

The Sun

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GOLDEN WORDS.

From Mayor McClellan's Speech at the Jeffersonian Dinner.

As the first step let us prove to the people that we are more anxious to teach and to practise sound political doctrine than we are to frame our platforms so as to catch the passing vote.

Let Democratic conventions nominate men, not from motives of expediency in the hope of success, but from love of principle, even with the certainty of defeat. It will not be long before the people of the United States will thrill with admiration for such candidates and such a party, and a new generation will catch the still living spirit that stirred the Democrats of the olden days.

The Greatest Railroad Problem.

The really great railroad problem in this country, as pointed out by the organ of Southern enterprises, the Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore, is the neglect or the inability of the railroads to keep pace with the growing demands of traffic.

The volume of this traffic, as measured by the total of tons moved per mile, increased, in round figures, from about 65,000,000 tons in 1890 to 83,000,000,000 in 1897, and to more than 100,000,000,000 in 1904. The mere increase from 1897 to 1904 was more than 9,000,000,000 tons greater than the total tonnage of 1890. At the same rate of increase the tonnage in the next seven years will be more than 300,000,000,000 tons, as against 170,000,000,000 tons in 1904.

That means almost a complete doubling of the entire transportation business of the United States in seven years, and that means a broadening of the equipment, the improvement of existing lines and the building of new roads, in the equipment with more cars and locomotives, that most people do not seem to have yet gained any conception of. Are we likely to reach such a development within seven years?

Since 1890 the increase in the volume of railway freight moved has been about 153 per cent. Coincidentally, however, the increase in the number of locomotives and of cars has been only about 40 per cent. It is true that the cars and locomotives of to-day are of heavier construction and carrying capacity than in 1890, but that difference, as the Baltimore paper points out, is insufficient to overcome the increase of 153 per cent. in the volume of traffic. That this is so is indicated by the fact that even now the railroads are blocked with freight. With the rapid growth of population and of traffic, "in all human probability this condition must steadily become more acute" and "the car famines and freight congestion because of the inability of the railroads to keep up with the freight" of three years ago will be repeated.

The lesson our Baltimore contemporary draws from these facts is that the natural development of the business and production of this country will be impeded seriously unless the railroads prepare to "catch up with the volume of traffic offering."

The broad railroad man must look ahead. He cannot plan simply to handle the traffic of to-day; he must plan for the traffic of the years just ahead, and he may be seriously questioned whether any railroad in this country has even outlined plans sufficient to meet growth of its traffic. If all its plans were carried out, even for the next five years, much less the next ten.

Here is the greatest railroad problem. It is not Government regulation of rates, but the provision by the railroads of sufficient facilities for handling the rapidly increasing volume of traffic.

No Use in Blackguarding Castro.

The mere fact that Venezuela is a little country and the United States a big one should suggest to American citizens who have been interested in our relations with that country the desirability of careful avoidance of any talk which suggests the bully.

The honor of the United States is in no way upheld by American journals which call President Castro a "monkey" or charge him with being "reckless" and "defiant" because he objects to a discourteous interference with his domestic affairs, even though American interests are concerned. Mr. Castro has acted entirely within his rights. The Bermudez Asphalt case is proceeding in the courts of the country with entirely reasonable despatch. There is no warrant whatever for premature declarations of a denial of justice. The experience of the asphalt company in this country gives at least grounds for reasonable doubt of the cleanness of its hands in its relations with Venezuela, and the United States Government has no more legal or moral right to demand that the case be taken out of the courts of a South American country with which we are at peace, and which is universally recognized in the family of nations as a sovereign Power, than it would have to insist that a case be taken from the courts of France or Germany.

The Orinoco Steamship Company case has already been arbitrated, with the consent and cooperation of the American Government. How can the United States, with dignity and honor, make itself a party to a "crawl" from the findings of the arbitration commission of 1903, simply because the plaintiff in the case is not satisfied with the verdict?

The United States can obtain for its aggrieved citizens all the rights and redress to which they are properly entitled, without adopting blistering and overbearing methods. Blackguarding CRIPIANO CASTRO and his official methods

adds nothing to our power. We may not like those methods. Neither can we cordially approve the governmental system of Russia, or go into ecstasies over some of the doings of the Emperors of China.

If it became necessary to assert our power on any grounds clearly established in law or in morals, we could at any time go down to Venezuela and wipe Mr. CASTRO and his Government off the face of the earth. Until that time comes we can do no better, as individuals and as a nation, than to avoid the attitude and the manners of the bully. It may be "reckless" for Mr. CASTRO to "defy" the United States, but it is not yet clear that he has defied us; and even if he has, we shall gain nothing by calling him bad names.

There is some reason to believe that a representative of better balance than Mr. BOWEN has shown himself to possess would have avoided much of the tangle which Secretary TAPP seems to be straightening out by the tranquil methods of common sense.

Labor on the Panama Canal.

