

Ink Slings.

Are you comin' to the centenary Of good old Centre county? There'll be fun for everyone to take, Without a cent of bounty, There'll be races and pink lemonade, And ginger cake and speakers Who will clear their throats and try to drown The thousand other squeakers.

—It is to be hoped that the Japanese dry-dock will prove a speedy cure for our noble battleship Oregon.

—It will be in order now for some of our fanatical Republican contemporaries to accuse BRYAN of being in sympathy with the atrocious Boxer outrages in China.

—The cows of the workmen in the fire clay mines at Monument broke into a shed up there, a few days ago, and ate up all the miners' caps. It is said they are giving milk by rag-time now.

—The boat in which BOWSER shot the whirlpools of Niagara on Monday is misnamed. He calls it "the Fool-Killer," which is certainly a misnomer, since BOWSER escaped with his life.

—The banking of five big iron furnaces in Lebanon on Saturday, for an indefinite suspension, will probably give the fifteen hundred idle employes opportunity to realize that all of McKINLEY's prosperity is not gold that glitters.

—Some people have figured out that onions are among the most antique vegetables that are grown. They say that the Egyptians regaled themselves with them thirty centuries ago and we believe it, for if there is anything in a strong smell indicating old age onions certainly have the indication.

—Do you think those good old men would have signed the Declaration of Independence away back in '76 had they known that one hundred and twenty-four years later their posterity would be celebrating the event, in real primeval custom, by sacrificing the lives of 125 persons and maiming 1,325 others? That was the record of the country on the last Fourth.

—Newport society is threatened with disruption over the question of admitting Mrs. George Gould into its very elite circles. What a troublesome thing this society is anyhow. If Mrs. Gould had half the gumption that ought to endow every American girl she would snap her fingers at those who are trying to keep her out and make no effort to get in. They'll come to her afterwards.

—The terrible atrocities in China have developed that among the semi-enlightened orientals of that land there are Christian martyrs, just as they are told of in the scriptures. On July 3rd four hundred Christian Chinamen were burned at the stake by the Boxers because they had fed and snoodered their besieged Christian friends. Though the gospel was not able to save the mortal lives of these poor souls it had an eternal home prepared for them when the murderous Prince TUAN ordered their death.

—The Japs are the dogs of war that should be turned loose on China. The little brown soldiers of the Mikado stand ready and willing to begin the work that no other nation on earth dare attempt to accomplish alone. The surprising part of it all is that Japan should concern herself in the least about the murder of European Christians in China when it was the powers behind these same European Christians that forced her to withdraw without the fruits of her brilliant victory over the Chinese several years ago. Japan has been in a position to have reached Peking, ere this, with a sufficient army to rescue the legations and restore order, but the sordid jealousies of the land-grabbing governments of the earth have signaled "hands off" to the dauntless Japs and they are just crafty enough to heed the warning that says, plainer than so many words, rather have thousands of Christians sacrificed than lose the chance of acquiring a slice of territory.

—The colored vote of the United States is enough to defeat the election of McKINLEY and ROOSEVELT if cast against them. It is hardly to be inferred, however, that the colored people will do anything else than go on blindly supporting the party that has no other use for them than their votes. At the National Convention in Philadelphia the committee flatly refused to entertain or have anything to do with distinguished colored delegates from the South whose votes were good enough to insure McKINLEY's nomination, but whose black faces excluded them from the company of the fastidious white Republicans. It was TEDDY ROOSEVELT, too, whose Rough Riders were saved from being cut to pieces on San Juan hill by the unpraised colored troopers, who tried to elude the heroic acts of his black saviors. Republicans have no other use for the colored voter than for his vote, but the pity is that the colored voter refuses to see through the game.

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The Democratic Platform Proclaims the Leading Issues of the Campaign.

The work of the Democratic National Convention, in this closing year of the nineteenth century, will stand unparalleled in the history of the country. Its consequences will be of that momentous character that will class it among the greatest events in the annals of the Republic, unsurpassed in the importance of its service in checking the growth of public evils that threaten the perpetuity of our free institutions.

