DEMOCRATIC PARTY AGAINST OUR NAVY

Objects to Appropriations to Make Us Equal to Our New Responsibilities.

Would Leave Us the Prey of Stronger Nations—Success of Monroe Doctrine Depends On Adequate Navy.

William Jennings Bryan has always opposed a great American navy. He went to Congress years ago, and if he accomplished anything worthy of note, the record has failed to show it. At that time the Democrats all over the country were looking to him with growing admiration because of his obstruction tactics. On July 9, 1892, he arose in his place in the House of Representatives and opposing a proposed naval appropriation, said:

"Mr. Speaker, I believe in a sufficient navy. We have this now, either in existence or in construction. We do not need more."

Is the Same Bryan Today.

Such was Mr. Bryan sixteen years ago and such he is to-day. He has opposed every proposed appropriation to increase and strengthen our navy, as a matter of defense and protection to our coast line, and a preventative of war with other nations, as a source of pride and prestige and insurance to our country. The matchless record of our navy at Santiago and in Manila Bay during the Spanish war interests him not. Had his ideas prevailed we would have had no victories on the water in that war.

Must Always Be Ready.

As wars between nations come suddenly, just as do personal conflicts between men, our navy must be maintained upon that basis of possible contingency. Our national history shows that wars have sprung suddenly into existence while wise men were proclaiming that war could not occur. There are many instances where the most unexpected occurrences have brought us to the very verge of battle.

We are not a military nation, yet we are a rich nation, and undefended wealth invites aggression. The very liberty of individual speech and action which we as a people so prize and guard, renders it possible that at times unexpected causes of friction with foreign powers may suddenly develop. Even at present this country is negotiating arbitration treaties with a number of the great powers. These treaties have a special usefulness because in the event of some sudden disagreement they render it morally incumbent upon both nations to seek first to reach an agreement to arbitrate and at least secure a breathing space during which the cool judgment of the two nations involved may get the upper hand over any momentary burst of anger. Such treaties are entered into with the hope of preventing wrong doing by others against us and also as a proof that we have no intention of doing wrong ourselves.

Preparedness Safest Peace Argument

Yet it is idle to assume that this world has yet reached the stage, or has come within measurable distance of the stage, when a proud nation, jealous of its honor and conscious of its great mission in the world, can be content to rely for peace upon the forbearance of other powers—as seems to be Mr. Bryan's idea. It would be equally foolish upon our part to rely upon each of them possessing at all times and under all circumstances and provocations, an altruistic regard for the rights of others.

Must Maintain American Prestige.

The United States can hope for a permanent career of peace on only one condition, and that is on condition of maintaining a first class navy—despite the obstructive tactics of the Democratic party.

The government has found it necessary to be liberal in appropriations for rivers, harbors and bays, for irrigation, for the construction of public buildings, and for various other public enterprises which redound either to the benefit of some specific locality or to the people at large. Every great power has found it necessary to provide protection for its commerce, its foreign trade, its ports, and its people doing business or traveling in other countries. We have become a great power. This nation today lines up alongside of the five great powers of the world. We have assumed responsibilities by the recent colonial expansion which was thrust upon us, and from which we cannot excape if we would, and ought not if we could.

Responsibility of World Power.

We have obligations to Cuba, where we have said to the world we will protect her against assault or invasion, against attacks upon her independence, integrity of territory, of her institutions. We have Porto Rico, which can be defended only from the sea, as Cuba can be defended only from the sea. We have the islands of Tutuila, Guam, Hawaii, and the Philippines far from the United States, all of which must be protected from the sea. We have assumed another obligation in the Panama Canal, which perhaps is greatest of all.

We have the longest line of sea coast of any other power in the world except one—7,000 miles—and in addition to that, Alaska. We have assumed responsibility for law and order in Panama. The spades and drills and steam shovels are there at work and the whole world is taking notice, because they are to alter the paths of commerce and to change the relations of nations. The future of the Monroe Doctrine is in the custody of our navy. Its peaceful recognition will be the tribute which other nations pay, not to the doctrine, but to our sea power.

We as a people do not fully appreciate the commercial jealousies now existing in Europe against us and which will be accentuated by the construction and completion of the Panama canal. Not alone our states on the Pacific, but the whole line of ports on the Atlantic Coast, will come into this comeptition, for the ports on the Atlantic coast are as near in miles to Japan, China and the Orient, by the Panama canal, as are the reservoirs that gather for distribution abroad, the products of Continental Europe, or London, through the Suez Canal.

