosing senators to succeed these whose terms expire on March 4, 1909, and those whose terms expire on March 4, 1911. There are at present ninety-two members of the senate, of whom sixty-one are republicans and thirty-one are democrats, giving the republicans a majority of thirty. Accepting for granted that the states of the south now represented by democratic senators will continue to send democrats to the senate, the changes will have to be looked for in the states now represented by republicans. The republican members whose terms of service expire on March 4, 1909, are:

- Allison of Iowa. Ankeny of Washington. Brandagee of Connecticut. Dillingham of Vermont. Foraker of Ohio. Fulton of Oregon. Hays of North Dakota. Hendricks of Indiana. Heyburn of Idaho. Hollins of Illinois. Kittredge of South Dakota. Long of Kansas. Penrose of Pennsylvania. Perkins of California. Smart of Utah. Stephenson of Wisconsin.

Even the most enthusiastic democrats, Mr. Bryan among them, will hardly expect any political changes in the states enumerated. While the personnel of some of the senators may be changed, all indications are that the men named will be succeeded by republicans. On the other hand, the terms of Senators Newlands of Nevada and Teller of Colorado expire next March. While Senator Newlands may be re-elected, although Nevada is now a republican state, the return of a republican from Colorado to succeed Teller is generally accepted as certain. Senator Teller appreciates the situation and has formally declined to be a candidate for re-election. So that, instead of making gains in the senate that will go into office next March, the democrats will more probably lose at least one member.

The outlook for democratic gains in the senators whose terms of office begin March 4, 1911, is but slightly more promising. The republicans whose terms expire on that date are:

- Aldrich of Rhode Island. Beveridge of Indiana. Bulkeley of Connecticut. Burrows of Michigan. Carter of Montana. Clapp of Minnesota. Clark of Wyoming. Dewey of New York. Dick of Ohio. Doynt of Delaware. Flint of California. Hale of Maine. Keen of New Jersey. Knox of Pennsylvania. La Follette of Wisconsin. Lodge of Massachusetts. McCumber of North Dakota. Nixon of Nevada. Piles of Washington. Proctor of Vermont. Scott of Virginia. Sutherland of Utah. Warner of Missouri.

For the sake of argument, admit that democratic senators may be elected in 1911 in the states which Mr. Bryan thinks he can carry, or which are in any way debatable ground. Figure on one democratic senator from each of the states of Nebraska, Delaware, New Jersey, Nevada, Rhode Island and Missouri—and the democrats hardly have courage to claim more—and the party division in the senate would be: Republicans, fifty-five; democrats, thirty-seven, a clear republican majority of eighteen in a membership of ninety-two. Using Mr. Bryan's own argument, the democrats cannot hope to get control of congress within the lifetime of the next presidential administration.

PROMOTION FURNISHES A PRETTY GOOD

idea for the government of employees in other corporations as well as railroads.

INVESTING THE SCHOOL FUNDS.

In a public interview State Treasurer Brian is quoted as taking exception to the Bee's protest against the loaning of Nebraska's school funds to distasteful states like Tennessee and Utah on long time bonds that will tie the money up for many years, when by waiting until the pending constitutional amendment is passed this money can be kept at home by investment in bonds of Nebraska's cities and school districts without losing more than 1 per cent of interest for one year. Treasurer Brian thinks the Bee misses the point because the permanent school fund is accumulating at the rate of nearly \$1,000,000 a year, while the total bond issues of Nebraska cities and school districts last year did not exceed \$1,000,000, and, therefore, the current accumulations in coming years will suffice to take up all the new issues of such bonds. He thinks the difficulty will be the same after the field of investment securities is widened as it is now to secure enough bonds of Nebraska counties, cities and school districts to provide an outlet for all the school fund and favors giving the state board permission to loan out the money on real estate.

