

The Centre Democrat.

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PRESIDENTIAL ISSUES DEFINED FOR 1900.

William J. Bryan Outlines the Coming Campaign--No Backward Step will be taken by Democracy.

At this time there is considerable activity among the leading politicians of both parties preparing for the Presidential battle of 1900. The candidates are sure to be the same as four years ago, only there will be some new issues. Of late prominent Gold Democrats, like Bourke Cochraue, of New York, and others have expressed a desire to come back to the fold, if Bryan would only drop the money question, adopt the Declaration of Independence for the Democratic platform, and go before the people as opposed to imperialism; and then in 1904 take up the money issue. To this Mr. Bryan has made the following significant reply:

WM. J. BRYAN DEFINES THE ISSUES:

The money question is still in issue. It is often suggested by Gold Democrats, by Republicans who oppose the trusts or by Republicans who oppose imperialism, that the Democratic party should drop the money question and make the fight in 1900 upon a new issue.

That the money question will not be dropped is now apparent to every careful observer, but the reason for this steadfast adherence of the Democratic party to the position taken in 1896 is not understood by all. It must be remembered that for twenty-three years prior to 1896 all parties had held out the hope of the restoration of bimetalism. At various times a bill providing for the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of sixteen to one, without waiting for the aid or consent of any nation, passed the House or the Senate, but never passed both houses at the same time.

The Bland-Allison Act of 1878 was the result of a compromise between the Senate and the House, and was passed over the veto of President Hayes. The Sherman Act of 1890 was the result of another compromise and was signed by President Harrison. These two laws have given us the silver dollars, silver certificates and Treasury notes now in circulation. The advocates of the gold standard would have prevented the passage of both laws if they could have done so. But what would we have done but for the increase in currency furnished by these laws?

Senator Sherman, in a speech made in defence of the act of 1890, declared that the Treasury notes issued in payment for the 54,000,000 ounces of silver to be purchased each year would not furnish more than enough money to keep pace with the population and industries.

McKinley Was Once Anxious About the People's Money.

Mr. McKinley, then a member of Congress, defended the bill on the ground that it gave the people more money. And yet the advocates of the gold standard secured the repeal of the Sherman law in 1893 without making any provision for the necessary increase in circulation. The Republican party in 1888 denounced Mr. Cleveland's Administration for the attempt to demonetize silver, and in 1892 declared that the American people from tradition and interest favored bimetalism.

As late as 1896 the Republican party pledged itself to put forth every possible effort to secure international bimetalism, and in 1897 the President sent a Commission to Europe to secure foreign aid in restoring the double standard.

In November, 1888, Secretary Hay wrote a letter to Lord Aldenham, director of the Bank of England (the letter being afterward published in the testimony taken before an English Commission), and in that letter stated that the President and a majority of his Cabinet still believed in the great desirability of an international agreement.

In spite of this record in favor of bimetalism the Republican party now seeks to make the gold standard permanent by legislative act. The advocates of the gold standard have no plan for securing the necessary increase in the volume of standard money. Their ultimate purpose is to withdraw from silver its legal tender qualities and make gold the only tender money.

Then every dollar of the twenty or thirty millions of debt will be paid in gold alone, and every debtor will be compelled to find the gold, no matter how scarce it may be, or how difficult to secure. Every disturbance in gold standard countries will shake our financial system and the debtors will be the first ones upon whom every disaster will fall.

An Unlooked for Increase of Gold.

In 1896 the Republicans did not promise an increasing supply of standard money, except by international bimetalism, but since 1896 we have secured large amounts of unpromised and unexpected gold from the discoveries in the Klondike, and also because of the famine in Europe, which created a demand for our breadstuffs at increased prices.

The Secretary of the Treasury announced that the supply of gold coin in the United States is some two hundred

millions in excess of the supply in 1896, and yet, notwithstanding this unexpected and unpromised increase in the supply of gold, and notwithstanding the increase in supply of silver dollars due to the coinage of the seigniorage (the coming of which was forced upon the Administration by the opposition)—notwithstanding, I say, this increase in the volume of standard money, both gold and silver, in the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury excuses the loaning of Government money, without interest, to national banks, on the ground that this is necessary to prevent an injurious contraction of the currency.

