

THE FORUM OF THE WEEKLY PRESS

Crawfordsville (Ind.) News-Review: Men who fight for principles never lose heart even though they fail to win. This is true in politics as in other things.

Emmettsburg (Ia.) Democrat: There is one thing that the anything-to-win democrats can't deny and that is that repudiation of the Kansas City platform was disastrous in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Cripple Creek (Colo.) Democrat: "If that surplus is burdensome, I will spend it," says Mark Hanna; and there is more truth than poetry in this. When the Hanna-Payne subsidy bill goes on the books, we will not lose sleep over the surplus.

Lamar (Colo.) Sparks: The "re-organized" democratic party of Ohio did not make half as good a showing this year as it did when the plain people had control of it. The personnel of the generals drove too many of the privates to desertion.

Benton (Mo.) Kicker: It is claimed that trees worth \$10,000 have been discovered in the Philippines. According to our modern code of honor this is another reason why we should hold on to the islands. The bigger the pile the more honorable it is to steal it.

Charleston (Ind.) Hoosier Democrat: Every monopoly organ in New York, as well as their western echoes, are constantly telling us that bimetalism is dead. Well, why don't they let the dead rest, then? If it's dead, why constantly remind the dead of the fact?

Ogden (Ia.) Messenger: This country when it was young and not so strong always sympathized with struggling republics. But since we have become strong we seem to have lost that commendable characteristic. We seem to have lost the spirit that our fathers once possessed.

Monticello (Ind.) Democrat: The Philippine war was to end within sixty days after the election if Bryan was defeated. This is probably the longest sixty days on record. It appears that the Filipinos were not encouraged to hold out simply in hopes of democratic victory. Somebody lied about that matter.

Glasgow (Ky.) Times: The Times respectfully calls attention to the fact that when a republican court of appeals turns a democratic office-holder out, and a republican in, nobody is assassinated. Which is quite an excellent improvement on the way some people have of committing murder to hold their jobs.

Greencastle (Ind.) Star-Press: One of our correspondents writes and asks "What is a democrat?" A democrat is an honest man who favors that form of government which confers the greatest blessings and places the lightest burdens upon the people, and when election day rolls around goes to the polls and votes the straight democratic ticket. What more could be asked?

Rolla (Mo.) Sharp Shooter: Democratic principles never change, but are always the same from one generation to another, but the democratic policy sometimes changes to meet new issues, as they come before the people, and the policy should invariably harmonize with the principles of democracy which means the greatest good to the greatest number, and any policy adopted that does not have in view the best interests of the whole people is not democratic, and should be rejected by all good democrats no difference who are behind it. Eternal vigilance is the price of your democracy, as well as of your liberty.

Ellsberry (Mo.) Democrat: Mr. Bryan has suggested the organization of debating societies as a means of familiarizing the young people with public questions. In view of the fact that nearly all of the great papers are owned or dominated by the trusts that are appropriating the business of the country and crushing out individual enterprise, the suggestion seems a good one.

Rolla (Mo.) Herald-Democrat: Democracy stands pledged against monopolies, trusts, combines, the hold-up protective tariff and for the coinage of silver on an equal footing with gold as well as unalterably opposed to issuance of all money through the national banks, whereas, on the other hand, the republican party stands committed to every one. It is time the people were beginning to think for themselves.

Thayer (Mo.) Tribune: A convention of three hundred manufacturers at Washington adopted resolutions against "tariff tinkering" at the present session of congress and asked for the appointment of a reciprocity commission to arrange such changes in the tariff as may be needed. They were probably moved to this by the success of the monetary commission—appointed in 1897, to advance bimetalism—in accomplishing nothing.

Lowell (Mich.) Ledger: The protected industries are not willing to have tariff duties reduced "at the present time," say the Washington reporters. No, and the time will never come when they will be ready to stand on their own feet and thrive on their own merit. Never! If McKinley's hope of reciprocity and tariff reduction is ever realized, it will be against the united opposition of the mighty trusts that have sprung up under the wing of high protection.

Lexington (Mo.) Intelligencer: Mr. Roosevelt in his message to congress advises the regulation of trusts, but says that protection is a good thing and should not be "tinkered" with by congress. That the president has given ear to the demands of corporate wealth is now apparent. Those who had hoped for better things at the hands of Mr. Roosevelt will have to seek relief through the democratic party. The president must think the American people extraordinarily gullible.

Greenville (S. C.) Mountaineer: The most striking illustration of indecision and want of positive conviction will be noted in the lengthy dissertation upon prosperity, the trusts, business conditions and the supervision of corporations, in which the president uses trite aphorisms and glittering generalities, but not a distinct and avowed recommendation as to any of the evils which he admits are attendant upon the enormous growth of centralized capital due to the abnormal accumulation of private and corporate wealth.

Cadillac (Mich.) Democrat: It is idle to talk of tariff reform coming through the republican party. It is tantamount to saying that the republican party will deliberately take its own life. Anyone who expects this is doomed to be disappointed. The republican party has fattened and flourished because it fostered high protective tariffs. Its life-blood, its every pulse beat depends upon the continuance of this policy. It is the veriest bosh, therefore, to expect that the tariff will be reformed through the instrumentality of the republican party. Tariff reform can only come through a united democracy.