It strikes us that Treasurer Brian, himself, misses our point, which is that the money in the school fund should be kept at home and not sent to Tennessee and Utah because of an apparent profit of 1 per cent for one year. After the proposed constitutional amendment is adopted it will be just as easy for the state board to buy on the market outstanding city and school district bonds issued by Nebraska cities and school districts as it is now to buy state bonds issued by Tennessee and Utah. These municipal and school district bonds are maturing from time to time and being renewed or reissued in the course of a few years would all come into the possession of the school fund by direct purchase from the counties issuing them. We realize that this method of investment would not be popular with the bond brokers, who drive a good business selling bonds to the state, but we believe it would be popular with the taxpayers of Nebraska and with the public generally.

As for real estate loans for school fund investments, opinions are sure to differ. Nebraska started out loaning its school funds on real estate security, but soon developed a scandal of huge proportions which incidentally led up to the impeachment of one governor and, if we mistake not, some of the money loaned out has not been collected back to this day. Good real estate security is the best possible security, but the opportunities it offers for favoritism and financial juggling are too apt to prove dangerous.

A much needed reform in the handling of current state funds, begun by Treasurer Mortensen, has been worked out to completion by Treasurer Brian. We hope that before Treasurer Brian finishes his second term he will have accomplished the much needed reform in the investment of the permanent school fund.

DURUM WHEAT AND PURE FLOUR.

Wheat growers of the country, particularly those in the regions where the rainfall is slight and where durum wheat flourishes as will no other variety of that cereal, will be keenly interested in an action brought by the federal government charging certain Minneapolis millers with a violation of the pure flour law for having labeled as "Pure Hard Spring Wheat Flour," a flour which the millers admit is composed of a mixture of durum and hard spring wheat. The flour so labeled was shipped by a Minneapolis firm to a bakery at Richmond, Ind., where it was seized by the federal officials.

The first effect of the seizure will undoubtedly be to create the impression that durum wheat is not equal in quality to the hard spring wheat, but this is far from the fact. Experiments conducted by the Department of Agriculture show that, pound for pound, there is more muscle-producing material in durum wheat than in hard spring wheat. It is too "heavy" for the American taste, but has been found to add greatly to the food value of other wheats, when properly mixed. It cannot, under any circumstances, be considered an adulterant, in the offensive sense of the word, but adds to rather than detracts from the value of the spring wheat flour with which it is mixed. It is really a high-grade wheat, produces high-grade flour and when blended with spring wheat flour is especially desired by bakers and pastry makers.

Anything that would place durum wheat under the ban would be nothing short of a calamity to the wheat growers of the west. The production of durum wheat last year was about 60,000,000 bushels and most of it was raised in districts where, owing to the limited rainfall, other varieties of wheat cannot be raised successfully. The question involved in the seizure in Indiana is not as to the value of durum wheat flour, but purely whether a blended flour may be labeled as "manufactured from selected hard spring wheat." To an outsider it looks like a case of overzealousness on the part of the officials charged with the enforcement of the pure flour laws.

ON PRESIDENTIAL FIRING LINE.

Some Reasons Urged Why Bryan Should Retire from the Race.

New York World, (dem.). Mr. Bryan reported to have said that if a third of the party leaders were unfavorable to his candidacy, or if a third of the delegates to the Denver convention should be opposed to it, he would voluntarily retire. More than a third of the democratic leaders are already unfavorable to his candidacy. Indeed, a large majority of them are convinced that the greatest service he could render to his party would be to acquiesce in the nomination of a candidate like John A. Johnson, who could not only get the vote of those who have a fighting chance to carry states that Mr. Bryan could not possibly carry, and who would rehabilitate the democratic party even if he failed of election.

Mr. Bryan has said that he thought well of Governor Johnson, of Senator Culbertson and of Governor Hoke Smith, but that he strongly objected, "to another Parker." The World is in accord with him in this objection. It too has no desire to see another Parker nominated. It is asking only for a candidate of ability and conviction, who represents democratic doctrine, who can unite the party, who can appeal to the independent and dissatisfied republican vote and hold out to the democrats some hope of success, however faint that hope may be. Mr. Bryan cannot do this. There is no state that he lost in 1896 which he could carry in 1908. There is no electoral vote that he lost in 1900 which he could win back next year. The democratic party cannot afford to nominate Mr. Bryan and the World cannot understand why he should desire the nomination. Certainly another defeat will add no new laurels to the wreath he already wears.

