

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - EDITOR & PROP
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The Cause.

"The cause of the present boom in the West is undoubtedly due, in a great measure, to the large crops and high prices caused by the failure of crops in other countries."
WM. MCKINLEY, President.

The Credit.

"If the Republicans desire to claim credit for the high price of wheat, they must assume responsibility for the famine in India. Will any Republican convention point with pride to the famine as an evidence that the Republican party is redeeming its campaign pledges?"
WM. J. BRYAN.

EDITORIAL.

RATIO OF 16 TO 1.

When we recall the feeling of utter despair that pervaded the democratic party in 1896, two months before the Chicago convention, and then recall the fact, that in November following William Jennings Bryan, the nominee of the Chicago convention, on a platform declaring in favor of "the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation," polled more votes than any other democratic nominee in the history of this country, it must become plain to every unbiased mind that there was something unusual in the issue that placed the party in a position to make the magnificent fight that the democracy made in that ever memorable campaign. This conclusion is doubly intensified when we consider that the republicans had nominated the idol of that party, and that the opposition to the democracy was reinforced by the bolting democrats and the trust and syndicates of the country, backed by the money power of the world.

Mr. Bryan was a bold and fearless leader, fully equipped for the tremendous fight he was compelled to make, and he had an active organization conducting his campaign, but all this, without any additional force, could not have given him the immense vote he polled on election day. It was the rallying cry of free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1 that put the tremendous force into the fight. The democrats themselves were amazed by the vitality, which a campaign waged almost wholly upon the currency issue, put into the party. The timid ones were wont to say, "it is but a craze, and while we may apparently have the masses with us, the popularity of the issue cannot last, and the party must suffer in the end." After the defeat, we were told that by forcing the currency question we lost Kentucky and New York. True, but we may offset against Kentucky, so long reliably democratic, Kansas and Nebraska, never before carried by a democratic candidate for the presidency. And was there any reason to hope for democratic success in New York in 1896 under any circumstances. Consider the record of New York. In 1864 republican, democratic in 1868, republican again in 1872, carried by Tilden in 1876, and in 1880 voted against Hancock. In 1884 carried by Cleveland by a scratch, and against the democracy in 1888, democratic in 1892, who then expected that her electoral vote would be cast for the democratic candidate in 1896?

The issue raised in 1896, although Mr. Bryan was defeated, has not weakened the democratic party, but, on the other hand, the party has completely abandoned the cause of platoracy, and has become the true champion of the rights of the people, thereby putting on new life, and becoming stronger and stronger as the campaign of 1900 approaches.

The money question is still paramount in the minds of the people, and the principles of the Chicago platform are continually expanding, becoming the rallying cry for the oppressed of every section of the country. The spring elections of 1897 swept the large cities of the middle west back into the democratic column upon platforms which called for the free coinage of silver and gold, at the ratio of 16 to 1. The fall elections of 1897 were still more emphatic, showing a firm adherence to the principles enunciated by the Chicago platform. The states which voted for Mr. Bryan in 1896 remained firm, Kentucky on a distinctively silver platform voted largely democratic, and other states showed remarkable gains on the vote of 1896. Even New York seems to have returned to the democratic fold to stay—at least until after 1900. The money question, as enunciated by the platform of 1896, surely is stronger to-day than it was in November

1897, and the friends of the free coinage of silver at the legal ratio of 16 to 1 are thoroughly united and ready to go into the fight to maintain that issue in 1900. On the other hand, the republican party is divided and hampered on every side. This condition is clearly shown by the vote on the Teller Resolution in both Senate and House. The democrats, populists and silver republicans voted solidly for the resolution, and were reinforced by a number of republicans, who in 1896 supported Mr. McKinley for president. 16 to 1 has come to stay, and upon that issue the democracy can and must win in 1900.

Democratic bolters and so-called Independents are industriously counselling the democracy to abandon the Chicago platform. In this they are ably seconded by the entire republican party. Is it not very significant that these enemies of the people should be so solicitous about the policy to be pursued by the democratic party. If the cause of free coinage is sure to bring defeat to the democracy, why not encourage the party to do that which will bring defeat. It is always advisable to ascertain what the enemy wishes you to do, and then do exactly the reverse. The fact that the gold standard people are anxious to have the democracy abandon the Chicago platform, is alone sufficient to convince every true democrat that the issue for 1900 must be "the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation."

TRIPLE LINES FOR SILVER.

The silver Republicans and Populists in Congress held a conference Friday night and agreed upon a plan of operations for the fall elections. Every silver Republican and every Populist senator and representative was present, and the conference was entirely harmonious and unanimously in favor of co-operation with the Democrats in the elections next fall, looking to a general co-operation in the presidential election of 1900.

There was no opposition manifested to the plan which was proposed and adopted for three parties to co-operate in support of the candidates of each for election to the House and Senate to fill places now held by each respectively. There was also a unanimous expression of opinion during the informal discussion that Mr. Bryan was the logical candidate for the presidency of the co-operating silver forces.

