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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1908.

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MR. BRYAN'S ACCEPTANCE.

Before the dawn of this Rooseveltian era such a speech of acceptance as William Jennings Bryan delivered yesterday would have seemed radical. It does not seem so today. It is not radical.

In contrast with public utterances that have characterized the strenuous governmental period through which we have passed, appraised by the standard to which the American people have grown accustomed these last four momentous years, it is temperate to the verge of conservatism.

And yet, withal, it is a vigorous, forceful, and admirable presentation of his case by the ablest exponent and most aggressive champion of the progressive Democracy of 1908.

In spirit and content Bryan's acceptance is no more radical than Taft's. But it is more logical in that it is in sterner harmony with his party's platform. Taft, in order to meet the expectations of the West, found it expedient to take a stand in favor of at least two principles or policies—publicity of campaign contributions and popular election of Senators—

which the Republican convention refused to sanction. The point Bryan makes of this is well made and he gives it strong emphasis by his statement that "a platform is binding as to what it omits as well as to what it contains."

"Shall the people rule?" That is the Democratic watchword in this campaign. Mr. Bryan uses it with telling effect. Every fair-minded reader will admit the strength of the Nebraska's first formal utterance, whatever may be the view of his candidacy or of the merits of the controversy in this campaign. We found much to commend in Mr. Taft's speech of acceptance. He attuned his candidacy somewhat laboriously, it is true—to that progressive or radical sentiment which Mr. Bryan counts upon for support. He strengthened himself by taking steps in advance of his party. Mr. Bryan is more fortunate than Mr. Taft in having a platform of his own making which calls for neither extenuation nor amplification. It fits the platform and the platform fits him.

Mr. Bryan made a great speech of acceptance in 1896, with the free coinage of silver as his slogan. He made a greater speech of acceptance in 1900 with imperialism as his theme. But he made his greatest speech of acceptance yesterday with "Shall the people rule?" as the overshadowing issue.

It is his greatest speech of acceptance because it is the simplest and in keeping with facts as to existing conditions.

The Agricultural Department says rats are frequently affected with "pathogenic haemogregarine hepatozoon perniciosis." This is calculated to knock the spots out of the chop suey industry.

The Irrigation Congress.

Peculiar interest attaches to the Sixteenth National Irrigation Congress, which will meet at Albuquerque, N. Mex., from September 23 to October 3. Additional impetus has been given to the work of this body by the recent conference of governors at the White House, which stimulated the various executives to renewed endeavors in the work of saving the forests, storing the floods, reclaiming the deserts, and bringing the land to its fullest use.

Each State and Territory is to have fifteen delegates at the coming congress, these appointed by the governors. Each city of 25,000 will have ten delegates, appointed by the mayor, and each city of less than 25,000 population is entitled to five delegates. Then there will be delegates appointed by county commissioners, delegates appointed by national and interstate associations interested in the work, delegates from agricultural colleges and societies of engineers—in short, the representation will include practically everybody who is interested in the objects sought by the National Irrigation Congress.

The work already done by the government has at last awakened thoughtful people to the vital importance of conserving and making the best use of our natural resources, and the present congress will find some of the most able men in the country devoting their energies to the conservation of the forests and streams, the reclamation and irrigation

of the arid and semi-arid lands of the West, and discussion of all points that bear on the subject of home-making.

It is difficult to imagine work that promises more benefit to the country at large than the work that will grow out of this irrigation congress. The congress itself may have no power to do anything but "resolve," but the educational effects of such a meeting, the discussion of various interests, and the realization of how much conservation is needed, are certain to bear fruit in the legislatures of the various States from which, and not from the Federal authority, the needed relief must come.

The Queen of Roumania says she loves spiders "because they spin so cleverly, and are such excellent mothers." If that doesn't get her an autograph letter from the President of the United States, nothing ever will.

The Peacemaker.

