

Forum of the Weekly Press.



Elizabeth City (N. C.) News: From reciprocity treaties to permanent tariff reform is not a far cry. The democratic policy on this issue promises to prevail in the near future.

Owensboro (Ky.) Messenger: If certain proof of guilt and conviction before unbiased juries be smirching, the democrats of Kentucky have very effectually smirched some shining lights of republicanism.

Harrodsburg (Ky.) Democrat: We thought there was something wrong with Governor Jones when Roosevelt appointed him to a federal judgeship in Alabama. He voted for that decoy ticket, Palmer and Buckner, in 1896.

Benton (Mo.) Record: Let's stand squarely on the Kansas City platform until another is made—at least that would be thoroughly in keeping with democratic policy—and common sense. And let's elect a man to the United States senate who is in harmony with his party.

Boulder (Mont.) Sentinel: It is just as well to remember that when republicans speak of reciprocity, they mean a modified something as closely approximate to the democratic principle of tariff reform as they can get, without confessing that they have made monumental errors in the past.

Mankato (Kas.) Advocate: Very, very wicked politicians in New York city are fusing on a candidate for mayor. The republicans and independent democrats are going into the fusion. Some Kansas republican should write his eastern brothers, urging them to desist from such wicked ways.

Des Moines (Ia.) Gazette: Notwithstanding the vast increase in the production of gold we still believe that it will soon prove itself not sufficient to meet all demands. Then, again, bimetalism will become a live issue, for the people are not ready to accept the transfer of our paper currency into the hands of the bankers.

Chicago Standard Opinion: When the simple tiller of the soil realizes that HE must pay the price fixed by the plow trust for a plow and can obtain only the price fixed by the grain trust for HIS grain he may begin to think. The simple tiller of the soil is now up against just such a simple proposition. He should be able to understand it without the aid of a diagram.

Elizabethtown (Ky.) News: President Roosevelt announces that he proposes to break up the solid south politically by giving offices to gold-bug democrats. Mr. President, you are on the wrong track. The gold-bug democrats in the south lost all their political influence when they voted the republican ticket and every time one of them is given office over a genuine republican it will cause at least a dozen political hot boxes.

Weiser (Id.) Signal: Beyond any question of doubt, anarchy is a political plague that somewhere sprung from the plague spots of despotism in a land far from America. But the fearful plague is here and sporadic cases are a warning that the best political wisdom be called upon to prevent its spread, and annihilate it forever from our land. Possible a more equitable distribution of the earnings of the country would do something to solve the question.

Mississippi Commonwealth: Anarchism should be eradicated from American soil. It has no place here. And while I think the dishonest policy of the republican party in its attitude towards trusts and great combination of capital is doing more than all other agencies combined to subvert democratic institutions and make this government a government for the idle opulent few as against the laboring indigent many; yet that is no justification for anarchism or any other like ism.

Monticello (Ind.) Democrat: The day of high tariffs is doomed. The business of a nation cannot be all sell and no buy. Watch the little Chinese wall advocates and "home market" propagandists tumble over themselves to get into line with public sentiment. But trouble is yet to come. "Our infant industries" have a fat thing, and they are not going to give it up without a struggle. It remains to be seen how much longer their "influence" in congress will compel the people to pay tribute to the trusts.

Morocco (Ind.) Moderator: Shame on those narrow-minded individuals who are so hopelessly ignorant as to argue that freedom of speech breeds anarchy. It is just the opposite. As a rule, anarchists are not sons of America; they are sons of tyranny. We don't just want to accuse any certain country in particular; but all enlightened men know that anarchy is bred and born in these countries where freedom of speech, and all other freedoms are extremely limited.

Hamilton (Tex.) Rustler: When a paper at heart dislikes democracy, and yet fears to attack it under another flag, it puts on the livery of democracy to serve the devil in, and makes war on the party to which it professes allegiance. We believe in tearing the mask off, and exposing such hypocrisy and treachery to the righteous indignation of all who believe in fair play. The democratic party suffered more from foes within than from enemies without, and it should purge itself of that element which only gives aid and comfort to the enemy. Put none but democrats on guard, and put the others out.

Wichita (Kas.) Commoner: In an article upon the present tendency of the republican party to abandon the protective tariff, Mr. Bryan, in his paper, somewhat facetiously remarks that tariff reform is about the only thing the reorganizers of the democratic party favor, and it would be really cruel if the republicans should abandon protection and leave the reorganizers no issue at all. We would say in this connection, that the "reorganizers" being left without even the semblance of an issue with the republicans, should remain in the republican camp, just where they have been since 1896.

