

WORKING THE WORKING MAN

Recollections of Ben Butler Presidential Campaign in 1884.

BOOST, "WORKINGMAN'S FRIEND"

Success of the Circus Methods of the Noted Politician—How Butler's Candidacy Was Engineered.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago the national political situation strikingly resembled that of today. Two great parties arrayed against each other, with the ever present prohibition issue and one or two lesser ones on the outside, gave promise of a battle royal at the polls on the following November. Through the clever manipulations of two of the most astute politicians the country has ever produced, the old greenback party began to stir up and observe under the title of "the people's party," with General Benjamin F. Butler as its candidate and fusion for its object.

Important headquarters were opened at 29 Union Square, New York, and it was soon evident that an experienced hand was at the helm. Campaign literature began to flood the mails, and the knowing ones began to smile when the name of William A. Fowler, as chairman of the executive committee, appeared on the circulars. W. A. Fowler had been chairman of the executive committee of the democratic party during a former campaign and his ability and energy had at once been recognized.

Speakers were engaged and sent out in all directions; money flowed lavishly. A sort of underground connection between 29 Union Square and the Fifth Avenue hotel and the interest shown in the people's party by some prominent politicians soon caused the report that the campaign was a republican party side show, thinly disguised.

One morning I went to the office of the old Park theater, now the Field's Herald Square theater, and was handed a note, being informed that the messenger who left it had called back for an answer the second time. The note bore the heading of the people's party and requested me to call at the Union Square office, as it was signed by W. A. Fowler. I at once went to the headquarters and was soon in consultation with the keen old manipulator of men and things.

Making a Note.

"Charley," said he, "we want to make a noise that will be loud and long; that will begin at once and continue until the first of November. Meet me tonight at the Fifth Avenue and decide if you will undertake a real old-fashioned circus boom for the people's candidate for president, and if so, on what terms. This much is important, you are to begin at once, can have all the help you want, and will not be stinted as to money for expenses."

One morning a switch engine kicked the trolley car Eliska Gerster down through the road and into a quiet corner of the great shed of the old Forty-second street railway station. The placard "Private" displayed on each platform kept the traveler away, but supply wagons came and went. Henry Pickett, porter in charge, with ruck and walter, checked off the supplies as they arrived. But it was not until General Butler, with Colonel Abergner, his secretary, paid a visit and was entertained at luncheon that the startling truth dawned on the political world.

The New York daily newspapers gave the outfit a column description each the next morning, and, in spite of the usual press agents' efforts at secrecy, kept it up, with remarks both humorous and lurid, according to the political creed of the various editors.

From a room in the Fifth Avenue hotel the work of manufacturing a boom soon extended to the offices of the Mann Boulevard Car company, those to the general offices of the New York Central railroad, where bundles of printing, all packed, were addressed to station agents along the lines on which contracts had been made for the hauling of the "General Butler Special." These agents instructed from the operating offices of the different roads, summoned the local billposters, and in one week's time the dead walls and billboards of every city, town and hamlet in the state were covered with great posters announcing that the hero of New Orleans, the people's candidate for president, would speak, either in or near the towns wherein these announcements appeared. A score of agents started through the state (it had been decided to confine the campaign to the then supposed doubtful state of New York), organizing reception committees to work up interest in the speaking dates, engage bands of music and, in fact, insure a crowd. Thus, by the adoption of circus methods the candidate of the people's party was eagerly expected all over the state, and the cause of the common people began to assume important proportions.

The general was billed to speak at Saratoga October 15 at 11 o'clock a. m. Where he would arrive from or how was not stated.

The country was then ready for the campaign to open in earnest. The "stars" headline "For He is a Working Man," the full descriptions of the cost and elegance of the car, the fact that it cost \$25,000 and was chartered at \$150 a day until election, and the list of supplies for the tour made the people of the state eager to see the gilded band wagon of the party and hear the kirkled old warrior speak; and the stories flashed over the wires were all used by the up-state press and read by the up-state people, often to the exclusion of more important matter. The Boston Globe and the New York Sun vigorously supported the movement.

Oil for the Whistle.