Commerce and Our Sea Power.

This great future commerce cannot be protected by treaties alone. We cannot protect our commerce and expand our trade by mere arbitration at The Hague alone. We can only maintain commerce by having a sea power adequate for its protection, for the security of our islands, and to prevent a hostile fleet from destroying in a week the Panama canal, after it has cost us from two to three hundred million dollars and ten years to build.

It is therefore to the interest of every high-minded, public-spirited American to endorse the constructive policy of the Republican party, and encourage the establishment and maintenance of a first-class American navy.

HOW COULD BRYAN HELP?

His Prescriptions For Business Shown to Be Ineffectual.

(From the Pittsburg Gazette-Times.)

We hear of workingmen saying that this time they intend to vote for Mr. Bryan, because for the past ten months we have had hard times. But what good will that do? How is a tariff for revenue, ignoring the protection plea altogether, going to open the shops and mills? How will the election of Senators by direct vote start the wheels of industry? Or the publication of campaign contributions? Or the further harassment of the railroads? Or the reorganization of the House, so that the Speaker may be powerless? Why open this country now to the markets of the world when we have not sufficient demand to consume what we ourselves manufacture?

Exact Justice Highest Ideal.

The administration of exact justice by courts without fear or favor, unmoved by the influence of the wealthy or by the threats of the demagogue, is the highest ideal that a government of the people can strive for, and any means by which a suitor, however unpopular or poor, is deprived of enjoying this is to be condemned.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Columbus, Ohio.

Party Requirements.

As a party shows itself homogeneous, able to grasp the truth with respect to new issues, able to discard unimportant differences of opinion, sensitive with respect to the successful maintenance of government, and highly charged with the responsibility of its obligations to the people at large, it establishes its claim to the confidence of the public and to its continuance in political power.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Kansas City, Mo.

Labor and Capital United.

Anything that makes capital idle, or which reduces or destroys it, must reduce both wages and the opportunity to earn wages. It only requires the effects of a panic through which we are passing, or through which we passed in 1893 or 1873, to show how closely united in a common interest we all are in modern society. We are in the same boat, and financial and business storms which affect one are certain to effect all others.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, before the Cooper Union, New York City.

NON-PARTISAN LABOR PAPER.

Mine Workers' Journal, Representing 350,000 Coal Miners, Refuses Space to Politics.

The Mine Workers' Journal, official paper of the 350,000 coal miners of the country, published at Indianapolis, will not support Bryan in the coming election. In a statement to a correspondent the Mine Workers' Journal states:

"For obvious reasons we are compelled to decline publication of your well-written letter. It is contrary to the rules of the Journal to allow anything of a partisan political nature in its columns. Yours would invoke replies of a partisan nature and an attack on other partisan candidates from others who differ with you, and the columns of the Journal would be filled with letters of a partisan political nature to the exclusion of matter that is more interesting and calculated to do more good. Politics of a partisan character are excluded from the Journal for the good of the Journal and peace of its members."

Inspiration from Lincoln.

The leader of the Republican party during the Civil War was Abraham Lincoln. In all the varieties of controversy which it has since had to deal, it has never lost the inspiration of his leadership.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Kansas City, Mo.

Political Notes.

The Republican party is greater than any man, a distinct contrast to the Democratic party, which has but one leader and he its master.—Hon. James S. Sherman.

It is announced that Mrs. Tennessee Claflin Cook is coming all the way across the ocean for the purpose of helping to elect Bryan. She is a determined woman, and Mr. Bryan probably will be unable to stop her.—Chicago Tribune.

Ex-Secretary Carlisle denies a rumor that he had declared for Bryan, but refuses to say more. This is about as much as has ever been known of his political position since leaving the Cleveland cabinet.—New York Times.

David B. Hill declines to enter the campaign for Bryan on account of his poor health. Mr. Hill's health has always been one of his best and most convenient assets when Bryan is running for office.—Omaha Bee.

Senator Foraker refuses to lend aid or comfort to the enemy.—Omaha Bee.

SECRETARY ROOT REVIEWS ISSUES

Republican Administration Vigorous for Enforcement of Law.

Taft the Logical Successor to Continue Roosevelt Policies and Reforms.

