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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.

VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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MR. BRYAN ON THE TRUSTS.

"The democratic party has been urging, year after year, the strict enforcement of the Sherman anti-trust law," said Mr. Bryan in his speech at Indianapolis on occasion of the notification of Candidate Kern, and the statement is in keeping with most of the arguments and declarations made through the rest of his speech. The Sherman anti-trust law has been on the statute books for eighteen years. In four years of that time the democrats were in complete control of both branches of congress, of which Mr. Bryan was a member, yet the record fails to disclose one effort of the party to secure the enforcement of the law. The first real step in that direction was taken under a republican administration, which, by an amendment to the law, covering the rebate feature of trust abuses, made effective enforcement of the law possible.

In arguing in favor of the Denver platform's proposition to prohibit a corporation from controlling more than 50 per cent of the total amount of any product consumed in the United States Mr. Bryan declares that "when a corporation controls 50 per cent of a product it supplies 40,000,000 people with that product." This might be important, if it were true. But whenever such a condition has even been approached experience has proven that the field is sufficiently inviting to induce independent concerns to combat the trust. The alleged monopolies of which Mr. Bryan complains are theoretically useful, but are practically impossible. No one knows this better than Mr. Bryan, who prefers to deal in theories rather than established facts.

The traveling man is the object of deep concern on Mr. Bryan's part. In 1896 Mr. Bryan exuded volumes of oratory and rhetoric to prove that if the free silver fad was rejected by the American voters the traveling man would have to pack his grip and hunt another job, as the country would go to the bow-wows and people would not have the money with which to buy goods, even if they wanted them. This year Mr. Bryan is predicting that the traveling salesman will have to quit the road unless the democratic position on trusts is ratified by democratic success at the polls in November. The mere fact that there are more traveling men on the road today, working for better wages than ever before and pushing the products of competing manufacturers and jobbers in every line of commodities, does not bother Mr. Bryan at all.

On the proposition that trusts, or licensed corporations, should sell their products "to all purchasers in all parts of the country at the same terms, after making due allowance for the cost of transportation," Mr. Bryan runs directly counter to a proposition laid down by him in his address before the Chicago conference on trusts in 1893. This would absolutely destroy competition and make the traveling man, for whom Mr. Bryan is so keenly concerned, wholly unnecessary. In his Chicago speech Mr. Bryan denounced the trusts because they compelled the man who owned an article, wool, for instance, to sell to one man at one price all over the United States. If Mr. Bryan would have the corporations sell their products at one price everywhere why should he not allow them to buy their raw materials at one uniform price all over the country?

No one will argue with Mr. Bryan on the necessity of controlling and regulating corporations of all kinds in their relations to the public, but thinking men will be slow to agree with the remedies he proposes. The remedy will come through the correction of abuses that grow out of operations of the so-called trusts. In any attempt to stifle industry or prevent competition, and cannot be found, as Mr. Bryan suggests, in an effort to limit ownership in corporations to 25 per cent of stock, or production to 50 per cent. The evil is one that will have to be settled by regulation, according to the republican plan, and not by platitudes or mathematics, as suggested by Mr. Bryan.

THE WORLD'S WATER SUPPLY.

One of the first lessons in the old school geographies was that about three-fourths of the earth's surface was covered with water, and later on the class in physical geography learned that under the land surface was a great subterranean sea, covering every inch of the globe. Now it appears that this water supply is being exhausted so rapidly that the subterranean sea is getting shallower every year, while the lakes and rivers are rapidly drying up.

Striking statements on the depletion of the world's water supply are made in a bulletin recently issued by the geological survey. The bulletin contains statistics showing the result of extensive investigations made by the experts in this branch of the government service in every part of the country. The report shows that in digging or boring for water the water level has lowered between seven and fourteen feet throughout the entire United States. In other words, the man who digs a well in any part of the country has to go from seven to fourteen feet deeper to find water than he would have done twenty-five years ago.