If, with this increase, the Secretary is afraid to keep the revenues in the Treasury for fear of disturbing business conditions, what would have been the condition but for the unpromised addition to the money supply, and what would be the condition if any European disturbance caused an outflow of gold?

How can the Democratic party avoid the issue without confessing the gold standard to be desirable? How can it avoid the issue without participating in a crime which Mr. Carlisle in 1898 described as the most gigantic crime of this or any other age.

The Republican party not only seeks to make the gold standard permanent, but in the same bill it seeks to take from the Federal Government the right to issue paper money and to surrender that right to national banks. The people never voted for such a proposition at an election.

Democrats Gave Warning.

In 1896 the Republican platform nor Mr. McKinley's letter of acceptance suggested such an attempt, although Democrats warned the country that this was a part of the Republican financial scheme. This currency feature of the bill confers upon the banks a financial favor of great value, besides conferring upon them control over the volume of paper money, the value of which control cannot be estimated.

The power to contract and expand the currency at will enables the financial magnates to control the markets and secure for themselves fabulous fortunes at the expense of their victims. Since the national banks cannot issue money in excess of the par value of the bonds they hold, it is evident that a permanent bank currency, secured by Government bonds, will necessitate a perpetual national debt, and as there must be an increasing supply of money to keep pace with an increasing population, a national bank currency will also require a constantly increasing debt for a basis.

The bank note feature of the bill now before Congress is so vicious and indefensible that the New York Sun, in an editorial of January 9, warns the Republican party, that the bill will handicap the party in the coming campaign. It says that for the Republican party to enter the campaign as the champion of the national bank money would give to the opposition a strength which it otherwise could not hope for. It urges the Republican party to "let the national banks go." The Democratic party cannot drop the money question without giving an endorsement to this infamous policy. It cannot drop the money question without turning the people over to the tender mercies of the bank presidents who will control business conditions by controlling the money supply.

Reason for 16 to 1 Ratio.

Sometimes our opponents concede the necessity for bimetalism, but ask why the party adheres to the ratio of 16 to 1. The answer has been given so often that it ought to be well understood; but I will repeat it.

During the period extending from 1878 to 1896 all parties were promising the restoration of bimetalism, but the platforms were so ambiguous that advocates of the gold standard could be elected and then defeat any silver legislation.

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Continued on page 4

LETTER FROM MANILA.

SAN PEDRO, McCARDY, P. I.
Dec. 30, 1899.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT:—I received two "Democrats" and got all the news. I got several letters from friends in town also. It has been so long since I got any letters that I read them till I knew them "by heart," and I feel like a different person. I am not home sick, for I never was more contented in my life. Out in this wilderness you dare not move about without your gun loaded and ready for action, for these negroes, like animals, will spring on you from behind, and they will not be conquered as long as Gen. Otis carries on what he calls a civilized war. We are not allowed to fire, unless fired upon, and if we look crooked at them they report us and then we catch the d— We will capture a hundred or so of these troops and take them to Manila and there they are turned loose, and in a week's time they are back in their own lines. Civilization is alright, but you will never be able to pound it into these negroes' heads. Aginaldo makes them believe that we feed their dead to our horses, and that is what makes them so large. The horses here are little larger than a Shetland pony; and they are more afraid of an American Negro than they are of a lion, for they believe that they eat each other.

There will be about two more scraps on the north line and we have to wait till we get some artillery to take them as they are protected by heavy siege guns. Almost the whole enemy army is broken up into small bands of from 20 to 100, who go around robbing in the night and will pick off one of our out-posts every now and then. That is the way most of our men are killed. Some people wonder what America wants with the Philippine Islands. If they could only see them they would not ask that question, for these islands are certainly rich and worth something. There are three churches within a radius of 500 yards of us. One is still in use, but is nearly a wreck, and the walls of the other two are still standing. All three of them were bombed and destroyed. They contain images that you would think was beyond human power to carve out of stone. A prison is connected with every one, and vaults where they buried their dead. In one church the vaults were broken open and corpses were scattered all around, some of them had flesh on yet. The natives say the American soldiers did it for the gold they had on them, but I doubt it for they were horribly mutilated. The first battalion certainly was in luck, for we got a major that has been here a long time and don't believe in being dress parade soldiers, for he has sense enough to know that we cannot keep our clothes clean with only one suit, for all we own is what we have on our backs, and that is not very much as it is not very cold over here.