Elihu Root, Secretary of State, chairman of the Republican convention which nominated Charles E. Hughes for Governor of New York, addressed the convention in part as follows:

Mr. Root's Speech.

"We can turn to the administrations now drawing to a close, both in the State and in the nation, and with confidence ask every American voter to say whether they have not met all the great fundamental questions of good government, whether they do not justify the belief that it is best for the country to keep in power the party which is responsible for them and is entitled to the credit of them. Have not these administrations within the State and within the nation been honest? Have they not been capable? Have they not been efficient? Have they not set before the people of America examples of pure, high-minded and patriotic service in public office? Have they not raised the standard of public duty which the young men of America have set for themselves? Have they not done us honor before the world?"

Mr. Bryan Answered.

Mr. Root took up and answered at length Bryan's question, "Shall the People Rule?" including the various arraignments of the Republican party and its leaders made by the Democratic candidate in recent speeches. Among other things he said:

"Mr. Bryan charges that the Republican party is responsible for the abuses of corporate wealth. As well might he charge that the man who plants cotton is responsible for the boll weevil, or that the man who plants fruit trees is responsible for the San Jose scale. Until the millennium has brought the eradication of human selfishness and greed, social abuses will come according to the shifting conditions of the times. Adversity and prosperity, wealth and poverty have each their own kinds of abuse. Constant vigilance and constant activity to meet and put an end to abuses as they arise is the task of government and of good citizenship; but the work is never finished. The Republican party has produced the conditions which have made our great prosperity possible, and it is dealing with the evils which have been incident to that prosperity with vigor and effectiveness. Upon the course to be pursued regarding these evils, upon the attitude and action of the government towards trusts, railroads, and all the great corporations, there is no substantial issue between the two parties.

Tariff Revision.

"The Democratic party proposes that they will wipe out the protective tariff and substitute a tariff for revenue only. I shall not discuss that proposition, but it ought not to be forgotten. The eleven years which have passed since the Dingley tariff was enacted have brought about many changes in the conditions to which the tariff law is applied. Many of these changes have resulted from the very prosperity which the protection afforded by the tariff has produced. In the nature of things, such changes must occur and from time to time every tariff must be revised and adapted to the new conditions. As the period of revision, however, is always one of uncertainty and a consequent injury to business, revisions ought not to be made too often or upon slight grounds. The Republican party has not considered that sufficient grounds for thus disturbing business have existed heretofore. It now considers that sufficient grounds do now exist, and it has pledged itself immediately after the 4th of March next to devote an extraordinary session of Congress to making such a revision in accordance with the true principles of protection.

"The last time the Democratic party was in power the result was the Wilson-Gorman tariff of 1893. The very threat of such a proceeding at that time stopped business, closed the mills, threw millions of men out of employment, and was accompanied by universal business depression and disaster. Are we ready to repeat that experience now, as we surely shall if we put the Democratic party in power?

The Railroads.

"The Republican party believes in the regulation of railroads. It believes that their managers ought to be made, and can be made, to obey the law. It believes that by an enforcement of the law, not spasmodic and sensational, but steady, firm, and persistent, excessive and discriminating rates can be stopped; and it is now, and has been for a considerable period, engaged in such enforcement, with marked efficiency and success. It proposes for the presidency a candidate who declares his purpose to continue and complete that enforcement of the law, and whose competency to do so with success has been proved. Mr. Bryan does not believe in the regulation of railroads. He does not believe it practicable. He regards it as bound to fail, although he is willing to criticise the Republican party for not accomplishing that vast and complicated task all at once.

"It is natural to observe that, if the people of the country desire railroads to be regulated, and the laws regarding them to be enforced, it would be wise to entrust that regulation to Mr. Taft, who believes in regulation, and has faith in the wisdom and effectiveness of the law, rather than in the hands of one who believes that all effort to regulate must prove futile.

The Democratic Record.

"What is furnished by the record of the Democratic party at large to show that it is competent to maintain the prosperity we have, and execute the promises of reform it tenders. No proof whatever of that is offered. All the evidence we have is the other way. The majority of us have not yet forgotten the second administration of Grover Cleveland, which ended only on the 4th of March, 1897. The Democracy then had its opportunity to show the world what it could do with government, for it possessed the executive office, a majority of the Senate, and a majority of the House. Its opportunity to exercise that control for the public benefit was wasted. Discord and confusion reigned throughout the entire four years. Incapacity to reach practical conclusions or to take any effective action was demonstrated. No promises were kept. No reforms were accomplished. It became apparent that the sole cohesive force that bound the Democratic party together was the desire for office, and, once in office, instead of progress, we had all factions pulling different ways, totally incapable of agreeing upon a common course of conduct.