King Gustav of Sweden wants to raise everybody's salary. If he should come over and run for president on that platform they would never get through counting his majority.

His Second Wind. Washington Herald. Just prior to the last democratic convention, Judge Alton B. Parker was the greatest human sphinx on earth; now he seems likely to develop into the greatest human phoebus.

A Discredited Mess. Louisville Courier-Journal. Thomas W. Lawson is going to get out of politics and let this depraved republic go right on to the bow-wheels because it is too profoundly cursed to worry with. And if he is too stupid to go upon his knees and beg the Boston statesman to be its Moses.

Thinking That's Work. Philadelphia Record (Ind.). It is reported that when Representative Champ Clark, speaking from the floor of the house, predicted the nomination of William J. Bryan by the Denver convention some republicans joined with the democrats in cheering. "That's not good," someone inquired; "now he seems likely to develop into the greatest human phoebus."

Use for the Millstream. New York Herald. Young Mr. Rockefeller has arrived at the conclusion that money is not good for the soul, and that it is not good for the poor if they had all the money and that he is looking for an outlet for his surplus. Our astute contemporary never fails to give expression to utterances of ineffable wisdom. Sociologists have devoted volumes to expressing the thought which has been so aptly and so wisely put into the coin of language. It was not long ago that a matter from another angle, a beneficent ordering of affairs if everybody in the United States were wealthy beyond compare. Life would be so much easier for the poor!

ABUSES IN CRIMINAL LAW.

Proposed Change in Procedure in Appeal Cases.

New York Sun. No critics have denounced the existing system of American criminal procedure more vigorously than two prominent federal officeholders, Mr. Justice Brewer of the United States supreme court and the Hon. William H. Taft, secretary of war. It is an interesting fact, in view of the denunciations in which these gentlemen have indulged, that the most conspicuous abuse in our criminal law arises out of the operation of a federal statute which congress has for many years vainly been asked to repeal.

We mean the statute under which a person convicted of crime in a state court may apply to a federal judge for a writ of habeas corpus, and upon the refusal to grant such writ may appeal from the order denying his application to the supreme court of the United States; such appeal operative of itself as a stay of all proceedings in the state courts until a determination is rendered by the supreme court of the United States.

Under this law a large number of appeals are taken every year in habeas corpus proceedings in capital cases which are utterly without any substantial merit. "The law is such," said Mr. Littlefield of Maine in congress the other day, "that it is only by a mere technicality that a prisoner is allowed to appeal to the supreme court of the United States, which delays the execution of a sentence anywhere from one to two years, as the case may be."

DR. BRYAN'S PANACEA. Proposed Guarantee of National Bank Deposits. New York Tribune. Three or four bills have been introduced in congress within the last few days providing for a guarantee of national bank deposits. Presumably the authors of these measures think there exists a public demand for such a guarantee. If so, why has it never been in evidence before? Why have depositors been perfectly content to put their money in banks, trusting to their own judgment to select established institutions of practical solvency under the control of safe and conservative bankers? It is always assumed, and with justice, too, that where there is a real demand private enterprise is ready to supply it. Why has no insurance company entered into the field of guaranteeing bank deposits? On practically every thing in which the risk is sufficiently large for the public to desire insurance against it a policy may be obtained. The fact is that the chance of ultimate loss through bank failure is negligible, and depositors are not sufficiently enlightened to enter the field, offering to insure their money against a risk which is so small that it could be a profitable business at a tenth of 1 per cent. If such private insurance is impracticable, why, supposing there is a public demand, do not the banks have not banks themselves, or associations and accordingly formed associations for the mutual insurance of one another's deposits? If there were any desire for such a guarantee the members of such mutual associations might have easily outdistanced their uninsured competitors in obtaining business.

Boomerang Politics. Pittsburgh Leader (Ind. rep.). Members of congress in both houses at this session are displaying much activity in the way of political dodging. The "rebuking of Roosevelt." They are doing it because they believe the "big interests" whom they served so long have succeeded in discrediting the president and that he no longer has the people back of him.