Co-operation will be encouraged in all sections. Ex-Representative Towne, the chairman of the silver Republican National committee, it was decided, should go to Oregon for the purpose of assisting to a co-operation between the three parties in that State for the election of two Populist nominees for Congress. The plan contemplates that where seats in either house are now held by a silver man in either of the three parties the united assistance of the three bodies shall be given to elect to that seat a man of the same party as the one now holding it.

GOOD PLATFORM.

One of our old-time democratic friends, who does not take kindly to free silver sends us the following kindly advice, in form of a clipping:

"We are still in the bonds of sin and iniquity, and we long for a victory for democracy in the coming conflicts. If silver be a point of disagreement, let us put it aside and fight the republicans on the tariff, on their extravagance, on the great and growing deficit, on the increasing power of trusts, on the shameless pension bills, and in behalf of State banks of issue, and a constitutional amendment authorizing an income tax.

We want to see this done because of the contrast in the electoral college of 1892. When we fought on these lines, and denounced the courts. By change of front we lost these States—California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin.

And for this magnificent seat of empire we gained these States—Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Washington, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Kansas. We lost in all 141 electoral votes; we gained 43. That is what we lost 'for a dream's sake.' It may be as our distinguished cotemporary, the "Dispatch," says, magnificent, but it is not politics.

With the Democracy of to day it is not a matter of "politics," but the adherence to a great principle.

The New England mill owners wrote their own schedules into the Dingley bill and congress was asked to accept that schedule, on the pretext that the mill owners would thus be enabled to give employment to labor, and increase wages. The Dingley Bill, with this particular schedule incorporated in it because the law of the land, and is, and has been, in full operation. These very mill owners go on declaring annual dividends, varying from five to sixteen per cent. upon their investments. But how about their employees? Have more people received employment and have wages been increased in this particular industry? On the contrary, wages have been largely reduced, and many persons are in enforced idleness who, prior to the passage of the Dingley Bill, had steady employment at fair wages. This is so in many other industries.

PHILIPSBURG has two aspiring republican politicians—Phil. E. Womelsdorf wants to be a State Senator and Eli Townsend would like to be a member of the next legislature. Look out that the early November frosts do not nip your ambitions.

SKIPPED TO CANADA.

H. H. BOYCE, the gentleman who has been openly charged with corrupting Ohio legislators by large sums of money, to secure votes for Hanna's election to the senate, has skipped to Canada. Why? In order to avoid an arrest. If he was not guilty, it is not likely that he would have skipped. No indeed. Now if he spent money for Hanna's votes, whose money was it? Without a doubt Hanna's. It is evident that bribery secured the necessary votes. Hanna now is President McKinley's guest and lives at the White House. Here is a situation for some of our sanctimonious, pious, praying republicans to think about.

THE present board of commissioners have increased the taxes from 3 to 3½ mills.

THE Philipsburg Ledger, a rampant republican paper, is out in its support of Wannamaker for Governor.

THE republicans tried to steal Sheriff Cronister's office last year, but they petted out. After they lost, about \$400 were saddled on the county for the taxpayers—to meet politicians expenses. Of course you don't like it—but you must pay it all the same.

THERE is no objection to a careful, legitimate expenditure of money to trace down incendiaryism, but \$7.00 per day and expenses, comes a little high. If the expenditure was satisfactory, it was a mistake to hide the amount under the head of "Sundry" accounts.

DINGLEY, Duties, Deficits?
HARD times, want and suffering?

How about the promises of the republican party in 1896? Where are the good times promised? The answer comes in enforced idleness, reduction of wages, strikes and, in many places, no work at all.

DECREASING the circulating medium, and reducing the wages of labor and the prices of farm products on the one side, and increasing the taxes by an excessive tariff on the other side, may bring riches to the favored few, but it surely impoverishes the masses. Our present condition is a frightful object lesson on such a policy.

THE public are anxiously waiting for that invoice of "daylight" that the Gazette promised to throw on the criticism this paper made last week of the commissioner's statement. Don't make it too strong, for fear of blinding the reader's eyes? Daylight is exactly what that statement needs. The public needs more information on it.

THE McKinley Bill was entitled a bill to reduce the revenues. The Dingley Bill is entitled a bill to increase the revenues. Both are formulated upon the same principle, that of extreme protection. In effect, the result was the same: high prices for the necessities of life, scarcity of work, want and suffering among the masses—the legitimate results of modern republicanisin.

In 1873 silver was demonetized and immediately farm values commenced to decrease, and the producing classes have become poorer year by year, while the idle holders, or idle capital, have become richer. We are still blessed with the single gold standard, and the same process continues. Will it not continue until silver is remonetized, and the money of the country increased so as to meet the demands of the people?

Gov. HASTINGS has taken a strong position against the State Capitol Building commission and has made an appeal to the courts to restrain them from expending the \$500,000 in an unfinished and incomplete structure that will require several millions more to finish. It is the opening for future jobs for favorite politicians who continually swarm about the state treasury. Gov. Hastings has developed considerable backbone of late and public interests are being jealously guarded.

LEADING democrats in this state have made an appeal to Senator Jones, the National Democratic chairman, for the removal of Wm. Harrity, as the member of the National Democratic Committee from this state. The reason assigned is that Harrity was a gold-bug democrat last campaign and is not in sympathy with the democratic platform. Harrity should have enough decency about him to get out of an organization that does not meet with his views. If he is a gold bug, he has no business in the councils of the democratic party.