What has labor unionism to gain by an attitude which, if officially indorsed, will tend either to delay work on the Isthmian Canal or to increase its cost to the country? One of these results must follow the application of the eight hour law to the construction of the canal. It seems to us that the sooner the canal is dug and the cheaper the cost of digging it, the better it will be for the American wage earner.

Certainly, the work will not be done by American labor unionists. The Amalgamated Organization of American Diggers and Trenchers and the United Order of Wheelbarrow Rollers will have no recognized place in the Government work at Panama. It is very doubtful if they have any large individual representation there. The job will have no effect on wage rates on the New York State canal, or on the wages paid for North River tunnel work. There will be only a limited amount of straight American muscular force doing manual labor between Colon and Panama.

The object should be to dig the canal as quickly and as cheaply as is reasonably possible. American labor unionism need not concern itself with the labor affairs of the natives, the Jamaicans, the Chinese or the Japanese who may do the work. The commission should determine the terms and conditions of the workmen, in the best interest of the many rather than in the special interest of a minority. Unionists who do not like the arrangements made on the Isthmus can make arrangements elsewhere to suit themselves.

Nor do we see why those who have no intention of seeking work on the Panama Canal should endeavor to block the enterprise by appeals to the contract labor law. That is playing the dog in the manger at too long a range. If responsible unionism will contract to dig the canal more quickly and more cheaply than it can be done in any other way, the work might be placed in its hands. Otherwise it should be left absolutely in the hands of those who are responsible for it. They are unlikely to "grind the face of labor" unduly in the matter of hours and wages.

The Political Outlook in Great Britain.

The latest proof of the extent to which the Unionist party has been ruptured by Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN'S project of a differential tariff was furnished on Tuesday in the House of Lords, when a proposal to hold a colonial fiscal conference in 1906 was the subject discussed.

It will be recalled that Premier BALFOUR, when outlining the future fiscal policy of his Government, declared that should the Unionist party remain in power or obtain the approval of the constituencies at the next general election, a colonial conference would be called in 1906 in which India, as well as the self-governing colonies, would be represented. On Tuesday Lord BALFOUR of BURLINGHAM, a conspicuous Conservative, accused the Government of a lack of candor in failing to explain the conditions under which the conference would be summoned and how far the decision would be held binding on the United Kingdom. He insisted that the Government, before even beginning to negotiate with the colonies, should define its fiscal aims and purposes, should announce a definite programme and should get it sanctioned by the country. The reasonableness of the demand was virtually admitted by the Duke of MANTON, who as Under Secretary for the Colonies replied for the Government. He acknowledged that no decision of a colonial conference could be held binding until it should have been approved by the people of the United Kingdom at a general election and by the Parliaments of the self-governing colonies represented.

Lord LANSDOWNE, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was even more explicit. He not only recognized that there were certain limitations beyond which a conference could not go, but went on to say that the delegates would be expressly informed that any proposal involving protection. Lord LANSDOWNE went so far as to acknowledge that the United Kingdom would not be likely to listen to any proposal calculated to increase the price of food or raw materials. Without a tax on foreign grain, however, it would of course be impossible to grant colonial foodstuffs the preference that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN advocates. No other deduction then can be drawn from Lord LANSDOWNE'S remarks than that the preferential tariff project is now regarded as dead by the Unionists themselves. It has been killed in the house of its friends. That evidently is the view which Lord GOECHEK, the well known Unionist, takes of the matter, for, following Lord LANSDOWNE, he described the fiscal question as no longer urgent and expressed the belief that the country would for years to come be relieved from the necessity of discussing it.

It will be remembered that the other day in the House of Commons Mr. BALFOUR and the other Ministerialists de-

clined to participate in the division on a motion to censure the Government's fiscal policy, or rather its lack of any definite fiscal programme. The motion of censure was accordingly carried, and according to the theory of parliamentary government Mr. BALFOUR ought to have resigned. Since then he has received another serious rebuff at a by-election, one of his lately appointed colleagues in the Ministry having failed of reelection in a constituency which has been firmly Unionist for twenty years. It must by this time be as clear to the Premier himself as it has been for many months to onlookers that he has lost the confidence of the country, and we presume that he is only deferring his resignation until after the adoption of the highly satisfactory budget submitted by Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was doubtless an unwillingness to cut short his son's career in office before an opportunity of proving his capacity for finance had been afforded that has hitherto withheld Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN from precipitating a dissolution.

It is understood that the expected triumph of the Liberals at the ballot box will be followed by the formation of a Cabinet headed by Earl SPENCER. Sir HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN will continue to be the leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons. It seems to be settled that Lord ROSEBERRY will not be invited to become a member of the Government, but we presume that measures will be taken to secure the assistance of his coadjutor, Mr. ASQUITH. Precisely what position will be taken by the next Liberal Government with reference to the Home Rule question depends probably to a considerable extent on the size of the majority. If the Liberals should be able to repeat their triumph of 1890, when Mr. GLADSTONE secured a majority exceeding by about a hundred the combined forces of the Conservatives and Home Rulers, it is generally believed that the Nationalists will have to content themselves with concessions materially short of a separate Dublin Legislature. A triumph so overwhelming seems improbable. Even if a majority over both of the other parties should be obtained by the Liberals, it is likely to be a small one, and the Government will therefore be once more practically dependent on Nationalist support.