It is exactly one hundred years since THOMAS JEFFERSON, the first Democratic President was nominated and elected. The principles he represented, and upon which the liberty of our people is based, are reaffirmed by the platform of the Convention which, a century later, proclaims his doctrine of popular sovereignty as the very essence and vital principle of free government, a principle that is being imperiled by the encroachment of wealth as the ruling factor in public affairs, and by imperialistic schemes whose designs would eventually make the will of the people subordinate to military power in the control of the government.

The greatest platform that confronts the Republic is the one which the Democratic platform sets forth as the paramount issue in the presidential conflict.

It is an issue that is pregnant with the fate of our country.

It involves the question whether the government is to maintain its popular character, with all the freedom and privilege that is assured to the people by constitutional guarantees, or whether it shall give way to the schemes of imperialism, which, in alliance with capitalistic interests, design to acquire colonial dependencies, governed by authority extraneous to the constitution, and requiring the employment of a large military force.

This is the issue which in its vital importance, as affecting the existence of our free institutions, transcends all other questions that are presented for the action of American citizens in the pending campaign. It is for this reason that it is given the first place in the Democratic endeavor to arouse the just apprehension of the people to the danger confronting the government that has descended to them from the illustrious and venerated authors of their liberty.

The occasion for the alarm which this issue should arouse is so evident that no artifice can disguise it.

There is an obvious tendency on the part of our Republican rulers to change the character of our government by the development of a military power unauthorized by the constitution and inimicable to popular freedom.

Taking advantage of a war that was demanded by the American people for the relief of the Cubans from Spanish oppression, and intended for no other object, the Republican administration, departing from that object, has conceived a policy of colonial expansion, which requires a largely increased military force, and has placed our country in the list of land-grabbing nations.

Consequently a large army is employed in occupying the territory of unwilling subjects.

The work of slaughter and devastation that characterizes the performance of conquerors, has been assigned to American soldiers.

They are engaged in what McKINLEY himself declared to be "criminal aggression."

Contrary to the principles of our government, which are based on the consent of the governed, the military arm of this Republic is being exerted for the subjugation of a people whose resistance manifests their non-consent.

The criminality of this aggression is made the more reprehensible by its being practiced against a people who were our allies in the war with Spain. Those whom they hailed as deliverers have assumed the hostile attitude of conquerors, devastating their country, and destroying more of their lives than were lost in their many years of conflict with the Spaniards.

In this "criminal" departure from the principle that government should be based on the consent of the governed, appears the danger of McKINLEY's imperial scheme that is forcing a foreign rule upon a resisting people by the exertion of military power. The crime is rendered the more repulsive by its cost of blood and treasure, a sacrifice demanded by the mercenary commercialism that inspires the Republican colonial policy. The prospective profits of speculative syndicates and greedy franchise grabbers, not only require that the lives of thousands of American soldiers should be lost in the conquest of the Philippines, but also that the pledge of Congress should be disregarded by the military retention of Cuba.

The "criminal" policy that would discard the principle of consent in government, converting this Republic into an

aggressive military power, with the expense of a great standing army burdening the people, and the rule of the soldiers menacing their liberty, fully justified the Democratic Convention in making imperialism the paramount issue in the Presidential conflict.

Second to this leading issue in its importance—and second only because it does not strike so directly at the fundamental principles of free government—is the question of industrial despotism, which includes such monopolistic organizations as the trusts. On this subject the Democratic platform makes its declaration in terms that clearly define the Democracy's hostility to an evil which menaces the commercial freedom of the country, and for which Republican policies are solely responsible.

The platform specifically and truthfully arraigns the Republican party for its subservience to the capitalistic interests that have brought all departments of industrial production under the control of avaricious combinations.

That form of monopoly which despoils the general class of consumers for the profit of syndicated capital, and seizes its plunder through the agency of the trusts, has had its origin and its growth under Republican administration.

It can be traced to no other source.

It has had no other encouragement and support than that which was amply extended to it through Republican favoritism.

