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THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1907

Bryan Predicts Campaign Issues.

Trusts, Railroads and Tariff Will be Points.

Trusts, the railroads and the tariff will be the issues in the next Presidential campaign, in the opinion of William J. Bryan, as expressed in an interview in New York recently. He regards the outlook for the Democratic party for next year as very good.

Mr. Bryan was in New York as a guest of the Democratic Progressive League, which was only recently organized. In the course of the interview, he was asked to give his idea of a progressive Democrat, and he replied:

In every country there are two extremes in politics—the radical and the conservative. It is the aim of the progressive Democrat to take a middle course between the two and take up all great measures and solve them. There are two elements in the Republican party, one which I might call the extremists, and the other "the stand pat-ers."

I have been a tariff reformer for years, but there are other questions before the people relatively more important at present, such as the trusts and the railroads. I believe that the Democratic party in its national platform will take cognizance of all three of these questions, but in my opinion the tariff will not be the paramount issue.

The financial issue is not the same now as it was in 1896. It is not due to the Republican party, however, but to natural causes, such as the world's increase of gold supply, which has accomplished in a measure what I tried to accomplish in the campaign of 1896. As a matter of fact, we are all repudiators now. The dollar of to-day is not the dollar of 1896. The dollar of to-day is at least 30 per cent. less in purchasing power than it was in 1896. The cost of living has greatly increased, so that the face value of a dollar to-day does not at all compare with the purchasing ability of eleven years ago.

Mr. Bryan reiterated his belief in the principles of the initiative and referendum and municipal ownership.

In an address before the Board of Trade and Transportation, where he was entertained at luncheon, Mr. Bryan spoke on the relations between the farmers and those engaged in trade and transportation. He said the farmer realized the need of trade, but that the farmers and the men engaged in trade and transportation must understand each other better. He called speculating in wheat gambling, and said the farmers disliked it.

Turning to the question of railroads Mr. Bryan said he was glad of an opportunity to commend the action of President Roosevelt in the direction of railroad regulation.

"I am sure," he said, "the people of this land will never deal as unjustly with the railroads as the railroads have dealt with the people, nor will they show toward the railroads any such hostility as would deny the railroads a fair return. What the former contends is that the railroads are overvalued and that they are forced to pay taxes on that over-valuation. I ask that you unite with the farmer to give him just rates and to free him from extortionate rates."

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., June 10, 1907.

As the delegates to the Republican State convention were assembling in Lyceum Theatre, in this town, on Thursday last, "Hen" Buch stood at the stage door and informed everybody that he had at last "got even with that prodigious humbug, Roosevelt." The other statesmen associated with the event were less candid but quite as earnest in the matter. The endorsement of Senator Knox for President was not because they love Knox but for the reason that they hate Roosevelt. There wasn't a man conspicuous in the convention who doesn't despise the President. There isn't a man in the entire outfit who isn't ready with a filthy epithet every time his name is mentioned.

Senator Penrose brought Senator Knox forward as a Presidential candidate for a two-fold purpose. Roosevelt is a name to conjure with. A vast proportion of the people of this country believe in violence. One of the most distinguished sociologists of the period has declared that in the highest development of civilization men are only slightly removed from savagery. The animal passion predominates the best of us and in the average community there are dozens of men ready to attend a dog fight to one who is anxious to participate in the dedication of a church. Most of us try to fool ourselves and others on this point but the fact is overwhelming and irrefutable.

It is the savage in Roosevelt which commands popular admiration. People admire him because he "does things." It makes no difference to thoughtless men that most of the things he does are subversive of the fundamental principles of the government. They are willing to take chances on the future if the "fur flies" in the present. They want action and diversion at any cost and when Roosevelt calls Harriman a liar even though the evidence is overwhelming that Harriman has told the truth, the public applauds the President. It is unusual for a President to call people liars indiscriminately and the public applauds the novelty. It is the animal propensity in the human mind.

PENROSE'S REAL PURPOSE.