You people, I think, have a wrong opinion of the Philippine soldiers, by what you read in the American papers. You would think that every time we fired on the enemy they would run. Well, such is not the case, as they never retreat unless they are licked; and every time any of our troops runs up against them, they always have something to remember them, for some one or more gets plugged. Of course, they are not very good marksmen, but they are not greens. We have great times trying to learn the native language. Give my best to the boys. All the boys here are well and send their best love. JESSE M. UNDERWOOD.

47th IN AN ENGAGEMENT.

During the past day dispatches from Manila indicate that the 47th Regiment, of which the Belleville boy are members, have been in some active engagements. No names were given in these reports and friends at this place are uneasy. The following was in yesterday's paper:

MANILA, Feb. 6, 1900.—Ships arriving from Legaspi report that the insurgent General Pana concentrated a large force about the top of the town and made a sharp night attack on Major Shipton's Battalion of the Forty-seventh Infantry, which occupied a large convent as a fort. One battalion and a battery have sailed as reinforcements for Shipton. The casualties are unknown. A corporal and four men, while patrolling the railroad near Mabacalat recently, disappeared and are supposed to have been captured. A searching party looking for them was ambushed and a corporal killed.

Battle in Progress.

BOER HEAD LAAGER, Feb. 7:—The battle at Ladysmith is now in progress. The British are making a heroic attempt to cross the Tugela river.

BULLER RE-CROSSED THE TUGELA.

LONDON, Feb. 6:—The war office has received a dispatch stating General Buller recrossed the Tugela river February 5 and is now advancing upon Ladysmith.

Some men mind their own business, while others employ a private secretary.

FOR MEMORIAL EXERCISES TO BE HELD FEB. 22.

An Interesting Sketch of the life and Career of Hon. A. G. Curtin, deceased--Choice Selections.

The monument committee are exceedingly anxious that the public schools of Centre county make a success of the Curtin memorial exercises, on February 22, 1900. In order to assist the teachers and pupils in this direction the following sketch was prepared. Along with this can be included patriotic recitations, declamations, songs, appropriate to the memory of those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the defence of home and country. Parents, taxpayers, and G. A. R. men especially, are urged to be in attendance and bring with them a generous contribution for the erection of the monument.

EX-GOVERNOR A. G. CURTIN:

Andrew Gregg Curtin was born in Bellefonte on the 23rd of April, A. D. 1815, in a house which in that day stood where Joseph Bro's store now stands. His preparatory education was obtained in the schools of the town such as they were at that early day, at an academy at Harrisburg, and completed at the celebrated academy at Milton, Pa. He studied law under the Hon. W. W. Potter and at the Dickinson Law School at Carlisle, Pa., and was admitted to the bar of Centre county in 1839. His success as a lawyer was very great, as an advocate he had no equals. Wit, humor, ridicule and stern logic all played their part to perfection before the jury and made for him a name and reputation which brought clients and success.

He always was fond of politics, and as early as 1840 he took an active part in political campaigns. In that year he made speeches for Wm. Henry Harrison, the whig candidate for president. In 1844 he canvassed the state, as far as possible, advocating the election of Henry Clay, "the political idol of his early manhood." His speeches during this memorable campaign were able, eloquent and convincing and brought him prominently before the people who recognized his ability as a popular and effective speaker. He likewise took an active part in the campaigns of 1848 and 1852.

In 1854 he was prominently mentioned as the whig candidate for governor of the state, but declined to go before the convention, preferring the nomination of James Pollock, who after his election made Curtin secretary of the Commonwealth and *ex-officio* superintendent of the common schools. In this office he did much to carry out and perfect the organization of the public school system under the law of 1854. A determined effort was made to destroy the provisions of this act under which the department of common schools and the county superintendency was created, and only by the sagacity, energy, ability and foresight of Secretary Curtin were the enemies of free schools and better organization overthrown.