"Are the people of the United States ready to repeat that experience of Democratic government?"

TAFT'S SETTLEMENT OF THE FRIARS' LAND PROBLEM.

In the whole story of Judge Taft's brilliant and useful career as jurist, executive and diplomat there is no more creditable chapter than that devoted to his adjustment of the controversy concerning what were known as the "Friars' Lands" in the Philippines. Those lands, consisting of some 300,000 acres of the most fertile soil in the islands, were held by priests of certain religious orders, but were occupied and farmed by native tenants, who complained that the rentals exacted by their clerical landlords were excessive. Upon the withdrawal of Spanish authority from the Archipelago the Friars' Lands became the subject of earnest controversy. The farmer tenants contended that the property should be taken from the priests and thrown open to purchase in small parcels by the actual occupants. There was a demand, indeed, for the confiscation of the property and the priests themselves, in their ignorance of American methods, were fearful that such a course might be adopted.

It became one of Mr. Taft's tasks to settle this serious dispute, and he accomplished it in a manner which not only greatly increased his own popularity and enlarged American prestige in the islands, but developed among the clerical authorities and the tenant farmers a vastly more neighborly spirit, and a more harmonious community of interest than had ever existed before. Mr. Taft carefully investigated all conditions relating to the Friars' Lands. He consulted the clerical landlords, the higher church authorities and the tenant farmers. Then he went to Rome, where his proposals for an amicable adjustment of the controversy received the cordial approval of the papal authorities. The Friars' Lands were purchased for a sum approximating $7,000,000. Clerical landlordism ceased and the property was divided into small parcels and sold on easy terms to former tenants and others desirous of engaging in agriculture.

The real importance of this transaction is appreciated only by those familiar with the manifold and delicate problems which have been encountered in the work of Americanizing the Philippines. The settlement of the affair by Mr. Taft removed permanently a fruitful source of friction between the civil and the religious interests of the islands. It laid the foundation for kindlier relations and more intimate co-operation between the civil government and the authorities of the church. It set before the Filipinos a high example of American friendship and fair dealing which is bound to exert a wholesome moral and educational influence for many years to come.

No Defendable Policy.

The difficulty with the Democratic party and the reason why the American people thus far have manifested their distrust of it is because it has no policy which the country can depend upon. Its whole stock in trade is that of irresponsible criticism and obstruction, but when charged with the responsibility for doing anything it utterly fails.—Hon. Wm. H. Taft, at Greensboro, North Carolina.

Protection Must Continue.

The Republican party will continue to be a protectionist party and the American people a protectionist people. And that protection must apply to every section, every industry and every class.—Hon. James S. Sherman.

A Party of Principle.

The Republican party was born because of a principle, and it has lived and grown because of principles too sound to be overthrown, too deep to be effaced.—Hon. James S. Sherman.

Free Trade Fallacy.

Our free trade friends have told us for years and years that if we do not buy we cannot sell, but we have gone on doing both at a wondrously increasing rate, but selling just enough more than we buy to meet all foreign obligations and keep our gold as a bulwark of redemption. That has been the Republican method, and that is going to continue to be the Republican method. —Hon. James S. Sherman.

The Soft Pedal.

Poor Jim Dahlman, overwhelmed by pirates and traitors, beaten by a banker and plutocrat! Our heart—every feeling heart—is in Nebraska there with Cowboy Dahlman.—New York Sun.

Pert paragraph in the Louisville Courier Journal: "The greatest talking machine in existence comes from China and is called Wu Ting-fang." Stuff! There is one in Nebraska that can talk rings around him.—Chicago Record-Herald.

OUR GREAT AMERICAN CROPS.

The great American crop is coming in. Here's what the United States does:

Annually produces more corn than all other countries of the world combined—2,927,000,000 out of 3,888,000,000 bushels.

Annually produces more wheat than any other country in the world—634,000,000 out of 3,108,000,000 bushels.

Annually exports more wheat flour than all the other countries in the world combined—15,000,000 out of 26,000,000 barrels.

Annually exports more wheat, including wheat flour, than any other country in the world—146,000,000 out of 646,000,000 bushels.

