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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

If the mayor of Chicago is really sincere in his declaration that he proposes to clean up that city we might suggest that he enlist the services of the men who managed the Republican campaign. Almost any Democrat will be willing to certify as to the thoroughness of their methods.

The farmers are a very unreasonable lot. They are declining, even under great pressure, to sell their products at prices fixed by the gamblers on the board of trade in order to give the banks from which they have borrowed money a chance to loan it to the grain men to gamble in the farmers' wheat.

The president-elect lets it be known that he made no promises of offices to anyone during the campaign, and leaves us to infer that true merit will govern all his selections. When he gets back to Washington, we suspect, he will find a lot of promises made in his name that he will be called upon to redeem.

One of the chief officials in charge of the enforcement of national prohibition in Nebraska is a Democrat who as a member of the state senate was one of a group of senators that tried to hamstring the state prohibition amendment. Remember this when you read that it is impossible to enforce the dry law.

We suspect that the chaps who were kept so busy for a time explaining that because of the scarcity of supplies and the overwhelming demand the prices of sugar, leather, automobiles and other articles that have lately taken a tremendous price slump no reduction could be expected for a year in those commodities have gone back to the other field of fiction writing.

A great deal of praise and warm commendation is being heaped during December upon the Pilgrim Fathers as a part of the celebration of their landing on Plymouth Rock three hundred years ago. The heroism with which they sealed their faith has proved a priceless heritage to the nation, and it could well afford it pay its respect to their memories by observing more of their moralities instead of talking so much about the splendid characters that result from their complete observance.

For the last ten years the politicians of Nebraska have been saying that the people were sick and tired of the direct primary and that the first chance they got they would throw it into the discard. At the last session of the legislature the politicians screwed up courage enough to amend the law by providing for the nomination of all state officers below governor by a state convention. A referendum was taken on that part of the law at the late election. The repeal of the primary law was defeated by a vote of nearly four to one.

Why All This Abuse of Bryan?

(From the Montgomery, Alabama, Journal.)

The truth will out. It can't be concealed. Why all this sudden but very general abuse of Wm. J. Bryan and the many falsehoods regarding him, is now made clear. The explanation is found in three lines of a letter from one who is in Washington and right on the scene of the pending conflict between the contending forces. "I know the wets and reactionaries are making a determined fight to get control of the Democratic party. We are doing what we can concerning this. I believe it will be checkmated."

Here we have the whole story in a nutshell. The wets do not know they "are dead as slavery." They are trying to come again in 1922 and 1924.

Having captured the Republican party, the reaction ones are now trying to capture the Democratic party—just as they captured it in 1904 at the St. Louis convention when Parker was nominated at the dictation of Wall street.

In this gigantic effort of these two groups of Democrats to capture the party machinery, they will have behind them the same groups in the Republican party and all the subsidized press of the country.

In order to accomplish their purpose they must first destroy Wm. J. Bryan and are resorting to the most despicable methods to this end. They have sent letters abroad to their subsidized press to deny publicity to any statement Bryan may make. He is not to be heard. The people must be kept in the dark of the facts. Only the reactionary and wet side is to be given to the public. To let the people know the truth would be fatal to their cause. They place their purpose, however, sinister and menacing to the public, above any consideration of the rights of the people. It is with them as with the late Commodore Vanderbilt, who, when told the people were protesting against the schedule of one of his railroads, answered, "D—m the people." That remark made the name of Vanderbilt not famous but notorious. It expressed the view of the Vanderbilts of the past, just as it expresses the view of the reactionary and wet groups of today.

If they should get control of both parties, the eastern Democrats and Republicans alike would be satisfied. They would be content. They would pour their millions in the campaign funds of the one or the other candidate's campaign, the one they deemed most "conservative," a greatly abused word. Their cry for "safety and sanity" in the parties is that of the guilty conscience crying, "Stop, thief."

Yes, Mr. Bryan is trying to save the ship from the rocks. He is trying to prevent its utter wreck. The sea rolls heavily, the waves rock the boat, and a brave mariner is needed at the helm. Who shall he be? Shall it be Wall Street? Shall it be a combination of the two? Or shall it be that group of the party in no way responsible for either the platform or the candidate of the San Francisco convention and the tidal wave that swept the Democrats from place and power?