The geological survey offers some explanations of this lowering of the water level, which include the hint of a remedy. One explanation is that the taking from the earth of such vast quantities of oil and natural gas, the development of which industry has been remarkable in the last quarter of a century, has created an emptiness which nature is filling up with water. The experts are not prepared to make predictions or definite statements on the subject, but incline to

the opinion that if this drain on the oil, gas and mineral deposits is continued the water supply will naturally continue to find a lower level.

The ill effects of this reduction of the water supply cannot be over estimated. Each lowering of the level under the earth's surface increases the dryness of the tillable portion of the soil and increases the possibilities of drought. It is probable, too, that the destruction of the forests has helped much toward lowering the water level and injuring the value of the soil. The warnings of the geological survey should prove another incentive to congressional action looking to the preservation of the forests and the conservation of all the country's natural resources.

A SPUR TO CURRENCY REFORM.

Secretary Cortelyou of the Treasury department has discovered three words in the Aldrich-Vreeland emergency currency bill, passed by the last congress, that are certain to hasten action looking to further amendment of the national currency laws and which have already caused a reopening of the plan to secure a physical valuation of the American railroads.

When Senator Aldrich withdrew the provision of the bill making railway bonds available as security for new issues of emergency currency it was generally thought that that feature of the measure had been eliminated. Careful reading of the law as passed, however, discloses the fact that after a description of the bonds and securities available as a basis for such emergency issues appeared the words "and any other securities," approved by the secretary of the treasury. The three words cover railroad stocks and bonds, commercial paper and anything else the secretary might approve. Mr. Cortelyou has accordingly asked the Interstate Commerce commission to give him such information as is obtainable as to the value of any railroad bonds or stocks as may be tendered to him.

As there are some \$15,000,000,000 of railroad and other bonds and securities outstanding that might be offered as a basis for emergency currency issues, the proposition confronting the secretary and the commission is a formidable undertaking. It is not probable that Secretary Cortelyou will have any occasion to pass upon the value of such securities, as there seems little prospect that there will be any issue of the emergency currency authorized by the bill, but the discretionary power lodged in the secretary is alarmingly large, and might lead to serious results in the hands of an unworthy official or in case of great financial stress. The difficulty is complicated by the fact that emergency currency issues are most likely to be asked at times when values of such securities as those allowed in the measure are uncertain and unstable.

The Aldrich-Vreeland bill was admittedly a makeshift and the discovery of the clause which opens the way for the admission of all kinds of securities as a basis for emergency currency issues will unquestionably serve as a spur to congress to take up further and full revision of the currency laws with the least possible delay.

KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

A masquerading letter writer essays to make a point in the democratic World-Herald on The Bee's comment on the Baltimore Sun's bait of Bryan, in which we referred to the Sun's support of Bryan in 1896 as being "without enthusiasm in order to keep its record straight." The letter writer, who is afraid to sign his own name, concludes his explosion thus:

"To keep its record straight," eh? The Sun's record for democracy is left just about as straight as that of a porch climber or shell-game man for honesty. That is just what was said about Mr. Bryan when he embraced Parker and the Wall Street gang in 1904 to keep his record straight. We would advise in this connection reference to the speech made by Tom Watson at the populist state convention at Lincoln in the fall of that year in which he told, without mincing words, what he thought of Mr. Bryan's abandonment of his former allies. If we recall correctly, Watson in substance denounced Mr. Bryan as a Benedict Arnold. A backslider, a deserter, a partisan who cared more for party regularity than for principle, and various other similar pet names.

If the Baltimore Sun supported Bryan in 1896 to keep its record straight, did it do anything worse than Mr. Bryan did when, to keep his record straight, he supported Goldbug Parker after having hired a ball in Chicago to denounce him publicly and to deny that he was entitled to call himself a democrat? It hardly becomes any Bryanite to draw comparisons with "a porch climber or a shell-game man."

ONE CENT A MILE.