The party that has had the government in its charge continuously for years past, with no material intermission of its power, can show no efforts made for the suppression of the trusts, while all the measures by which it has regulated trade have been devised for the encouragement and support of the monopolies that are consuming the substance of the people for the enrichment of a class of millionaires.

The trust octopus is a monster generated by the alliance of capitalistic greed with the corrupt policies of McKINLEYISM.

Mutual interest is the incentive to this unholy communion. Protected monopoly contributes the bulk of the corruption fund by which presidential elections are carried and Republican Presidents are elected.

In return for such corrupt aid the party in control of the government fails to defend the people against the plunder of the trusts.

The Democratic leaders, through their platform, with clarion voice, call upon the general mass of citizens to relieve themselves of the trade bondage and industrial serfdom to which they are being reduced by the allied power of avaricious capital and corrupt politics. The bill of indictment presented against the Republicans on the trust question by the Democratic platform is complete. There is not a flaw in the arraignment.

The trusts owe their existence to Republican favoritism.

They have been nourished by the preferential provisions of a monopoly tariff.

The only discouragement they ever received from a Republican source was a fake anti-trust law, artfully framed with a view to easy evasion, which has been facilitated by Republican Presidents appointing interested corporation lawyers to the Attorney Generalship.

The efforts of the Democrats at the last session of Congress to annul that class of tariff duties through which trusts are enabled to practice most of their extortions, was defeated by the unanimous vote of the Republican majority.

To complete the arraignment of the monopoly party, it is enough to state the fact that the chief supporter and avowed defender of the trusts has been given the management of the Republican presidential campaign, and will draw from that monopolistic source the largest part of the fund with which he will attempt to corrupt the election.

The Democratic platform calls upon the people to check the further growth of the industrial despotism of the trusts as fondly as it invokes their interference with McKINLEY's imperial designs.

According to the report of the finance committee of the Bellefonte school board an increase of 1 mill in the tax levy will be necessary for this year. Instead of having 4 mills for school and 2 for buildings, as was the case last year, it will be 5 for school and 2 for buildings. The increase is small, but none the less hard to bear. Of course, you understand, that we are under obligations to Governor STONE for it. He made an unlawful cut in the school appropriations and we are to make up for it by settling with the tax collector in the fall.

Tammany Hall wouldn't be near the monstrous organization that it appears to be to some Republican journals, if it were Republican in faith.

The Democracy's Great Leader.

The Democracy party is fortunate in having its presidential candidate so well suited to the principles, as set forth in its platform, upon which it will battle for the deliverance of the government from the many abuses and manifold corruptions that have been developed under Republican administration.

There is a remarkable adaptation of the candidate to the platform. The principles enunciated in that document are the same, in spirit and purpose, as were given as an inheritance to the Democracy by THOMAS JEFFERSON. An especially urgent reason for the maintenance and enforcement of those principles is presented at this time, when the influence of wealth and the imperial aspiration of military power threaten to subvert the government of the people. With such a danger menacing the Republic, the people could turn to no other leader with greater confidence than that which they can repose in WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

To take the lead in the fight against the combined power of commercialism and militarism conspiring to control the government, requires qualities of head and heart and body, in the possession of which no other public man of this period equals the leader whom the Democrats have put at the head of their presidential ticket.

He is thoroughly fitted for the momentous and arduous work that has been assigned him. The force of his intellect has been proven. His persuasive power is unmatched. His singleness and honesty of purpose are admitted, even by his enemies. Steadfast in what he believes to be right, there is no shadow of turning from the straight path in which he directs his course. Firmness, as one of his characteristics, is equaled by the integrity which furnishes the basis and supplies the motive for his public acts. And when to such mental and moral qualities are added physical endurance and tireless energy that render him capable of the most arduous exertion, he is found to be possessed of all the equipments necessary for leadership in combating the corrupt and dangerous power that has intruded itself in the government.

There is a time in the history of every people when a menacing situation calls for the service of such a leader. In view of the peculiar dangers that threaten the Republic at this time, the appearance of WILLIAM J. BRYAN upon the stage of public action, at such a juncture, looks much like a providential interference for the preservation of our free government.

