

politics. Some said Bryan was only a mischief-maker, but he was a mischiefmaker only when the wrong people were trying to guide the party."

One of the striking things about this campaign is the spectacle of men like Mr. Osborne awakening to warm admiration at a time when so many of Mr. Bryan's friends of 1896, earnestly enlisted in behalf of Champ Clark, could view him only as an egotist and "marplot." The right perspective must come to those immediate actors, if it has not already done so. Even the democrats of Missouri are applauding Mr. Bryan.

#### A UNIQUE CAMPAIGN TREASURE

Editorial in Brooklyn Citizen: The Hon. Herman Ridder, treasurer of the democratic national committee has been subpoenaed as a witness before the senate investigating committee to tell what he knows of the financial side of the campaign of 1908. Immediately on receipt of the summons Mr. Ridder sent the following note to Governor Wilson:

"Governor Woodrow Wilson, Seagirt, N. J.: The senate committee has telegraphed me to appear tomorrow (Saturday) morning with the books as treasurer of the democratic national committee covering the campaign of 1908. I will present an itemized detailed account, giving date, name, address and amount of all contributions received, and also a similar itemized account of all expenditures. I will be able to state from whom I received every dollar and what I have done with it. I have preserved all my books and records, my memory is good and my health is excellent. HERMAN RIDDER."

Those who have followed the testimony of Cortelyou, Hitchcock, Sheehan, and others directly interested in the national campaigns of 1904 and 1908 will appreciate the note of irony in Mr. Ridder's letter. Here is a man who says his memory is good, his health excellent, and who did not find it necessary to destroy the books. All of which goes to show that political campaigns can be conducted without involving questionable transactions that would not look well under the glare of publicity. Mr. Ridder would not be a party to anything that savored of a betrayal of public interests.

Nevertheless, conditions, the experience of the past, and the frailty of human nature, all combine to urge upon the congress the need of subjecting national party conventions and national campaign committees to federal regulation and supervision. We have seen in Chicago to what extremes arbitrary and irresponsible power will go under stress of necessity. The debauchment of voters by money contributed to national campaign committees has been a standing practice in American politics in both parties. The public conscience no longer tolerates such things, and the practitioners are rapidly being driven out of public life. Even the republican county committee of Chicago has found it expedient to drop Lorimer from its rolls.

And this word "expedient" is precisely the reason why dependence in such matters can not be placed on voluntary party organizations or committees. Many things are done by the politicians for expediency's sake that they would not do if they believed the public would stand for it. Fifty years ago Fernando Wood saw the necessity of "pandering to the moral sense of the community," but nevertheless the regime of Tweed followed closely on that of Wood. Only by stringent laws will it be possible to purify our elections and conventions. There is a large body of the electorate willing to be debauched and a considerable number of professional politicians ready to purchase what they have for sale. And some of these bribe-givers dress in frock coats and silk hats and wear Van Dyke beards.

In view of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt is determined to keep after the White House job we would advise the gentlemen who operate the linotype machines to attach a treadle to the key dropping the cap "I" mats and work it with their feet. This would save valuable time for the operation of other keys.

"Party lines are disappearing!" shout numerous exchanges. But is this true? Is it not a fact that party lines are becoming more distinct as the people learn how to better distinguish between the false and the true?

## The Most Flagrant Exhibition of Bossism

James Morgan in Boston Globe: The extraordinary figure which Mr. Bryan has cut in the convention fills the eye here and exhorts the admiration even of those who hate him. Surely there never was another instance of the kind in a national convention.

Here is a man who really has no considerable personal following among the delegates. On a secret ballot he could not be elected a door-keeper of a convention hall, yet he has the convention frightened out of its wits.

Those who believed he was coming here to capture the convention for himself expected to see him beguiling the delegates with his smile and his oratory. But from his first appearance before the convention 10 minutes after Cardinal Gibbons had concluded his opening prayer, he has worn to all "a damned, disinheriting countenance."

Not a smile, except a smile of satisfaction as he viewed the angry turmoil he had created when he announced from the rostrum that no man with the vote of New York could have his vote as he vouchsafed the assembled representatives of the democratic party. Not a fight of eloquence has he essayed.

An imperious scorn has marked his expression on every occasion. Gracious and laughing with all at the republican convention in Chicago, he strides across the platform to the speaker's stand here without a shake of the hand or even a glance for the leaders filled with panic at his approach. Dictatorial and threatening in his attitude toward all.