Why Not Taft? Sioux City Journal (rep.). The voice of Iowa republicans is for Taft. Shall the will of the people govern? William H. Taft has made good in the public stations to which he has been called. And it is well to emphasize the fact that he has been called. He retired from judicial office to accept the responsibility of the governorship of the Philippine islands. He has not been called to the supreme bench of the United States because it was made to appear that his service elsewhere could not well be spared. He is the trusted adviser and friend of Theodore Roosevelt, in whom the people of Iowa have large confidence. It is known in this state, as it is known elsewhere, that the president would be delighted to have the republican national convention name Taft as the standard-bearer of the party in the campaign of 1908.

Back in the Fold. Baltimore American (rep.). Leslie M. Shaw has resigned his position as president of the Carnegie Trust company, and it is indicated that he will return to politics. This would indicate that Mr. Shaw has faith in the development of a certain little boom that has been occasionally mentioned in the daily papers.

INCREASED RAILROAD SAFETY.

Effect of Law Limiting Hours of Telegraph Operators.

Chicago News. The managers of interstate railroads are getting ready for changes in operating methods made necessary by the law limiting the hours of labor of railroad employees. This act was approved March 4 last, to go into effect one year from that time. It provides that no telegraph or telephone operator, handling messages affecting the movement of railroad trains shall be on duty more than nine hours in twenty-four. When the act was passed it was thought that this provision would increase the demand for railroad telegraph operators. Now, however, it is reported that the managers are planning to substitute the telephone for the telegraph wherever possible and to employ women as telephone operators.

Presumably no very serious objection to the employment of women as telephone operators has been made on the score of impairing provisions for the safety of travelers. But from the point of view of the public, concerned also about broad social interests, any reorganization of a labor force which tends to draw more women from the home into industry is not desirable.

The new law and its promised enforcement have quickened railroad officials in the work of installing automatic block signal systems. By permanent improvements of this sort managers hope to avert the necessity of hiring more telegraph operators than they employ at present. Some of these officials predict that an indirect result of the new law will be to displace telegraphers almost altogether by automatic devices.

PERSONAL NOTES. The mayor of Evansville, Ind., has ordered the police to censor Mrs. Lela Carter's "Du Barry" costumes. He even directs those officers to appear in plain clothes.

John Adams charged George Washington with stealing \$2, in the Washington police court recently. You may give a boy a good name, but you can't make him live up to it all through life.

W. Pierpont Morgan has presented to the Jadwin Atheneum at Hartford, in memory of his father, fourteen volumes descriptive of his art collections in London and New York. Each volume is valued at \$1,000.

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Judge Smith of Texas has the distinction of representing the biggest district of any member of congress. It takes the Judge three days to make the trip from one end of his district to the other, and there are seven counties that must be looked after.

Joy Morton, the wealthy banker of Chicago, is hatching out a scheme to turn a desert country of Wyoming into a great garden, where 10,000 people may live and become independent. He is going to irrigate the section and when ready for cultivation he will sell the land at a nominal sum that almost anyone will buy for a long time it has been expected that Mrs. J. L. Gardner of Boston would provide by legacy that the famous Gardner collection shall go to the Museum of Fine Arts, but instead it is understood she will provide for the perpetual maintenance of the Fenway museum as a separate institution.

SUNNY GEMS. Mrs. Wick-Renn's eyes flashed. "Johnny doesn't like the weak chin of his from my side of the house!" she exclaimed.

"No, my dear," meekly responded her husband. "Johnny has my chin, but he inherits his mother's teeth."

"I've always contended," said Miss Passay, whose entrance had just been announced, "that a woman should marry at 25, but never before the age of 30. Indeed, I remain single because I know when I did you refuse Mr. Hoxmead, when he proposed you ten years ago?"—Philadelphia Press.

"I'm a little kind of hearing," said the man in the distance. "Did you say you were a 'deceptive' candidate?" "I said," replied the speaker, "with the air of being pained. 'Oh, excuse me,' rejoined the deaf auditor.—Philadelphia Leader.

"Would you send a man who uses profanity to congress?" "I don't know," replied Farmer Corntassel. "Of course I don't approve of profanity, but I'd just as soon have a man who is able to hold his own in any of them arguments that come up."—Washington Star.