On the occasion of the general's first visit to the car the suggestion that he sample the liquids provided for the trip was met with an inquiry as to what we had on board. "Anything you wish to order," was the reply. "Well, give me a little Medford rum," came the answer like a flash. Now, although the, or rather a, list of our supplies had been published and commented on in no complimentary way (for we had an extensive stock), we had no Medford, and the quiet smile of the old general showed his satisfaction. He loved victory. The next day a cab halted before the door of the largest "provision" house in the city.

"Have you any old Medford rum?" I asked.

"I think we have a little." And they had just one case and a half of very old Medford.

"What's the price?"

"Three dollars a bottle."

"I'll take it all."

But the firm would not part with all the treasure to one customer, though a case was soon in the cab en route to the car.

When the general next visited the car the butler placed a bottle of the old Medford before him with glasses and water, he carefully decanted about a spoonful into the glass, pass it gracefully under a nose indicative of good living, sniffed it cautiously, then tasted it. Setting his glass on the table he examined the bottle, eyed me cautiously, then poured out a good stiff drink, added a little water, and sipped the mixture with evident satisfaction. "How much of this have you on board?" "One case, and I can get no more." "Keep I for me, and give the politicians the champagne," directed General Butler. And Medford rum was the only spirit served to him during the tour.



# Why the Doctor Gives His Patients Schlitz Beer

Nurse: "Why is it, Doctor, that you use Beer instead of malt extract?"

Doctor: "Schlitz Beer, Nurse. Because I have found that my patients assimilate it better and that there are no ill effects. Have you found anyone under your charge who did not benefit from it?"

Nurse: "No, Doctor. While some patients at the Hospital where I was before were sickened by malt extract, I have never noticed such result from Schlitz Beer here. Even those just recovering from an operation retain Schlitz Beer. Often it is the only food they can take."

Doctor: "It is the best nourishment. The care given its brewing, even to cooling it in filtered air, makes Schlitz Beer so pure that no harm can come from it. Schlitz Beer, too, has a richness in food value, greater than I have found in any other beer, due to the barley, hops and yeast used."

Nurse: "Why is it, Doctor, Schlitz never causes biliousness?"

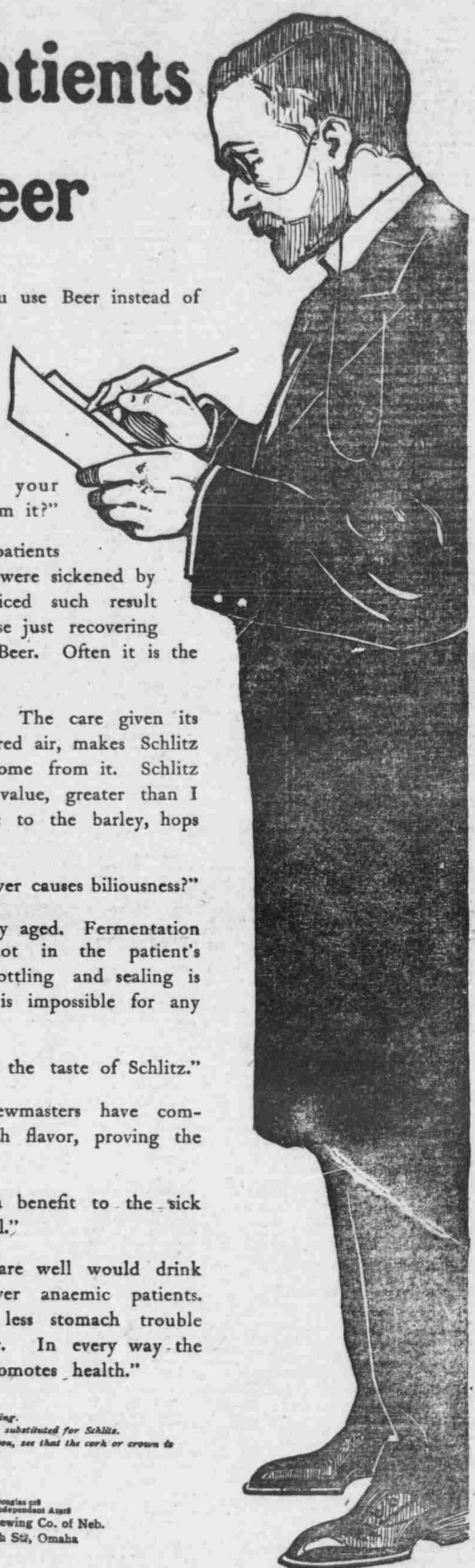
Doctor: "Because Schlitz is thoroughly aged. Fermentation is completed at the brewery, not in the patient's stomach. The final step after bottling and sealing is the sterilization through which it is impossible for any germ to exist."