The Bitter-Sweet.

The farmer, mechanic and laborer has, within the last few days, been joined by the busy house wife in the murmurs of complaint they have been giving expression to for some time over the advanced prices of necessities, caused by the trusts.

The economic woman feels herself robbed by the sugar trust. Within a week the price of granulated sugar has gone up to seven cents per pound and this increase, coming right in the midst of the canning and jelly making season, has started woman on a tour of mental investigation to learn the cause.

From statistics she discovers that the weekly melting of raw sugar at the various refineries in the United States is about 41,000 tons or the equivalent of 266,000 barrels. Over eighty per cent of this she discovers is the product of refineries controlled by the trust. Then she goes a step further and learns that the minimum net profit to the producer on a barrel of 70t. granulated sugar is \$1.75. Multiplying the number of barrels produced in a week by this amount she is fairly astounded at the answer. \$465,500 a week on the net earnings of the sugar trust on granulated sugar alone.

It isn't much wonder that the women are indignant and have joined forces with the farmer, the mechanic and laborer in condemnation of a President and party who favor legislation that builds up such extortionate organizations.

Seven cent sugar is the direct result of a McKINLEY trust. It is the bitter-sweet of Republicanism.

Philipsburg papers are complaining because the council of that borough recently entered a contract for the rebuilding of the Reliance Fire Co's house at an expense of \$3,175. They say the town is bankrupt now, with no money to pay overdue interest on its debts. Well, what of it? The most valuable thing any municipality has is its fire department, whether paid or volunteer. Philipsburg has two excellent volunteer companies and no expense her council would incur for their comfort or equipment would begin to compensate for the service they have already rendered that town. A fire company is the last thing in the world a town should hedge on. It is all well enough when there is no danger, but when the terrible alarm of fire sounds in the dead of the coldest winter night or in the middle of the hottest summer day who is expected to drop everything and run, and work and risk life and ruin clothing for nothing?—The volunteer fireman.

The Situation in China.

Much of the alleged news from Peking and more particularly the harrowing reports of wholesale massacre of foreigners in the legations—may be set down as shrewd surmise or partial invention by the "penny dreadful" press of London. The diplomatic world has no direct news from the Chinese capital, nor have the great newspapers of London, whose money is poured out like water to secure early information of important international events. The situation at Peking and the fate of the foreign Ministers there is largely matter for conjecture.

Putting together the scraps of information secured by active and profoundly interested officials, the conclusion arrived at is decidedly adverse to the theory of an unopposed barbaric outbreak at Peking. The defection of Prince Ching and the active opposition of his troops to Prince Tuan's army, the sympathy and secret assistance accorded to the legations by Chinese merchants at the scene of the disturbances, and the positive refusal of Viceroy's neighboring provinces to countenance the Boxer program of foreign extermination are known elements which tend to relieve the strain upon the civilized world induced by the earlier developments of the reactionary sentiment among the Chinese populace. There have been rioting, outrage and rebellion, but no general onslaught upon the civilization which seeks to make peaceful conquest of Eastern Asia.

In the meantime military preparations for a march upon Peking by the allied forces continue unabated. Japan, only 900 miles away, has 23,000 troops available for speedy service; Russia is rushing soldiers forward in force; Korea, and re-enforcements for the British, French and German battalions are en route to the Taku forts. But if rioting and rebellion should continue in Peking months would elapse before any effective demonstration could be made by the allied Powers, even should their consuls prove to be entirely harmonious. It is the rainy season in Northeastern China; the country is flooded; the railway to Peking has been practically obliterated, and any measure of relief for the legations under such conditions is out of the question. If the foreigners at the Chinese capital are to escape it must be through the agency of friendly Chinese officials who antagonize the Boxers.