Annually produces more oats than any other country in the world—754,000,000 out of 3,582,000,000 bushels.

Is the third largest producer of barley in the world, 153,000,000 bushels—only 7,000,000 bushels less than Germany, with Russia leading.

Annually produces more cotton than all the other countries of the world—13,000,000 out of 20,000,000 bales.

Annually produces more tobacco than any other country in the world—690,000,000 out of 2,201,000,000 pounds.

Annually produces more flaxseed than any other country in the world—25,000,000 out of 87,000,000 bushels.

Annually produces more hops than any other country in the world—57,000,000 out of 211,000,000 pounds.

Annually exports more oilcake and oilcake meal than any other country in the world—2,063,000,000 out of 4,913,000,000 pounds.

Annually exports more rosin than all the other countries of the world—717,000,000 out of 864,000,000 pounds.

Annually exports more spirits of turpentine than all the other countries of the world—16,000,000 out of 24,000,000 gallons.

CHOLERA GRIPS ST. PETERSBURG

Great Alarm in Russian Capital Over Spread of the Disease.

St. Petersburg is in the grasp of the Asiatic cholera, which already has exceeded in severity and the numbers of victim the visitation of 1893. The disease is increasing daily at an alarming rate and unless the authorities show in the future a much greater degree of ability to cope with the situation than they have in the past there is every reason to fear that it will get out of hand.

The situation, which always has been serious since the first case was reported, has assumed a graver aspect from the appearance of a virulent type of the disease, in two cases of which death followed within fifteen minutes of the first symptoms.

Germany has become alarmed over the spread of the disease, and the German authorities have taken precaution to prevent its crossing the frontier. Austria has done the same thing; Sweden and other near-by countries have declared a qparantine against Russia and France is ready to meet any exigencies that may arise.

The civil commission, summoned in special session by Governor General Smith in the Philippines to deal with the epidemic of cholera, decided to order 200 members of the constabulary into Manila to assist the health inspectors in their campaign against the plague.

Noiseless Maxim Gun Tested.

That the device for rendering the discharge of firearms practically silent, the invention of which by Hiram Percy Maxim was recently announced, will do what he claimed for it was demonstrated before a committee of United States army officers at Springfield, Mass., recently. Both in the armory and in the open field the tests were satisfactory. First, one of the soldiers fired a regular army rifle, and the report was heard above the din of the machinery in the factory. Then Maxim adjusted the device to that same gun and the firing was not audible 150 feet away, and was only like the snapping of the fingers from points nearer the position of the shooter. What the officers heard at 150 feet was not the explosion, but the striking of the hammer. Neither smoke nor fire was visible at the muzzle of the gun as shot after shot was fired straight at a target. From calculations, it was estimated that the gun is 74 per cent noiseless. Forty grains of smokeless powder were used in the cartridges, a charge capable of hurling a bullet over 1,500 yards with fatal results.

Social Reconstruction.

In the leading article for the current Atlantic Monthly, John Martin reviews the abandonment of the laissez-faire policy in America in recent years and the new feeling of public responsibility. The idea which prevailed not long ago was that everything American was about perfect. Now every one is finding some fault, and the necessity for social reconstruction is apparent. Various associations like the Civic Federation, associations for health, against child labor, immigration, etc., and executive interference in industrial wars are mentoned to show the trend. While not accepting any particular brand of socialism, Mr. Martin thinks that the agitation of these social questions is healthy. It means that order and peace must take the place of the fierce commercial warfare.

Farman's Views of Aeroplanes.

Henrix Farman, the French aviator, who has just arrived at New York with his prize-winning flying machine for the purpose of giving an exhibition flight, in a published interview says that it will take another decade to perfect the flying machine for practical and safe use. Half the solution of the problem rested on the perfection of a motor which would give greater power without increasing the weight. The other half lies in developing a machine with an automatic balancing device. In his opinion a machine of the monoplane type will be the successful flyer of the future. He does not believe that any flying machine will ever rival the railroads for commercial work. Mrs. Farman, who is with him, expects to be a passenger in one of his flights.

Living for years within a distance of less than 100 miles from each other, a father and two daughters have just been reunited. The daughters supposed the father dead and the father knew nothing regarding his children's whereabouts. The children are Mrs. Charles Kunow and Miss Ruby Petersen of Marietta, Minn. The father is Charles Petersen of Estherville, Iowa. The latter sent his photograph to his father. The grandfather at once notified his grandchildren of their father's whereabouts, and the reunion of father and children speedily followed.