Nurse: "My patients seem to enjoy the taste of Schlitz."

Doctor: "Yes. Even old world brewmasters have complimented Schlitz on its full rich flavor, proving the goodness of all the materials."

Nurse: "If Schlitz Beer is such a benefit to the sick it ought to be good for the well."

Doctor: "It is. And if those who are well would drink more of it we would have fewer anaemic patients. We would have less stomach trouble and nerve disorder. In every way the use of Schlitz promotes health."



# Schlitz

Ask for the Brewery Bottling. Common Beer is sometimes substituted for Schlitz. To avoid being imposed upon, see that the cork or crown is branded Schlitz.

Phone Douglas 678 Independent Agent Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. of Neb. 719 So. 9th St., Omaha

## The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous

When the eventful day arrived we pulled out for our first run to Albany. Every town along the route had its delegation of admirers at the station, but no stops were made, as the first speech was scheduled for Saratoga. This extract from a Syracuse Journal will show the tone of the average meeting:

The hon'ry handed son of toil, General Butler, candidate of the workmen and of the people's party, rolled into town today on the boulevard car, Eliska Gerster. It is the first trip of the car, which is just from the shop, and cost \$25,000, and the workmen's candidate pays \$150 a day for its use. The car is furnished with a royal dining room, four magnificent sleeping rooms and lavatories. The walls and the ceiling are covered with heavily embossed leather, and the general has a writing desk of carved Spanish Walnut. He also can look at the people's candidate in a large number of costly mirrors and can keep out the light by dropping costly tapestry.

After picturing with paths the pad estate of the workman who wears patched trousers and can't get enough to eat, the orator went from the Grand Opera house to his car, where dinner was served by his cook. His remarks about the horrors of famine were particularly effective when it is remembered that before his car left New York it was loaded with cases of champagne, extra dry; one case of sherry, one case of brandy of 1855, one case of rye whiskey of 1857, one case of claret, six bottles of port, four dozen of lager, four dozen of ale, four dozen of ginger ale and fifty quarts of charged water, besides other of life's necessities. Neither will the workman's friend be disturbed by the ordinary noise of a car, for the floor is deadened with cork and paper matts, and the ventilation is also perfect. On the exterior of the car are examples of Landseer in stained glass.

General Butler was expected to speak from the balcony of the Wieting Opera house, but on account of the rain the meeting was adjourned to the Grand Opera house, where a great republican side show came off. The house was packed from pit to ceiling.

After the principal street welcomed "The Hero of New Orleans," veterans of the civil war in the army blue were on every hand. We were delighted with our chief's reception when, to our astonishment, a procession headed by a band of musicians playing "Marching Through Georgia" filed into the square opposite the railway station. Just in the rear of the band were two stalwart standard bearers, each carrying a

huge silver spoon at least ten feet above the heads of the crowd. We were all aghast and expected the general to be very indignant, when he burst into the heartiest laugh we had heard from him during the campaign. "Good," said he. "Capital." No candidate for the presidency or any other office was ever greeted with such proof of the hatred of his logical enemies.

of course. Who else would I vote for? "Wh," said the pest. "I have been through this entire train and you are the only man on the train that will not vote for Blaine." "Have ye?" Well, to b-l with this trifle! You wait till the gravel train comes along and see who they'll vote for!" And it was the gravel train that delivered the goods for the Buffalo candidate, but they never considered General Butler as a serious proposition and consequently did not vote for him.—New York Herald.