As the Chinese Minister at Washington has steadily contended, there is no lack of sympathy among the intelligent classes in China for the sentiment which prompts other nations to undertake the industrial and political regeneration of this oldest of the world's empires. It is the "foreign devil" would be to invade the destruction of a social and political system which, however inadequate, is venerated and supported by Manchus, Tartars and Chinese alike. It is scarcely conceivable that the cultured nobles of the Chinese Foreign Council should be deluded by any wild dream of national exclusiveness. They are involved in the tolls spread by the rioters and rebels, and should be the first to come to the rescue of their country from threatened dismemberment. If they cannot suppress the Boxers and their allies the task will be accomplished none the less, no matter how many troops it may require to restore order.

Don't Underrate Bryan's Ability.

The Boston "Beacon," an independent Republican paper, warns the Republicans that they "will make a fatal mistake if they underrate Mr. Bryan's abilities or his popularity." When the leaders do so they are shamming. Others do so through ignorance and prejudice. The "Beacon" says:

Looking all due allowance for the exaggeration of the political partisanship, it is a fact that Mr. Bryan represents the broad principles of Democracy—the rule of the whole people as distinguished from the dominance of a plutocratic class. In his opposition to trusts, his aversion to the acquirement of foreign territory, except with a view of making it an integral part of the United States, his declaration against the maintenance of standing armies and in his attitude regarding economic questions generally, he represents what has come to be regarded as the popular side. The Republican managers will make a fatal mistake if they underrate Mr. Bryan's abilities or his popularity.

Still Cause for Trouble in South Africa.

While the belief is general that the South African war is almost at an end, yet some fighting is still going on, and Lord Roberts, it is reported, is unwilling to spare any of his troops for service in China. Even though the Boers be about willing to give up the hopeless struggle in which they have shown so much gallantry, it would be a dangerous experiment to materially weaken the British forces opposed to them, for the reason that such a step might lead to a renewal of their fury.

Big Shipment of Postal Cards.

A large shipment of postal cards was made from the United States postal card factory at Piedmont, Va., Saturday. That day 24,000,000 cards were shipped, filling six large box cars, one of which went to the Philadelphia office, and contained 4,000,000 cards. The shipments are worth to the government \$240,000. The demand for postal cards continues to increase and the shipments each month grown heavier. The force of hands will have to be increased to keep the output equal to the demand.

The inventory of the personal estate of the late Vice President GARRET A. HOBART shows that he was worth \$2,268,941. He held bonds in twenty-six corporations and stock in over one hundred.

Gen. J. I. Curtin has been appointed special agent of the census bureau for Bellefonte to collect statistics of manufactures.

Spawls from the Keystone. —Joseph Clymer, a Clinton county man, was raking hay into winrow's last week when a wind storm came on and the wind picked up nearly a wagon load and carried it into the tree tops of a wood near by.

—One day last week Mrs. Annie Baker, of Falls Creek, stepped on a garden rake. One of the teeth penetrated her foot. The wound refused to heal, blood poisoning developed, resulting in lockjaw. She died a few days later.

—A tarantula whose body is three inches long with a nine inch spread of legs was found in a bunch of bananas at Altoona the other day. It is a huge specimen of the vicious insect and is on exhibition by the dealer who captured it.

—During a storm Saturday evening, Frank Langenberger, of White Deer Valley, was struck by lightning while seeking shelter with his team under a tree. His clothing was torn half off and he was severely injured, but will recover.

—Marion Smith, a 19 year old son of James A. Smith, of Grove Summit, Clearfield county, was struck by lightning and instantly killed while at work in the hay field Saturday afternoon. The lightning shattered a fork which he was using, went through his body and down his right leg, tearing the shoe from the foot.

—George F. Gage, for 24 years general manager of the Huntingdon and Broad Top railroad, died at his home at Huntingdon Thursday, aged 73 years. Prior to 1873 he was a prominent railroad man in the east. He is survived by his wife and two children, one of the latter being Carl M. Gage, the present general manager of the Broad Top.

—Ex-Sheriff C. L. Johnson, of New Bloomfield, Perry county, is minus his magnificent bronze gobbler weighing forty pounds. Monday morning as the train east was coming down back of Johnson's stable, the big fellow squared himself on the track in a most angry fashion for fight with the engine. Despite the warning whistles he refused to budge and was bowled over and killed.