What will the answer be?

The future of the Democratic party depends upon the answer.

Overwhelmed, buried beneath an avalanche of votes in November, 1920, the wet group will carry disaster to any party or faction with which it allies itself in 1922 or 1924. The reactionaries of the Democratic party are so insignificant in number as compared with the reactionaries of the Republican party, they would have as much chance of success in a national election as a snow ball in—a red hot furnace!

Should not Mr. Bryan have all the moral forces, all the law-abiding and law-enforcing adherents, regardless of party, class or section, behind him in this greatest of his many great fights for the people as against the standpatter and the open advocate of anarchy.

OUT AT THE INQUEST

The three great Democratic bosses, Murphy, Taggart and Brennan, have returned to the scene of their (let us say) accident. They are out in French Lick Springs, the historic place where they chose Cox as their candidate. The dispatches say that they are making plans to "come back."—New York Herald.

THE SINGLE MORAL STANDARD

While Mr. Bryan had no idea of urging the single moral standard as a political issue, his suggestion has given several editors a chance to expose their private views on the subject. The editor of the Philadelphia Record, for instance, under the caption of "Mr. Bryan Too Ambitious," says:

"While Mr. Bryan has lately demonstrated that he is rather indifferent to moral issues affecting mass relationships, moral issues affecting the individual still strongly appeal to him. Therefore he has aligned himself with the proponents of the 'single standard,' and mounted the platform of 'no segregation of sin, no licensing of vice, the penalties of immorality enforced impartially against the two sexes.'

"We would not be flippant in dealing with so serious a matter, nor question the justice of what is known as the 'single standard' of morality as touching the relations of men and women. But we fear that Mr. Bryan is biting off more than he can chew. Raising an army of a million men overnight would be a trivial achievement in comparison with the proposal that the penalties of immorality shall be enforced impartially against the two sexes. The Creator has willed otherwise. Mr. Bryan is dealing with physical facts. He can change laws, but he cannot change the decrees of Nature.

"We venture to suggest that the Nebraska statesman begin his experiments along the lines indicated with the lower animals. In the poultry yard, for instance. It is part of the Divine plan that the hens shall have all the labor of hatching and caring for the chicks while the roosters loaf around and brag about it. When Mr. Bryan can secure a more equitable division of labor between the hens and the roosters it will be time to attempt to make over the immutable laws that govern the great mystery in their application to humankind."

Illuminating, isn't it. And the New York World, which constitutionally "views with alarm" any suggestion made by Mr. Bryan, rushes forward to say in an editorial headed "Bryan's Biggest Job":

"When William J. Bryan decides upon 'the next great moral issue' other uplifters may as well take a back seat. According to this apostle of perfectionism, the one thing necessary today is the establishment of a single standard of morality for men and women. Sin in one sex must carry the same penalties as sin in the other. If men escape the consequences of certain misdeeds, so must women.

"To write this reform into the constitution and statutes of the United States considerable time and energy will be needed, so much that the moral forces now bent upon restoring the Puritan Sabbath can hardly expect to make headway while the high prices of righteousness by act of congress hold the center of the stage. The Sabbatarian movement, therefore, is neither expedient nor opportune, because Brother Bryan has other and of course, nobler plans.

"Most men will regard this as a happy deliverance, for, while the Sunday issue concerns them deeply, the question of moral standards for the sexes is one that they are perfectly willing to leave to the women. Women are voters now, and they can settle it in their own way. From the beginning of history woman's harshest judge has been woman. Men forgive or at least tolerate, the erring sister, but most women never do. Mr. Bryan has tackled the biggest job of his life."

Next!

MR. BRYAN'S SILENCE

Mr. Bryan's silence strike ends tomorrow, and after Tuesday he will feel free to open his mouth and raise his voice in the way beloved of his admirers.

Has Governor Cox been injured? Probably not. Mr. Bryan could not have stumped for the San Francisco ticket with any sort of success. He is a sincere man, and so accepted by the country. Hence, after pronouncing against making the league of nations the issue of the campaign, and against making Governor Cox the candidate, had he toured the country asking for votes for a platform and a candidate in which and he did not believe, he would have injured himself and conferred no benefit on his party. It would have been an unprofitable performance. His enemies would have sneered and his friends sighed.—Washington Star.