Florence (Colo.) Ex Parte: But silver is not dead. Not only that, it cannot be killed. Silver, in the abstract, is not the issue. The farmers of Iowa and the planters of Alabama do not care for your silver or its price. They are silver men solely because they will not tolerate the contraction schemes of the big leaders of the republican party, and if all the silver on earth were annihilated now, the fight on that principle would be carried on as fast as conditions made the fight necessary or available.

Ramsey (Ill.) News-Journal: Every American soldier who dies or gets killed in the Philippine contest dies a martyr to the greed and avarice of commercial republicanism in this country. The boys in the field are loyal, true, faithful and patriotic, but the star chamber proceedings of the republican speculators that induced, or rather commanded the lamented McKinley to get this country in its present pitiable plight, if examined into which the calcium light of truth and righteousness, would blanch the cheek of every American citizen with shame. No wonder a national republican convention hiss out a resolution with the struggling Boer republic.

Minden (Neb.) Courier: The republicans make so many wild and unreasonable statements it is hardly worth while to notice them. During the campaign of 1900 the republicans actually believed that if Bryan was defeated the Filipinos would quietly submit and peace would reign throughout the Philippine islands. Some even went so far as to intimate that Bryan and Aguinaldo were in some secret communication. Over a year is past, Bryan was defeated, Aguinaldo captured, and the war still lingers. General Chaffee predicts that it will last at least twenty years yet and that not less than 25,000 soldiers will be needed there permanently for that period. In the face of these facts republicans unblushingly declare that they fulfill every promise, make good every assertion.

Silex (Mo.) Index: Apparently some men who believe themselves to be democrats are being puzzled these days as to just what their duty is toward the present party and some have left the party and gone into other parties pretending to be more democratic than the democratic party. It is to be greatly regretted that such men have erred in their judgment. Their hearts are all right, but their judgment is lacking, for were it not so they would readily see that a divided force can never accomplish what a united one might do. Let all democrats stand by the party and assist in purifying and elevating it on every hand. There are many men in the democratic party that the party might well spare, but they are not democrats and in the party for personal reasons. The party cannot afford to lose a single of the real democrats.

Belle Plaine (Ia.) Democrat-Herald: Conditions are constantly changing which give birth to new issues and what may have been the paramount issue of a party creed four years ago, may by force of changed conditions give place to other issues which at once became the paramount issues to be considered. But any party whose organization is so loosely constructed that the lower branches of such organization will repudiate the doctrines of the highest branch of the same organization, cannot expect a party success, and is not worthy to attain it. When the warring factions of the democratic party stop quarreling among themselves and present a solid

phalanx against their old time opponents, then, and not till then, will victory be assured. But this cannot be brought about by county organizations repudiating the principles formulated in the national organization. The county organizations and the state organizations must remain loyal to the national organization, otherwise the whole party organization becomes like a rope of sand. It is to be hoped that the democrats of Scott county have learned a lesson by their recent failure to secure an indorsement at the polls. It is hoped that they will now realize their ludicrous position. It was simply a case of the tail endeavoring to wag the dog.

Huntington (Ind.) News-Democrat: Democratic simplicity has been the theme of patriotic speech since the establishment of our government. The tendency to gobble the globe, however, will destroy some of our pet illusions. The inevitable result of the imperialistic tendencies of the government is found in the annual report of the heads of bureaus of the army and navy. They all demand more officers and more men and tell of the great danger to the country if their demands are not complied with. As the army has been raised to maximum of 100,000 men and the naval force largely increased by the last congress, the former at all events far beyond what is necessary, these demands for a still greater increase is pretty good proof that the democratic charge of militarism is rapidly being accomplished.

Woodsfield (O.) Taxpayer: The Chinese exclusion law expires in six months. Unless renewed this winter this country will be flooded with Chinese who will come in swarms and take the places of Americans at wages that Americans cannot live on. The corporations are all fighting to prevent this law being renewed that they may have cheap labor that has no votes. If this is done, there will be race riots in this country the like of which has never been witnessed on earth. The working people of this country have shown in the past that they are unwilling to have the Chinese displace them in their native land. Great events will occur out of this subject. The congressmen and senators the working people have elected will serve the wishes of the corporations. Mind the prediction. Beware the result.

Logan (O.) Democrat: The first mistake of this campaign was made at the state convention. How can it be expected that we acquire success if we repudiate this year our declarations and teachings of last. In 1896 we held up our platform as the second Declaration of Independence to lead our people out of bondage. In 1900 we reaffirmed our steadfast belief in those principles, and the editor of this paper was honest in his advocacy of such and will take no backward step now, but there came upon the boards, only a year later, a democratic state convention in Ohio and voted down a resolution that declared our unflinching reaffirmation of those principles. Could we expect other than defeat, delving in such hypocrisy before the people? What right have a few platform makers to, with one stroke of the pen, destroy all the days and nights of toil on the part of the democratic editors of Ohio in four years honestly and earnestly endeavoring to teach the people the way to liberty as we see it, and as these platform makers claimed to have seen it. Is it any wonder that thinking men become disgusted and stay at home, rather than have their convictions bickered and bartered by a few.