J. Young, Charles Kemp and Henry C. Shuette are dead as a result of the carelessness of Mary Arthur, a 19-year-old nurse at the county hospital in San Diego, Cal. A. Paisler is not expected to live, and Captain A. Paulsen, B. Tisler, George King and Mr. Peny are seriously ill. All were taken sick one afternoon and evidence of poison was so great that an investigation was started, ending finally in a confession by Miss Arthur that she had neglected to throw out some water in which there was a quantity of atropine, and that her patients had gotten hold of it for their medicine.

CURRENT COMMENT

Forest fires are not periodic visitations, as it has been argued by many sensible persons this year who have brought out statistical almanacs to prove their contention. Forest fires are dependent upon two things; one is the weather and the other is the white man's carelessness.

When the Indians roamed about at will they always saw that every spark was out before they moved their camps. They guarded the woods against the chance blaze as a city man now guards his investments. But the white man, whether in his own timber, or that of the government, gives little thought to the dangers of fire. He does not compel railroads to take steps to prevent sparks from locomotives falling in dry grass. He lets the logs of his camp smoulder away though knowing that a breeze might scatter the embers. He strikes matches and throws the lighted ends away without a glance as to where they drop. When a long dry spell has taken the moisture from leaves and bark, when the grass is shrivseled to whisps of tinder, then the white man's carelessness becomes a threat to property and life. It is a menace to every noble tree which has taken a century or two in growing, to the farmer whose fields border the forests, to the towns built in the woods and dependent upon them for their living.

The forest fires cease when rains come. But behind them they have left monuments to the criminal carelessness of men who cannot be taught anything, who will not try to learn. The Indians had much the advantage of them in intelligence.—Toledo Blade.

POLITICS and POLITICIANS

In the August number of the Federationist President Gompers publishes an editorial entitled "The Essence of Labor's Contention on Injunctions," which was approved by the executive council of the federation. He insists that the writ of injunction was intended to be exercised for "the protection of property rights only;" that it must never be used to curtail personal rights; that there must be no other adequate remedy in law; that it must not be used to punish crime nor to set aside trial by jury. He argues against the injunction in labor disputes as being not based upon law, but as being a species of "judicial legislation and judicial usurpation in the interests of the money power against workmen innocent of any unlawful or criminal act."

Candidate Kern, in an article for Collier's, refers to the prevailing popular notion that the office of Vice President has ceased to be one of influence or high honor, and says that the occupant of that or of any public office should be "direct, open, obvious and known to all men." He believes that the Vice President should speak frankly upon pending legislation just as any member of the cabinet may. At the same time he holds that, as the Vice President should be at all times the servant of the Senate, so the President should be merely the servant of the people, and not the master of Congress, confining his work to the execution of the laws, not to the coercing of Congress or the criticism of the courts.

While resting at Hot Springs, Va., and working on his letter of acceptance, Candidate Taft was quoted on the trust plank of the Democratic platform, which provides that any corporation doing 25 per cent of the business in any one commodity must be licensed by the federal government, but that the license shall not release the corporation from obedience to the laws of the States in which it does business. Taft pointed out the advantages of the method proposed by the last Congress, inviting corporations to apply for federal license in return for publicity and promising immunity from prosecution if found not to be in restraint of trade. The Democratic plan he described as mandatory.

The phonograph as a medium for the spreading of the gospel of prohibition has been adopted by the managers of the prohibition party presidential campaign.

New York Prohibitionists have nominated a full State ticket headed by the Rev. Dr. George E. Stockwell of Fort Plain, for Governor. Resolutions endorsing the party's platform were adopted.

President Van Cleave of the National Manufacturers' Association, in American Industries, boldly declares war upon the Democratic ticket, especially on account of the labor plank in the Denver platform.

Upon his return from Europe, Nathan Straus, the wealthy New York merchant and pure milk philanthropist, announced that he would work for the election of the Democratic ticket.

William Randolph Hearst has given out the contents of a letter he addressed to the Iroquois club, of San Francisco, a democratic organization, replying to the request of the club that he tender his resignation as member. Mr. Hearst says in his letter that he is both pleased and surprised to receive the letter from the club—pleased that he has been asked to resign, and surprised to learn that the club is still in existence

FOREST FIRE RAVAGES BRING HOME LESSON

May Be Instrumental in Merging Efforts Toward More Adequate Protection of Timber.