Fads in Medicine.

There are fads in medicine as in everything else and a "new thing" frequently sells for a short time simply because it is new. But in medicine, as in nothing else, the people demand and will be satisfied only with positive, absolute merit. The fact that Hood's Sarsaparilla has stood its ground against all competition, and its sales have never wavered but have remained steadily at the top, demonstrates, beyond any doubt, the intrinsic virtues of this medicine. The new things have come and gone but Hood's Sarsaparilla rests upon the solid foundation of absolute merit and its power to cure, and its sales continue to be the largest in the world.

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RESTRAINING TRUSTS.

So Far All Attempts to Check Them Have Proved Futile.
A writer in The Political Science Quarterly reviews the various legal actions that have been taken under the federal antitrust law of 1890 and shows that the law has practically failed to have any effect in restraining or punishing attempts at monopoly, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. One after another the courts on various plausible grounds find that the law cannot be enforced. One after another the actions against the trusts have fallen through, with the result that today there appears to be no possibility of any further federal interference.

If it were true that the power for the checking of trusts is exhausted the outlook would be dark indeed. If the trusts are to gather in all the profitable activities of the people and control the government through their tremendous influences, popular government is doomed. There is good ground for the joy of the socialists, who hail the growth of trusts and combinations as the forerunner of the death of democracy and individualism and the triumph of communism.

But the possibilities of trust fighting are far from exhausted. They have scarcely been touched. With the exception of the federal law, which was ill constructed, nothing has been done to check the trusts. On the contrary much has been done to promote their growth. The tariff law of the present congress favors and feeds them. Courts are packed in their interest.

When the people make up their minds that the trusts shall be checked and elect a congress and a president that will carry out the popular will, a new trust fighting record will be made. It will be time enough to despair when the right kind of antitrust fight has been made and has failed.

REPUBLICAN ARGUMENT.

The Reason Dingley's Bill is a Failure is That We Don't Import Enough.

Within the past few days a new champion has stood forward for Mr. Dingley's bill, says the Kansas City Times. Mr. Assistant Secretary Howell of the treasury department has taken his pen in hand. He does not deny that the measure is not producing adequate revenues for the support of the government. No, he admits the big deficit—he could not very well do otherwise after his chief's recent deliverance on the subject—but this assistant secretary makes bold to declare that Mr. Dingley's bill is all right, in spite of all. The trouble is with the people, he says. If the people would only import enough, they would find the bill producing ample revenue in short order. Now this is certainly very astonishing. If the people would import as much now as they did in 1895 and 1896, the Dingley bill would produce more than the Wilson bill did, and everything would be lovely. But the people do not do this, laments the treasury department's logician, and so Uncle Sam has a deficit on his hands. Shame on the unpatriotic people!

By the way, though, if we remember rightly, this bill of Dingley's was to be a protective measure. Republican orators had it all figured out during the presidential campaign that the whole trouble with the country was that we were importing too much. What we needed was a regular McKinley tariff to shut out the products of the pauper labor of Europe and protect the American workman, etc. The Dingley bill was passed to shut off the imports. Now it seems, according to Mr. Assistant Secretary Howell, the bill has shut off the imports, and in this is the secret of the bill's failure. This is a model Republican argument.

False Republican Promises.
When the New England cotton mills first began to feel the competition of the south, the Republican politicians asserted shamelessly that it was foreign competition. They told the thousands of cotton workers in New England that the Wilson tariff was harming them; that when it was repealed they would be prosperous; that Mr. McKinley's election meant increased wages for them. Mr. McKinley is now nominally president, the Wilson tariff has been replaced by a Republican measure, the cotton mills of New England have their protection. Yet the wages of the employees are to be reduced 10 per cent on New Year's day. More cuts are promised in the next few months. Worse still, the decreases are admitted to be permanent.

Duty of Self Respecting Veterans.

Just at the present moment the whole country seems to be aroused over the abuses that have so sadly diverted the pension system from its original purpose. This arousement may be only spasmodic, and it may be the beginning of the movement which must come sooner or later for a revision and purging of the pension roll. Whether it be the one or the other, there is one thing certain—the politician of either party can never be depended upon to bring about reform so long as politics and pensions retain their present intimate relationship. Reform can only be brought about by the honorable, self respecting, patriotic soldiers and sailors of the war.

How Sumner and Hanna Differ.
Think of Charles Sumner renting three hotels in Boston, with an enormously expensive lobby in each of them seeking to buy off the revolt in his own party in Massachusetts against his leadership! The great Sumner would have lost his life rather than his character.

McKinley Agreeable All Around.
Secretary Gage and Senator Wolcott are bitterly opposed to each other on the question of free silver, but each consoles himself with the fact that President McKinley is in full agreement with him.—Exchange.

WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE.

To afford an opportunity to visit the city while Congress is in session, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has arranged for a series of low-rate ten-day excursions to the National Capitol, to leave Pittsburg February 17, March 17, April 14, and May 12.

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