The action of the Union Pacific Railroad company in making a special rate of 1 cent a mile for festival occasions in Nebraska may not be accepted as establishing a precedent for future United States. But it does show a spirit that is not only commendable, but worthy of emulation. The Union Pacific, in common with the other Nebraska railroads, stoutly resisted the enactment of the 2-cent fare law and ever since has withheld favors that were formerly granted the public in the way of special rates for special occasions. Its action at present is a certain indication of restored sanity.

The most pleasing feature, perhaps, of the Union Pacific's action is that the rate is granted with a cordiality that shows no bitterness lurking behind it. Other railroads in Nebraska have made slight concessions in passenger tariff for the State fair, but have done so grudgingly. The cent-a-mile fare of

the Union Pacific comes with a grace so cheerful that the people will wonder what has come over the spirit of the railroad dream.

The opening of another large tract of land on the Sioux Indian reservation is not a sign that there are fewer Indians, but means that the Indians are making better use of their land. Instead of chasing jackrabbits and similar small deer across broad acres of fertile prairie, the noble red man today is raising corn and wheat and improving his stock within fenced enclosures. These are some facts commended to the good people of the east when they are making up their estimate of the west.

Traveling men who make the smaller towns in Nebraska and come very much in touch with the sentiment of the voters, find very little reason for the belief that Mr. Bryan will pull any stronger in his own state than he did in 1900, when he failed to carry it. The Bryan enthusiasm exists mainly in the offices of a few newspapers whose business it is to beat the tomtom and try to distract the voters by their noise.

Senator Tillman, in an interview in Paris, says Bryan should win because it is bad policy to allow one party to remain in power indefinitely. Senator Tillman has no objection to allowing the democratic party to remain in power indefinitely in the south, and has contributed his best effort to the disfranchisement of the negro in order to keep the democrats in power and Benjamin Ryan Tillman in office.

Omaha should have had a western wool market by right of discovery, but it appears that the Gate City, if it gets it at all, will have it by right of conquest. But this will not be the first fight that Omaha has had with Chicago, nor will it be the first victory that Omaha has won from the great city by the lakes.

The Bryan campaign committee of Baltimore has resolved to raise money for the establishment of a "permanent democratic daily newspaper" in that city. The democratic papers of Baltimore refuse to stand bitted so long as Mr. Bryan is running.

"David B. Hill's active support of Bryan would mean a large increase in Bryan's vote in New York," says the Nashville American. Exactly, and that's perhaps the reason Mr. Hill refuses to actively support Mr. Bryan.

The republican opponent of John A. Johnson in the race for governor of Minnesota is not only a Scandinavian, but he eats pie with a knife. No wonder Governor Johnson did not want a renomination.

"The mountains will not come to E. H. Harriman," says the Washington Post. Any mountain that will not come to E. H. Harriman is apt to be punished by having a tunnel run through it.

Minister Wu Ting-fang may be promoted by his government to be an ambassador, but he will hardly become too dignified to ask questions.

Colonel Bryan says he is willing to make up with Colonel Guffey, who reports two parties are necessary to a reconciliation.

General Prosperity's growing army. Hundreds of men are being added to the forces in the mills every few days, and thus good old general prosperity is coming into command of his invincible army.

Lining Up for the Start.

If there is any vice presidential nominee who has been overlooked by the notification committees let him speak up. Time is flying, and the campaign should be under full headway as soon as possible.

A POOL FOR LUCK.

Distrusting the banks, a Morrilton, Ark., man buried \$30,000 in greenbacks in an old well in 1904. For the decaying mass which he dug up the other day he has been able to collect \$3,955, thanks to the efforts of a treasury redemption expert. Sometimes a fool and his money have great and undeserved luck.

Veterans of the Quail Tracks.

The appearance of Benn Pitman, at the age of 86, on the platform of the national shorthand reporters' convention, recalls how large a part of the progress of that useful art has been made in the lifetime of men now living. The bone of shorthand is the multiplication of privately constructed systems, largely for the advertising advantage of the promoters. Standardization, on approved fundamentals, is now shorthand's greatest need.

A CHANCE FOR EVERYBODY.