Titusville (Pa.) Courier: The Williamsport Sun has been sued for libel by a republican judge, an appointee of Governor Stone to fill a vacancy caused by death. The Sun saw fit to comment discreetly and temperately on an action of the judge, in refusing naturalization papers to an intelligent property owning democrat and granting them to a man of republican proclivities who could not write his own name intelligently or speak the English language. If newspapers are debarred from just and decent criticism of the official acts of courts, the liberties of the people are in far graver danger than they ever will be from the deeds of anarchists. It is high time that the lese majeste idea in the matter of commenting on judicial actions, were abolished.

Bucyrus (O.) Forum: The constitution of the United States expressly prohibits congress from abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press. The importance of this provision was recognized not only by the founders of the general government, but also by the framers of the state constitutions. Eminent statesmen and jurists have frequently lauded these constitutional guaranties, and demonstrated the necessity of guarding them from any encroachment. Judge Cooley, one of the ablest of constitutional lawyers, declared free speech essential to the existence and perpetuity of free government. In the language of De Tocqueville, the sovereignty of the people and the liberty of the press may be looked upon as correlative institutions; a power indispensable to the existence of freedom.

Gunnison (Colo.) News: A new departure in Mr. Bryan's paper, The Commoner, will prove of great interest, if we mistake not. Among its exchanges are over 3,500 country weeklies. These are largely democratic papers which have, through thick and thin, held fast to democratic ideals while the great dailies turned apostate. The opinion of these country editors have but small circulation as a rule, but a page of The Commoner will every week be devoted to clippings from them so that the good ideas may be passed around.

Greencastle (Ind.) Star-Press: The talk of a republican congress reforming tariff taxation is only talk. Protection, so far as it affects the great trusts and their products, will not be interfered with. The republican party is the beneficiary of trusts in every campaign—its corruption fund comes from that source—and a republican congress will not be guilty of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Republicanism and trusts are closely allied; their interests are identical; the remedy for trust evils can be found only in democratic victory and democratic administration of public affairs.

Mayfield (Ky.) Mirror: Then why do not these Southern democrats, who are in sympathy with republican principles and policies, take upon themselves the name republican? We cannot understand their objection, unless they desire to retain the name democrat, so as to be able, more effectually, to betray the democratic party. It has been the custom of these exalted gentlemen to masquerade between campaigns as democrats, giving advice liberally, pretending to be the only great unwashed, but it has been noticeable, in the last six years, that election day shows an increase in the republican vote in the localities where these gentlemen live.

Madison (Wis.) Democrat: That impudent, barefaced, unblushing scheme, the subsidy grab, is to come up in the next congress; and Hanna, Frye and others, who wish to extract millions from the treasury for the benefit of a few ship-owners, are planning a vigorous campaign. The people must be on their guard or they will find that the persistent grabbers will get the treasury door pried open by their iniquitous subsidy so that it cannot be closed in forty years. If ever a gigantic scheme of plunder was devised the subsidy bill is that scheme. If ever a man in the senate could do a good service to his country the killing of that bill is such a service.

Arcadia (Kas.) Times: The Kansas City platform embodies the highest and best ideas of a democratic government and a departure therefrom is an abandonment of the principles for which Jefferson stood and an acceptance of the doctrines of Hamilton. Between the Jeffersonian and the Hamiltonian theories of government there can be no concord. To abandon the Kansas City platform is to accept the platform adopted at Philadelphia. The democratic party in 1904 will be found contending for true democratic principles along the lines laid down at Chicago and unanimously reaffirmed at Kansas City. To do otherwise is to invite disaster, dishonor, humiliation and defeat.

Clinton (N. C.) Democrat: Senator James K. Jones and former Governor James P. Clark of Arkansas are rival candidates for the senate and are going to submit their chances to the decision of the democratic electors. It is likely that such a mode of choosing a senator will not be tried in North Carolina when a successor of Senator Pritchard is chosen, but there are a few at least who believe that it is the most satisfactory method despite the wholesale criticism which a trial worked last year. It will take a long, useless, tedious, and perhaps corrupt wrangle in the legislature to convince the democratic party that a senatorial primary is not the worst thing in the world.