The Aldermen and the Franchises.

The Elaberg bills amending the Greater New York Charter and the Rapid Transit act in such a manner as to take from the Board of Aldermen the power of granting franchises or consents for the construction and operation of street railroads in this city, and transferring such power to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and making the Board of Estimate the local authority whose consent is required under the Constitution for the construction and operation of street railroads, have now been passed by the Legislature, and will therefore come before the Mayor of this city for approval or veto.

This transfer of power violates no principle of the "unfettered Democracy." It merely gives to a better elected body the power now held by men proved to be unfit. It is manifested from the large majority recorded in favor of these bills in the Legislature, that even if the Mayor should veto them they will nevertheless become law.

In our opinion no appeal made in behalf of the Board of Aldermen should have weight. These amendments have received general support and approval irrespective of party, and they have merited such support because they are meritorious and have been made necessary by the emergency of the situation and the exigency of the hour.

If any further argument had been required to show the necessity of this new legislation, it was furnished by the extraordinary and brazen action of the Board of Aldermen even while the Elaberg bills were before the Legislature. In defiance of public opinion, and in contempt of the interests of the general public, the Aldermen have continued to hold up the grant of consents, and thus to check public improvements.

The Several Original Jeffersonians.

Millions burn and yearn to know what Jeffersonian principles are. Jefferson Day or Night ought to be the time to find out. The Jeffersonianism of the Hon. FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS of Nevada is the belief that the Government should own or control all public utilities. "Judged by Democratic principles," Mr. ROOSEVELT is a Democrat "in most matters relating to domestic legislation."

The Hon. ALTON BROOKS PARKER'S Jeffersonianism reaffirms "the time-honored doctrines of the Democratic party," rejects the theory that "the proper way for a Government to do things is by meddling and interference;" asserts that "we must carry into Federal politics only that reserve of power properly incident to our institutions and system of government;" and views Mr. ROOSEVELT with alarm on account of his want of reserve power and his improper incidence.

It is expected by the Administration and the railroad officials who openly consent to the movement, as well as by those who are ostensibly opposed to it, that the people in their just indignation at the wrongs done to the many for the benefit of the few will least sign of the danger of so vast a centralization of power until it is too late to check it.

The Jefferson Day force at Chicago longs for vaster centralization of power. There JEFFERSON is marching on; Jeffersonian principles do not lie mouldering in the grave, but are alive, revised, up to date. Mayor DUNNE, fresh from a great municipal Jeffersonian triumph, speaks the official Jeffersonian word:

"Jefferson in his lifetime stood for equal rights to all and special privileges to none, and if Jefferson were in the flesh to-day he would be standing against special privileges given to great corporations. By possession of these monopolies they have been despoiling and plundering the people of this country.

"The people have at last awakened to the fact that such monopolies are unfair, injurious and dangerous to the Republic. The blow struck in Chicago will be followed by blows of the character throughout the United States. It will also be followed, in my humble judgment, if the Democratic party is wise and prudent and incorporates in its next platform a ringing declaration in favor of

LET THE TEACHERS SPEAK.

Argument in Favor of a Shortened School Day for Primary Classes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The teachers of the city are a unit in support of your editorial of Wednesday praising the Board of School Superintendents for coming to the resolution to ask the actual teachers to point out the defects and recommend improvements in the conduct of the schools. Too long has the direction of things been entirely taken from the hands of the actual teachers, who are now apparently having some views expressed by those who bear the burden of the day and the heat thereof, and not merely in theories about it. For your editorial you thank us due.

Mostly some novel views on the half day question will find a place in your columns. An energetic lady has presented to the Board of Education on behalf of the Consumers' League a report protesting against the shortening of the school day for the first two years to three and one-half hours. The report proves, with marvellous accuracy as to figures, that 80,000 children from 7 to 13, and 11,000 children of the age of 6, are in the classes of those two years. The compiler of the report fears that a large part of those children, and perhaps a majority of them, would be employed in tenement or other workshops or various enterprises, e. g., sewing buttons on clothes, making paper boxes and articles of the cutting down, but the very thing that teachers would like to see is that the children they do their work in most cases, without any pay at all.

For these facts at home and for some small amounts of money, they would do their work under such stimulus as to be able to do it. The children, then, are their manual training, and they are doing it in their own homes, during half a day of which they are in school. Let them be paid for it, if a recent school of educational writers would advise to which the happy child is cultivating manual dexterity and mental acuteness in the most favorable proportions. It is the more so, because these facts at home and for some small amounts of money, they would do their work under such stimulus as to be able to do it. The children, then, are their manual training, and they are doing it in their own homes, during half a day of which they are in school. Let them be paid for it, if a recent school of educational writers would advise to which the happy child is cultivating manual dexterity and mental acuteness in the most favorable proportions. 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