Besides Penrose is anxious to divert public attention from himself and there is no better way to achieve that result than by putting his colleague under the limelight. Pretending to applaud Roosevelt and assuming to manage a Presidential campaign for Knox is the surest way of escaping the censure of the Republican people of the State. Penrose doesn't care for praise for himself. He wants to be re-elected next year and understands that the quietest way is the best to accomplish that purpose. The late Mr. Tweed of New York, wanted to be left alone. That is precisely the case with Penrose. If he can avoid notice he may escape condemnation and in that his hope lies.

It may be said that a sinner is most

dangerous when he pretends to be a saint. A burglar can do little harm if his presence in the premises is known. Reasoning on the same line it may be said that a political boss is most menacing when he pretends to be in accord with the people. This is why Penrose is likely to be mischievous now. He hates Roosevelt "as the devil hates holy water," but he is pretending a great friendship for the President. He envies and despises Senator Knox but assumes to be his most ardent champion. He is trying to deceive the public by these false pretenses in order to promote his own selfish ambitions. "Hen" Buch spoke Penrose's sentiments as well as his own.

Moreover the candidacy of Knox is inspired by enmity against the President, rather than by friendship. The President has announced his preference for Taft as his successor and it would be impossible to imagine a man more diametrically opposite to him than Knox. Less than a year and a half ago Roosevelt publicly denounced Knox as one of "the railroad lawyers in the Senate," who were striving to defeat his policies and circumvent his purposes. No man selects an agent who is openly opposed to the principles which he cherishes. Even a lawyer can't get the best results for a client in whose cause he disbelieves. As a matter of fact Knox is the candidate of those who are against Roosevelt.

FALSE PRETENSE IN THE NOMINATION.

Praising Roosevelt, therefore, and eulogizing Knox in the same platform was absurd. But it was hardly more farcical than the subterfuge through which the candidate for State Treasurer was chosen. It was falsely pretended that the Penrose machine was opposed to the nomination of Mr. Sheatz. The truth is that the nomination was promised to Mr. Sheatz five months ago by the managers of the Penrose machine and with the knowledge and assent of Penrose. It was his reward for "being good" as chairman of the House committee on appropriations. The House committee on appropriations is the instrument for "log-rolling" legislation. The machine couldn't begin to work its purposes without the co-operation of the chairman of that committee.

For example a piece of vicious legislation is needed by the machine but that sort of legislation is abhorrent to the average self-respecting country member. Every one of those men have a hospital or some other charity to take care of and they are taken in turn to the chairman of the committee on appropriations who assures them that their cherished appropriation will be made certain if they "go along" on the legislative serpent. Of course they can't resist that kind of reasoning. It touches too closely on their political interests. If they want to come back they must take care of the local hospital at any cost in cash or conscience and they oblige the machine. It must be said of Mr. Sheatz that he played fairly. He gave them all the appropriations they wanted.

But how about his own reputation after the accounts are balanced? In order to help the machine Mr. Sheatz engineered through the Legislature appropriation bills aggregating ten or twelve million dollars more than the revenues amount to. Of course the Governor can cut the amounts down and thus cheat the members who, as one of them put it, "sold themselves body and soul to the machine" for legislation they desired. Mr. Sheatz can protest that he kept his pledge and it isn't his fault that the revenues are deficient. But his part of the agreement was iniquitous, immoral and subversive of every principle of justice and honor. It was a conspiracy to burden the statute books with bad legislation for the benefit of a corrupt machine.

SHEATZ WANTING IN QUALIFICATIONS.

It revealed an absence of business intelligence, also, which is an essential qualification for the office of State Treasurer. The first duty of the chairman of the House committee on appropriations is to discover, approximately at least, the amount of the revenues and make the appropriations come within the limit. So far from doing that Mr. Sheatz went about the work much after the fashion that a blacksmith would proceed to repair a watch. There were several revenue bills introduced, but Sheatz paid no attention to their progress. He went headlong into the matter of appropriations and didn't appear to care a "tinker's dam" whether the bill could be paid or not.

