

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Weaver has in succeeding seasons preached succeeding doctrines, he still has a considerable following. He has jumped from party to party, flitted from idea to idea, with surprising agility; but through all the years and in all his wanderings he has never wanted a following. Today, while the majority of the people of Iowa ridicule the versatile politician and condemn his views, he is generally given credit for sincerity and personal integrity. It was natural that Mr. Bryan, as he crossed the western border of Iowa, on his way from Lincoln to New York, should early find himself in the receptive arms of General Weaver, whose advocacy of flatism was in the full vigor and swing of maturity when Mr. Bryan was yet encompassed in the swaddling clothes of infancy. Iowans who sought to pay tribute to Mr. Bryan fell, easily and naturally, behind the ex-greenbacker.

When one considers certain aspects of Iowa's history one is prepared to believe that the people of that state are particularly susceptible to the doctrines taught by Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan himself has long since dismissed Iowa from all consideration as a sure silver state, and public opinion in many sections of the country is ready to endorse his confidence. But a little investigation will show that Mr. Bryan and his friends, who have so glibly settled the matter of Iowa's political adherence in this campaign, have drawn largely upon their imagination and desire. No intelligent person can ride across the state, talk to the people, and look into local conditions, without coming to the conclusion that Iowa is securely fixed in the republican column. The facts and figures are all against the claim set up by Bryan and his managers. The Weaver idea still exists, but it is making no headway. There has been no great change in public sentiment in Iowa. The conditions this year are, practically, the same as obtained two years ago or four years ago.

In 1895 F. M. Drake, the republican candidate for governor, received 208,714 votes. W. I. Babb, the democratic candidate, received 149,428 votes. The people's party candidate received 32,189 votes, and Bacon, the prohibition candidate, 11,014 votes. Drake was elected governor by a plurality of 59,286. His majority over all contesting candidates was 16,083 votes. Mr. Bryan or any one else who contends that Iowa will give a plurality for free silver this year must account for a tremendous change in sentiment. A republican plurality of nearly 60,000 votes cannot be wiped out by glib gabble. The more one talks with the people the more one is convinced that this plurality will be increased rather than diminished.

Judge Babb, the democratic candidate for governor last year, is a conservative man. At his home, in Mt. Pleasant, he is regarded as much more than ordinarily cautious and discreet. He has something of a local reputation as a political prophet. "McKinley will carry Iowa by not less than 40,000," he said. "There will be a considerable democratic disaffection. I would say that Bryan will lose one-sixth of the regular party vote, or about 25,000 votes. Of these 25,000 votes, 15,000 will go for the sound money democratic ticket, if one should be placed in the field and the remaining 10,000 will be cast for McKinley. Of course there are some re-

publicans who will vote for free silver, but at the outside there will not be a republican loss of more than 25,000. It may be considerably less. But supposing 25,000 people who voted for the republican candidate for governor last year should vote for Bryan this year, there would still be a republican plurality, supposing my other estimates are correct, of about 44,000."

These figures were submitted to people of all shades of political belief, and they were generally accepted as an intelligent, conservative estimate. One or two populists were found who laughed them to scorn. It is the opinion of most of the prominent republicans who are given to figuring that McKinley will carry Iowa over 60,000 to 100,000. The venerable ex-United States Senator, James Harlan, whose political judgment passes current in all parts of Iowa, says there will be some shifting in political parties this year, but he expects any republican losses to be more than offset by accessions from the democratic party. He says Iowa is safely republican. There is a good deal of free silver sentiment in the Sixth and Eighth congressional districts. The western part of the state has been affected by the populist breeze from Nebraska. On the other hand, wherever the Germans are found in any considerable numbers there is a marked enhancement in republican, or McKinley, strength. Scott county, in which is located the city of Davenport, gave Babb, democratic, a plurality of 2,000 votes last year. Davenport has a large German population and is a democratic stronghold. This year the Germans are practically solid for McKinley and sound money. Their papers are all opposing the Bryan ticket and platform. It is claimed that Scott county will go republican by from 1,500 to 2,500 this year.

For twenty-five years Iowa has gone republican in every presidential election. In 1892 Harrison received 219,795 and Cleveland 196,397 votes. General Weaver was a candidate for president in 1892, and in his own state, where his popularity is conceded, he received only 20,596 votes. The populist strength in Iowa reached its maximum in 1894, when 34,000 votes were cast for the state ticket. The following year, as already noted, it was 32,000. In the election of 1894 a republican congressman was elected in each of the eleven districts. General Weaver was defeated for congress in the Ninth district, two years ago, by a vote of 21,874 to 13,517.

The republicans of Iowa are aroused now as they have not been aroused for years, and there is a determination among the leaders to make McKinley's plurality exceed that given for Drake last year. The people are prosperous and, as a rule, contented. There is every indication that the state is getting away from the vagaries of Weaver and his like, and settling into Keystone state conservatism.

McKinley and Bryan! What a contrast! There is an instructive lesson in the personnel of the two candidates for president of the United States. In this country we are wont to regard the office of president as the most exalted political honor in the gift of man. We expect the president, and the man who expects to be president, to be dignified, to inspire us with respect. The campaign is on. We expect the candidates to remain quietly at their homes, wait-

ing the verdict of the people. We go to Mr. Bryan's home in this city, and we find that the candidate is not there. "He is down east," they tell us. We turn our eyes to the east and what do we see? Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, like some rural Mary and John, taking their first ride on the cars. There they go, studying their time tables, rushing aimlessly hither and thither, accepting invitations from people they never saw, riding through great men's grounds when the great men are absent. Mr. Bryan is talking all the time. "Whenever I see a crowd, I want to talk," he said Monday. And he told the truth. He talks from the rear platform of railway cars, and he talks from the front platform. He talks from the sidewalks and through car windows and through his hat. And what does he say? Can his most ardent admirer show us anything in his speeches since he left New York city that is not commonplace and repetition? He gives us the same old platitudes, the same old venerated demagoguery, the same old sentimental nonsense. Not a new idea—not even new words. He has a reputation as an orator, and yet we venture to say that no candidate for president in twenty-five years has in the same space of time made so many speeches, and such poor ones, as has Mr. Bryan in the last two weeks.

We go to Canton, and what do we find? We find Major McKinley at home, and we learn he has been at home ever since he was nominated. We see him living quietly and unostentatiously, as becomes a plain, sensible American citizen. We see him receiving callers with dignity, and responding to the demands made upon him with rare good judgment and infinite tact. If anyone doubted Major McKinley's greatness, his largeness of mind and heart, before the St. Louis convention, that doubt must have been dispelled since his nomination. He has lived up to the requirements of his position. He has sustained himself under a trying ordeal as few men have ever sustained themselves. He has, day by day, won increasing respect from the people of the country. He has vindicated American statesmanship. He has held aloft the standard of American manhood. Disdaining the stratagems of the demagogue, he has appealed to the honor and patriotism of the nation. Major McKinley's informal addresses from his porch in Canton have been a constant revelation of power and wisdom. They stamp him as a statesman, patriot and gentleman. If the world wants to see a typical American gentleman, let the world look at William McKinley as he passes his days, in this trying time, in Canton.

W. MORTON SMITH.

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