GREATEST LOSS SINCE 1871.

Work of Investigating Damage Is Begun by Federal Government Agent R. W. Pullman.

The recent disastrous forest fires, probably the most serious in a quarter of a century, may be instrumental in concentrating national, state and private forces to provide more adequate protection against flames which exact an average annual toll of $25,000,000.

Not since the Peshtigo fire of 1871, when between 1,200 and 1,500 persons perished and many millions of dollars of property was wiped out in a few hours, has the devastation of the flames been so great as this year, when from coast to coast the great forest areas of the North have been the constant arena of the struggle against this dreaded enemy of the forest frontier.

Accurate returns of the property loss has not yet been received in Washington, but the work of investigation has been begun. R. W. Pullman, special agent of the United States forest service, in passing through Chicago on his way to the burnt regions of Minnesota, told of the prolonged and thus far losing fight which is being waged to prevent the wholesale destruction which yearly impoverishes whole regions.

Loss Now More Conspicuous.

"Now that the timber of the country is being reduced by lumbering," said Mr. Pullman, "and people have awakened to the fact that the forests do not represent an inexhaustible supply, the loss that is sustained in these fires becomes the more conspicuous. It is not alone the lumber owner that pays the price. The loss of stumpage value is but a small part of the damage to a neighborhood.

"The wages that would have been earned by laborers in the lumber camps and the produce that would have been purchased to supply those camps, the taxes that would have been devoted to the construction of roads and other improvements, and the fertility of the soil that is destroyed, all bring the ultimate cost of these fires to sums that cannot be calculated.

"From reports thus far received, the fires of this summer have been the most destructive since those of 1871. The Peshtigo fire of October of that year covered an area of 2,000 square miles in Wisconsin, entailing heavy loss of life and property. Other fires in Michigan that year consumed $10,000,000 in standing timber.

"One of the earliest was the great Miramichi fire of 1825, starting sixty miles above Newcastle, N. B., on the Miramichi River, shortly after noon. Before 10 o'clock at night it was twenty miles below Newcastle, in nine hours destroying a belt eighty miles long and twenty-five miles wide. In an area of 2,500,000 acres every living thing was destroyed.

"One of the most serious fires of recent years was that which started near Hinckley, Minn., in September, 1904. While the area covered was less than in some others, the loss of life was heavy. Six towns were destroyed, 500 people perished and 2,000 were left destitute. It was said that this destruction was wholly unnecessary. For many days before a high wind came and drove it into uncontrollable fury it had been burning slowly close to Hinckley and coull have been put out.

"The initial cause of such widespread destruction can be traced to two agencies, the railroad and the campers. Both are careless. In many timber countries the roads are required to fit their locomotives with spark arresters. If this law were more fully obeyed the danger from this source would be reduced. The camper's culpability is more direct. A few buckets of water poured over the remains of a camp fire will effectively prevent trouble.

Forest Rangers an Economy.

"The economy of employing forest rangers to keep constant watch, to prevent fires by the influence of their presence on those who frequent the woods and to report blazes as soon as they start, when they can easily be extinguished, is becoming understood generally.

"It is not unlikely that there will be more extensive co-operation between all the parties interested, the owners of the property and the State and national governments, as a result of the serious conflagrations of this year. The results of supervision in the national forests has been demonstrated, where losses, in spite of the dry season, have been exceedingly small."

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES

Mrs. Harry Pearson, aged 21, according to her statement before she died, was lured to a lonely spot in Oklahoma City, Okla., by Harry Parker, aged 28, a grain inspector from Iola, Kan., who shot her and escaped.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Interstate Association of Live Stock Sanitary Boards, meeting in Washington, voted to ask Secretary Wilson to lift the quarantine regulation for preventing the spread of Texas or "tick" fever among cattle in several Southern States.

Not realizing their danger, ninety insane persons in the Long Island home at Amityville, L. I., fought against being removed from the burning building, but all were finally rescued.

The War Department has given permission for United States troops to participate in the fall carnival of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben at Omaha, Neb., for the first time since the order was founded fourteen years ago.

A resolution condemning the sale of liquor in drug stores, except for medicinal purposes, was passed by the American Pharmaceutical Association in session at Hot Springs Ark.