Until within a few years such a thing as cutting an appropriation bill was rarely heard of and until the administration of Governor Stone no Executive ever thought of cutting an item in an appropriation bill. In those times, however, the chairmanship of the committee was bestowed on men who were capable of performing the duties of the office. There was no haphazard work with them. Why when the late Samuel J. Randall was chairman of the House committee on appropriations in Congress the disparity between the re-

ceipts and expenditures of the government was less than a couple of millions though the aggregates amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars.

In the only public service he has ever performed, therefore, Mr. Sheatz "was weighed in the balance and found wanting." Under such circumstances why should the people entrust him with the management of the fiscal affairs of the State? The decent reputation he established as a Representative in the Legislature before he "made terms" with the machine may entitle him to popular respect. But nobody would think of making a man President of a vast railroad system because he had made a fairly good record on a single trip as a brakeman. It would be especially unwise in the event that he had subsequently failed to make good as ticket agent at one of the important stations.

MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURE.

The significant thing, however, is that the nomination of Mr. Sheatz was a false pretense. In other words it was pretended that Senator Penrose was for Captain Cummins and against Sheatz. As a matter of fact Captain Cummins has never been a candidate. When it was discovered that Mr. Sheatz's incompetency as chairman of the House committee on appropriations would compel the veto of the Soldiers' Pension Bill, it was suggested to Penrose that the nomination of Cummins who is a veteran and a Grand Army man might please the soldiers who will be disappointed in their expectation of a pension. The matter was brought to the attention of Cummins and he promptly declined to be the stalking horse.

Under the circumstance Penrose determined to nominate Sheatz but under conditions which would make it appear that it was in response to the demand of the country delegates. Senator Flinn, of Pittsburg, who opposes Penrose without knowing why was sent for and flattered beyond measure because there seemed to be deference to his opinion. The machine delegates for this county who would set fire to the capitol building if Penrose asked them to become enthusiastic for Sheatz and still Penrose's friends were "intimating" that he was for Cummins for the effect. This farce was kept up until Cummins arrived in the city when he put a stop to it promptly. Then Penrose, pretending he was forced, accepted Sheatz.

This false pretense may or may not be "good politics." It is certain that no Republican can be elected State Treasurer this year unless the public believes him to be in sympathy with policies of Mr. Berry. It is equally certain that Penrose doesn't want that sort of a man in office. The treasury balance must be available as an asset for Penrose during the campaign of 1908 and a Republican of the Berry type would not permit that. It may be assumed, therefore, that Sheatz and Penrose have come to an agreement for the future as they were in agreement during the session of the Legislature. In other words Sheatz will use the office for the benefit of the machine if he gets it.

NOBODY BELIEVES IN THE ELECTION OF SHEATZ.

Few, if any, of the delegates who attended the convention or those who were "merely lookers on" believe that Sheatz will be elected. As Mr. Berry expressed it a few days ago, the people want a man in that office who will not be beguiled by the "suave gentlemen in the other departments." Pennypacker came to this town with a reputation for probity which would have been a splendid heritage for his children. Hampton L. Carson came to the office of Attorney General with an enviable reputation for integrity and professional ability and honor. But both of them yielded to the allurements which the machine managers have in abundance and are held now in absolute contempt by everybody.

The temper of the convention proved that it was without hope. People stood about the hotels for hours before the meeting offering stage tickets, box seats and a chromo of Knox to anybody who would attend the convention. Yet there were less than a hundred people in the gallery, capable of seating a thousand, and there were dozens of vacant seats on the stage. Then the proceedings were essentially of the machine order. Speaker Walton's appearance on the stage was like the coming of the preacher at a funeral, and everything was dreary and dismal. As soon as the funeral ceremonies were over, moreover, the delegates hastened out of town and an hour afterward nobody would have known a convention had been held.

G. D. H.

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