Postmaster General Meyer believes that postal savings banks, which would absolutely insure depositors against loss and pay them interest on their deposits besides a more needed and more desired than a guarantee bank deposit law, which would assure the depositors of savings banks having no stockholders to insure the depositors of large banks against the risk incurred through dishonest or negligent officials of such banks. And besides, the postal savings banks would be accessible in hundreds of thousands of depositories who now have no convenient banking facilities.

Cuba for the Cubans.

Baltimore American. Cuba will be turned over to the Cubans next year. Then the United States will have made the magnificent record, opposed to all precedent in dealings of great nations with inferior ones, of having rescued a suffering and weak people from their oppressors, relinquished possibilities of vast gain for itself, spent time and money in putting the weaker nation in a condition to profit by its independence and then presented it with its national freedom as an unforced gift. It is at this time impossible to forecast the vast moral influence which this action will have upon the future destiny of the world in its relation to human liberty.

ON PRESIDENTIAL FIRING LINE.

Mr. Bryan's Preference for Buttered Side of His Bread.

Brooklyn Eagle (ind. dem.). Charles A. Walsh, once secretary of the democratic national committee, has written a letter setting forth some of the reasons why organized labor should not support the democratic ticket this year. Here is one of them:

"In the southern states the democratic party has always controlled the lawmakers. I want to fairly call your attention to the labor legislation of the various states and make the charge, the truthfulness of which will be recognized by every man, that, speaking generally, no section of this union has poorer laws for the protection of labor than those states always known as democratic. In no other states do we find worse conditions as to child labor, the farming out of convicts to contractors and other abuses."

It must be admitted that there is warrant for the indictment. Nor will it be easy to answer this:

You depend on an obscure and meaningless place in the Denver platform, you ignore the history of the party, the character of its machinery, the evidence of its own laws, where it has had power to make the laws.

Organized labor has no better friend than Bryan in common with those who that friendship can be safely shown. He is the champion of those who are governed without their consent providing they do not live in the south. The preferences of that section must always be consulted, whether they are for child or convict labor or for the shotgun at the polls. Mr. Bryan knows on which side his political bread is buttered.

A Political Barometer.

Philadelphia Press (rep.). The abolition of early elections in all the close states deprives the country of any authoritative preliminary indicator of the political weather in the year of a presidential election. Oregon holds its election in early June, before the presidential issue has been fairly joined. Arkansas is a September state, but furnishes no evidence in its vote that is helpful in contested states. Georgia is shot much better, but Maine and Vermont, in the fluctuations of their September vote, have frequently prophesied the outcome of the general November election.

Vermont holds its state election next Tuesday. It chooses a governor and state ticket, and while the national campaign is hardly begun, the result of the Vermont election will be awaited with special interest as showing in a measure the political drift. Vermont is not a changeable state. From 16,000 to 17,000 votes are about all the democrats can show, while the republicans usually run up forty or fifty thousand. They received 16,179 in 1896 and McKinley 31,127. In 1900 Bryan did better and the republican ticket did not fare as well, but four years ago Roosevelt received 40,489 and Parker 5,779.

Vermont manifestly is stronger even in Vermont than Party C. Four years ago at the state election in Vermont the republican ticket received 6,115 votes and the democrats 16,566. While local considerations modify state results and make them a rather uncertain guide, nevertheless the rise or fall of the republican or democratic vote in the Vermont election on September 1, will, as compared with four years ago, have value as a political barometer in forecasting election probabilities.

Mr. Taft and the Tariff.

Philadelphia Ledger (ind.). Mr. Taft's attitude on the tariff is almost exactly in line with President McKinley's impressive farwell speech at Buffalo, in which he indicated with firmness and unmistakable clearness that in his opinion the time had come to reform the tariff. The tariff schedules are admittedly antiquated and injurious to manufacturers and consumer. The tariff is not the main issue. If Mr. Taft shall be elected he will have a congress with him, and may effect a large measure of reform in good order and for the benefit of the whole country. If Mr. Bryan be elected, he can do nothing except to make a disturbance with a house and senate hostile to him. But if the tariff were the chief issue, and if Mr. Bryan could away congress to his will, the country and business would be safer with Taft in command than with Bryan.