—At Williamsport on Tuesday a 6 year old child of Theopolis Bey met with a serious and painful accident. The little one was playing in the yard around its home and started to climb over an iron picket fence. In some manner it slipped and fell, striking its chin against one of the sharp pointed iron prongs. The iron penetrated the flesh, pierced the tongue, and striking the roof of the mouth, knocked loose two teeth.

—Farmer Niles Johnson, of Tioga village, near Wellsboro, Friday afternoon attempted by telephone to intercept his 14-year-old daughter Edith, and her lover who ran away to Corning. When a policeman accosted the pair he found they had been married a half hour. When Johnson arrived a little later on the caboose of a freight train he was furious, but, cooling down, forgave the child bride and her young husband, and took them home to live with him on the farm.

—Nine year old Harry Lamont, of Cogan Station, Saturday, saved his year old brother from being gored to death by a bull. The infuriated animal attacked the younger boy and had tossed him into the air twice before the older boy could get to his assistance. With a pitchfork Harry attacked the bull, and so severely did he injure the animal that it was forced to retire. The older boy assisted his brother to his feet, and succeeded in getting him over a fence as the bull rushed at them again.

—The 14 year old daughter of Mrs. Mary Jones, of Newfield, Potter county, has been missing from home since Saturday, and it is believed she is a prisoner in an Italian camp. Sunday a young Italian came to Mrs. Jones' home and reported that the missing girl was being kept a prisoner in an Italian camp near Galeton. He said he would not dare lead rescuers to the camp, as his countrymen would kill him, but he gave directions that will probably lead to finding the girl.

—Christian Shearer and Harvey Whitton, both residents of Kylertown, were very seriously burned on the Fourth by the explosion of powder. They were helping celebrate Independence Day by shooting powder out of an anvil. A tin can afforded them a receptacle in which to keep their powder. At an unguarded moment some one maliciously threw a lighted cigar into the can, with the result that a fearful explosion followed, badly burning both of the men about the body, hands and face. Mr. Whitton is said to be in a very serious condition. Both are married men.

—An order has been issued from National Guard headquarters at Harrisburg, giving the per diem pay of officers and privates at the coming encampment at Mt. Getz, as follows: Major general, \$20 83; brigadier general, \$15 28; colonel, \$9 73; lieutenant colonel, \$8 33; major, \$6 95; captain, mounted, \$5 53; chaplain, \$4 17; first lieutenant, regimental quartermaster, \$5; first lieutenant, mounted, \$4 45; second lieutenant, mounted, \$4 17; first sergeant, \$3; sergeants on non commissioned staff, \$3; sergeants, \$2 corporals, \$1 75; privates, \$1 50; musicians in brigade band, \$2. Pay will be allowed only for the number of days that officers or enlisted men have been in camp.

—The bridge across the old canal bed at Millifintown collapsed Wednesday afternoon and carried with it into the ditch below, a distance of about forty feet, thirty people, men, women and children, who had crowded it to witness a tub race in the river a short distance away. Twenty of the victims were seriously injured. One may die and the remainder were slightly injured. Of all that took the fall not one escaped some injury, but nine got off with only contusions and slight cuts. An unknown weaver in a carpet mill was injured so badly that he will die. One of his legs is broken in two places and he is injured internally. All of the others will likely recover.

—Bark peelers in one of the tracts on the Treaster valley side of Beatty's knob, in Millifintown leased by Joseph Kelley, fell a large tree one day last week, and on going along the trunk a distance of 35 or 40 feet they discovered two black snakes, one 6 feet 9 inches long, the other 6 feet 6 inches long, their bodies closely interlocked, one of which had its tail caught in the crack of a big limb which had sprung apart and then closed again, thus holding his snakeship fast. The monsters were killed by one of the men and the above measurements made. The snake that was loose would not leave its companion preferring death to separation, thus exhibiting the affectionate side of snake nature.