Before he came to Baltimore he had forbidden the consideration of the candidacies of Harmon and Underwood, and here he has drawn a black line through Clark's name. He would just as readily turn on Wilson and might even verify the rumor that he entertained the thought of

#### THE OLD GAMES OF CHILDHOOD

Kansas City Star: Do you remember that old play of your childhood days, "King William?" Of course you do, because you have played it, oh, so many, many times. But can you recall the song that was sung as you attempted blushing to "go choose your east, go choose your west?" You can? Well just try it before you read further.

Two dozen persons were asked to recall the lines of the old song recently. Some of them were young persons, too, not many years out of high school, and some were older; so old, indeed, that they refused to state how long it had been since they played "King William."

But none of them was sure of the lines. None quoted them correctly. And hardly any two agreed as to what the old song really said. The nearest approach to an agreement was on a version something like this:

"King William was King James's son,  
And from the royal race he sprung.  
He wore a star upon his breast,  
Which pointed to the east and west.  
Go choose your east, go choose your west.  
Go choose the one that you love best;  
If he's not here to take your part,  
Go choose another with all your heart.  
Down on this carpet you must kneel,  
As sure as the grass grows in the field,  
Salute your bride and kiss her sweet,  
Arise and stand upon your feet."

Is that the way you remember it? If it is, you are wrong. The play came from England, of course, where practically all the old games of your childhood came from. It appears that it has been changed to suit the convenience of the tune adopted for it in the different communities of America, so that the various verses of the words in this country come as a result of local application.

But you thought, certainly, that King William was King James's son. Not because you learned that from history, of course, but you thought that was what the song said.

Wrong again. The English children never sang it that way. And there was nothing in it about a star upon his breast "pointing east and pointing west." Here are the words of the old song which were sung for the play of "King William," which was known, by the way, as "Kiss in the Ring."

"King William was King David's son,  
And all the royal race is run;

demanding the adjournment of the convention and the submission of the selection of a candidate to a nation-wide primary.

It is the most flagrant exhibition of bossism imaginable, but his despotism is relieved by the fact that his power comes only from public opinion and not from private intrigue. He never had a reward to give or to promise, and if the convention did present him with the opportunity to bring public censure upon it, he could be laughed out of the hall. But the Parker candidacy and the Clark alliance with New York were free gifts to Mr. Bryan and he simply accepted them.

Bryan needs only to stamp his foot and people rise up all over the country and make the telegraph wires hot with their protests to their delegates. These protesting persons look upon him as the great tribune of the people and the scourge of the money changers in the temple of democracy.

But the delegates who sit under his stormy frown see in him a terrorist of '93, ready to toss them into the tumbrel on the slightest displeasure. And he has made cowards of them all. New York can only sit in dumfounded silence while he excommunicates her, while he imposes a boycott on her ninety votes. She has no one to answer him, for unfortunately Mr. Murphy has not encouraged orators and the development of oratory.

If Tammany had a Cockran it might be different. But the only man among the ninety who could speak with any appeal to public opinion is Senator O'Gorman, and he is a progressive himself. So New York does not answer, and the only replies to Mr. Bryan come from the screaming throats of a few excited delegates scattered here and there in the hall.—James Morgan's Baltimore correspondence in the Boston Globe.

Choose from the east, choose from the west,  
Choose the one you love the best.

"Down on this carpet you shall kneel  
While the grass grows in yonder field;  
Salute your bride and kiss her sweet,  
Rise again upon your feet."

In Ireland, where not even the children were allowed to agree in their play with anything that was English, the song declared that "King William was King George's son," with a number of variations, among the others being that "He wore a star upon his breast," but declaring that King William hailed "From the Bay of Biscay O," which was obviously a geographical error. But even Ireland invited its young folks to

"Go choose you east, go choose you west,  
Go choose the one that you love best.

And the remainder of the Irish play was the same as the English.

From the same source also comes "London Bridge" and "Ring-a-Ring the Roses," and "Oats and Beans and Barley." But in none of them have the words been materially changed. Centuries ago the children of England sang:

"Oats and beans and barley grow  
Oats and beans and barley grow  
Do you or I or any one know  
How oats and beans and barley grow?  
First the farmer sows his seed,  
Then he stands and takes his ease,  
Stamps his foot and claps his hands,  
Then turns round to view the land.  
Waiting for a partner, waiting for a partner  
Open the ring and take one in."

And after the ring had been opened for the admission of the "farmer's" partner, all joined hands again and gave the young couple this tenuous advice:

"Now you are married you must obey,  
You must be true to all you say,  
You must be kind, you must be good,  
And help your wife to chop the wood."

Which is about the way the children of today play "Oats and Beans and Barley."

But not being "up" in the matter of kings, young America will persist, perhaps, in insisting that "King William was King James's son," and that is nothing like as far from the truth, by the way, as to make believe that "King William was King David's son."