While he was secretary of the Commonwealth and superintendent of the schools, the bill under which our normal schools were organized was passed. It met with strong opposition. The last day of the session of the legislature had come, it had to be put through that day or not at all. Of this Dr. H. C. Hickok says:

"Secretary Curtin had undertaken to hold H. D. Foster the leader of the democratic side of the house in check and the fate of the bill depended on his ability to do so. Several times during the reading of the bill Mr. Foster turned to move its indefinite postponement but Mr. Curtin, with courteous insistence, persuaded him to let the reading go on, as the bill would be through in a few minutes. It was the remarkable spectacle of the premier of an administration standing on the floor of an opposition house, holding the opposition leader under moral duress against his will, while passing a bill over his head."

Some years before Curtin became secretary of the Commonwealth he was elected one of the overseers of the poor of Bellefonte borough and to this day it is said the poor of the town lived better that year than they ever did before or since. He was also a member of the school board of the borough for 19 years with the exception of three years; this service was consecutive, he resigned as a member of the school board in 1859.

In February 1860 he was nominated by the republican state convention, which met at Harrisburg, for governor, and after a great campaign in which he canvassed the state from Lake Erie to the Delaware he was elected by a majority of over 32,000 over Henry D. Foster the same man whom he held in subjection by his marvelous conversational power while the normal school bill passed.

On the 15th day of January A. D. 1861 Curtin was inaugurated governor of the state. This took place just three months before the breaking out of the war. The inaugural address was remarkable in its boldness and the expression of a determination to preserve the union of the states as they came to us from our fathers. As making a fit declamation for any

school boy or girl on Memorial day we quote from it the following:

FROM CURTIN'S FIRST INAUGURAL.

"No one who knows the history of Pennsylvania," said he, "and understands the opinions and feelings of her people, can justly charge us with hostility to our brethren of other states. We regard them as friends and fellow countrymen, in whose welfare we feel a kindred interest; and we recognize in their broadest extent all our constitutional obligations to them. These we are ready and willing to observe, generously and fraternally in their letter and spirit, with unwavering fidelity. Ours is a national government. It has within the sphere of its action, all the attributes of sovereignty, and among these are the right and duty of self preservation. It is based upon a compact to which all the people of the United States are parties. It is the result of mutual concessions, which were made for the purpose of securing reciprocal benefits. It acts directly on the people and they owe it a personal allegiance. No part of the people, no state, nor combination of states, can voluntarily secede from the Union, nor absolve themselves from their obligations to it. To permit a state to withdraw at pleasure from the Union, without the consent of the rest, is to confess that our government is a failure. Pennsylvania can never acquiesce in such a conspiracy, nor assent to a doctrine which involves the destruction of the government. If the government is to exist, all the requirements of the Constitution must be obeyed, and it must have power adequate to the enforcement of the supreme law of the land in every state. It is the first duty of the national authorities to stay the progress of anarchy and enforce the laws, and Pennsylvania, with a united people will give them an honest, faithful and active support. The people mean to preserve the national Union at every hazard."

Governor Curtin's devotion to the Union knew no limit. Just before the war broke out he was called, by President Lincoln, to Washington, who said to him, "We are on the eve of a great war, what will Pennsylvania do?" His answer is historical. "Pennsylvania will furnish to the government 100,000 men in twenty-four hours." Being the executive of a great border state and convenient to Washington he was more frequently consulted by the president than any other of the governors of the states of the North during the great struggle. Of him General McClellan said, "that of all the men he met while commanding the Army of the Potomac Curtin was the most devoted and unselfish. Jealousy, intrigue, the fear that some other might obtain a more lofty station or receive more honor or accomplish greater deeds than he did, never entered his great soul." The two great things which he did as governor during the war was first the organization of what is known as the Pennsylvania Reserve, a corps consisting of 15,000 of as hardy, brave and noble men as Pennsylvania was able to produce.

The government, still under the belief that the rebellion would be short-lived, had advised him that it did not need the men. Equal to the occasion Gov. Curtin asked authority, which was speedily granted from the legislature, to organize the men in camp at his call into a corps for State defence subject to the call of the national government. These men were equipped and drilled and were the only men in reserve. Hence their name.