The great need of the country is a season of sanity and recuperation and reforms carried on in a moderate and reasonable manner. The most eager tariff reformers may well doubt the benefit that would accrue to the country, even in the name of tariff revision from a season of dislocation, perturbations and radical treatment of the tariff or any other question at the hands of Mr. Bryan.

The issue is, shall Taft or Bryan be entrusted with the guidance of the nation for four years? Careful people who think well of their country know in which direction the risks lie.

Doesn't Look Doubtful.

Kansas City Times (ind.). The republicans of Missouri, at the primary election this month, polled 50 per cent of the tremendous Roosevelt vote of 1904, when Roosevelt carried Missouri by 35,000. And this vote was polled without a contest of any kind of sufficient importance to induce a large attendance of republicans at the primaries.

The Kansas democrats at the primary election polled less than 50 per cent of the very small vote given Parker in 1904, when Roosevelt carried Kansas by more than 35,000. And the Kansas democrats had three candidates for governor who canvassed the state before the primary election.

What reason have the Bryan managers for claiming that Kansas is a "doubtful state" and Missouri "safely democratic"? In view of the showing made in the primary contest?

Merely a Straw.

New York Times (ind.). The Sunday Times reported yesterday its continued canvass of sentiment among workmen and employers in this city with respect to the republican, democratic, independence league, socialist and prohibition candidates for the presidency. Of 1,562 secret ballots cast 1,029 were for Mr. Taft. In the canvass of the week preceding the republican candidate had 642 of 779 total ballots, while Mr. Bryan's votes on both occasions averaged less than one-third of Mr. Taft's. The "army of the unemployed" was not represented in the balloting.

If straw show at all the drift of political sentiment, we infer that Mr. Bryan might win among the voters of this democratic city in some campaign when its unemployed outnumber its workers.

Bringing Courts into Disrepute.

Philadelphia Ledger. The statements of attorneys and others interested in the Thaw case indicate that the Thaw "brain storm" is to be surpassed. The new ailment for use in defense is to be some sort of "reciprocal insanity," or a kind of nervous tension generated by one "high-strung" and free personality and communicated to another with the direct result that both become insane. The plea of insanity used in relation to defendants in these days is of such a sort that, if the argument is sound, ninety-nine in every hundred Americans at large ought to be incarcerated. The consciousness of this fact in the minds of the public brings tribunals into disrepute.

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DISREGARDED PRECEDENTS.

Times When Presidential Candidates Observed Strict Silence.

Indianapolis News. The modern practice of speech-making by presidential candidates is in marked contrast to the early practice. In former times a candidate was considered unbecomingly indiscreet if he made any open effort in his own behalf and candidates generally observed strict silence. The theory was that if a candidate opened his mouth to say anything or even wrote the most commonplace letter it would be used against him.

General Scott, who candidate for president in 1852, owed his defeat in part to two innocent, but unfortunate expressions, used by him long before his nomination. In 1846, when he expected to be ordered to Mexico, he bespoke the support of the administration for his military plans by saying in a published letter that "soldiers had a far greater dread of a fire upon the rear than of the most formidable enemy in the front." For this expression President Polk declined to order him to Mexico at that time, and when Scott was nominated for president six years later, he never heard the last of "the fire upon the rear." The other expression occurred in a note to the secretary of war. One day the secretary called at General Scott's office and found that he was absent. On returning and learning that the secretary had called, the general wrote a note in explanation of his absence, saying that he "had only stepped out for the moment to take a hasty plate of soup." When he was nominated for president, the "hasty plate of soup" figured in all sorts of caricatures and brought upon him ridicule that he did not deserve. Abraham Lincoln, a frequent speaker prior to his nomination, did not utter a word publicly during the campaign. He made no addresses, wrote no public letters and held no conferences. His letter of acceptance contained only 14 words. The practice