The first battle and defeat at Bull Run endangered the safety of the national capital. Then it was that the foresight and good judgment of Governor Curtin became apparent. At the beginning of the war the Society of the Cincinnati presented Governor Curtin with a sum of money to arm and equip the volunteers of Pennsylvania who might enter the public service. The governor referred the subject to the Assembly which instructed him to have prepared a state flag to present the regiments from the state. Thus it was that every regiment from Pennsylvania bore a flag of azure field having in the centre the coat of arms of our great state, surrounded by a galaxy of bright stars.

On the tenth of September, 1861, while the Pennsylvania Reserves were at Tenallytown, in the presence of President Lincoln, the secretary of war, the commander of the Army of the Potomac and many others of the dignitaries of the nation, Governor Curtin presented colors for each regiment of this corps, to General McCall (the commander of the corps) in the most fervent and impassioned language, so characteristic of the man and the times that his eloquent

Continued on page 4.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

The sculptor needs to have a good head for figures. A miner can not succeed unless he gets down to business.

It's a wise fool that keeps his lack of wisdom to himself.

It's a poor article that can't get a testimonial of some kind.

Necessity knows no law, and is usually too poor to hire a lawyer.

Is a horse race demoralizing if you look at the better side of it?

A fowl isn't necessarily a jail bird because it gets put in the cooler.

The bullion in a government die is always hard pressed for money.

The stronger the butter is in the tub, the weaker it is in the market.

The way to satisfy an itching for wealth is to do some scratching.

It's no sign a musical composer is lazy because his work is full of rests.

Dogs may have family trees, but you cannot tell them by their barks.

The man in the tread mill doesn't believe that turn about is fair play.

Self-praise is all right when inserted in some good advertising medium.

Luck may be a good servant, but as a master its pay-days are uncertain.

Two heads may be better than one, but one big head is usually enough.

The only way to see through a joke is to get an insight into the crack of it.

The poor cripple who is unable to work has a lame excuse for begging.

There's an uprising in labor circles every time the factory whistle blows.

The lawyers for the defense are responsible for a great deal of insanity.

The meaner the man the more unwilling he is to assume a small obligation.

The price a woman pays for a complexion improver is always a handsome sum.

The dentist may not be able to fill a long-felt want, but he can fill an aching void.

Stationers are about the only persons who can keep diaries through the entire year.

The editor isn't a cook, but he takes an article in its raw state and boils it down.

Don't worry about prices being high. They say that what goes up must come down.

The most appropriate song for Adam to sing would have been "Only One Girl."

The needle always has an eye for business, and seldom fails to carry its point.

The older a man gets the less he professes to understand the nature of women.

It keeps some men busy inventing schemes to separate other men from their money.

The poor fowl is dreadfully cut up by the time an amateur carver gets through with it.

It does seem as if the ordinary ballet could go on without much of a dress rehearsal.

The counterfeit may have been brought up well, but he always turns out queer.

"I have a pull," said the corkscrew. "Yes," replied the auger, "but I'm the hole thing."

A great many people who are trying to get in the social swim should put on life preservers.

It is hard to convince the small boy that summer vacation days are longer than winter school days.

It is only in accord with the eternal fitness of things that police telegraph wires should be made of copper.

There may be nothing in a name, but in the society columns of a newspaper there are nothing but names.

A man must have a lot of bravery in his make-up to enable him to listen calmly to the whistling of bullets.

It Was Hydrophobia.

Last week mention was made of the appearance of hydrophobia in Miles Twp., and that section had been quarantined by the state authorities. The result is that a dog can be seen running loose in the entire valley, and every precaution is being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The brain of one of the cows that was killed and sent to the authorities at Harrisburg and after passing it through the usual tests for hydrophobia showed without a doubt that the animal was infected with that disease. No new cases have developed since last week and there is general relief felt among farmers and cattle owners.

Killed by a Fall of Coal.

Samuel Walker, jr., of Philipsburg, was killed in the Troy mine, near that place, last week by a premature fall of coal. When the coal was removed the man was dead. He was 31 years old and unmarried.