President Roosevelt will have to look to his laurels if he desires to keep his record as peacemaker, for King Edward of Great Britain is running him close. Ordinarily the King of England does not interfere with politics or foreign policies, content to leave these to his ministers; but King Edward, who is related by ties of blood to most of the royal families of Europe, has recently shown a marked activity in securing a better understanding and assurances of peace from his relatives.

It is undoubted that it is due to his personal influence and diplomacy that Anglo-French and Anglo-Russian treaties have been negotiated, and though there has been some rabid talk in the German press that these "understandings" were designed to isolate Germany, who has been regarded on the European continent as the natural rival of Great Britain, it is believed that King Edward's diplomacy is adroit enough to hold his nephew, the German Emperor, in line.

Among other things, in his efforts as a peacemaker King Edward has recently made a speech before the Universal Peace Conference, held in London, in the course of which he said:

"There is nothing from which I derive a more sincere satisfaction than from the knowledge that my efforts in the cause of international peace and good will have not been without fruit, and a consciousness of the generous appreciation with which they have been received, both by my own people and by those of other countries."

And the beauty of it is that no one seriously doubts the utter sincerity of King Edward's phrases. His words have a note of truth about them which is unmistakable; and it is undoubtedly the logic of events that Great Britain, having the largest and most powerful navy in the world, is ardently desirous that that navy should remain unemployed, while its people devote all their energies to the arts of peace.

There are some who think that the attitude of England as expressed by King Edward is something akin to that of the dog in the manger; that, having colonized about all the places on the earth that are worth colonizing, she would like to see a compact of universal peace, so that she might be left in undisturbed possession of what she has gained. But we are inclined to the belief that this is a narrow and unworthy view. We do not wonder why any one, even the most earnest advocate of peace, would wish the work undone that England has done in the uttermost ends of the earth. Criticise as we may, the fact remains that her work in the cause of civilization has been done at the expense of some of her best blood and millions of her treasure. Sometimes she has made mistakes, but on the whole her rule over subject peoples has been beneficial, making for law, order, prosperity, and Christian civilization.

The governor general of New Zealand adjourned the legislature in honor of the American fleet's arrival. Still, we think our jack tarts should have been permitted to take in all the sights over there.

Waning of Autocracy.

Royalty, we imagine, is firmly fixed in the Old World for a good many years to come, but it is hardly to be doubted that acknowledged autocracy has seen its best days and will soon be nothing more than a memory and a song.

The Douma, grudgingly instituted by the Czar for a time and purposely hampered at every indication of a progressive spirit, has, nevertheless, come to make itself a force to be reckoned with in Russia, even by the Little Father himself. One of the grafting grand dukes, an uncle of his majesty, we believe, has been removed "with thanks" from his control of one of the government's most important departments, and the reason assigned is adverse criticism in open debate by a member of the Douma. This, to be sure, isn't much, but it serves to indicate that the Czar has realized at last the fact that another and a better day is dawning in his empire, and that its brightening skies cannot be dimmed indefinitely by any old-fashioned notions of "divine right" and that sort of kingly talk.

Then, there is Turkey. Surely Turkey seemed a few short weeks ago, indeed, a hopelessly autocratic government. Apparently, the people were powerless to resist the Sultan. So far as outsiders were able to judge, the royal word was final and the royal judgment a matter from which no appeal could be entertained. Now, with seemingly incredible swiftness this old arrangement has been brushed away. True, Turkey is still far from free; a stable and constitutional form of government is yet a thing in embryo. But Turkey has taken a step forward which must lead to better conditions; a step that neither the Sultan nor the progressive influences in the nation can ever cause the country to retract, even if they would. Persia, too, is headed for a new order of things; not all the Shah's horses and all the Shah's men can ward it off. The handwriting is on the wall. There will soon be no government in the Old World where the notion that the King is the state prevails.

Humanity at large should be glad that these things are coming to pass, we presume. Not all countries rid of the form of autocracy are rid of the substance as well; but it's good to be rid of even the form, broadly speaking. Sometimes we halfway suspect that England has developed a rather satisfactory plan of dealing with executive power. Over there the King is treated as a sort of glorified joke; too ancient and too honorable an

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

BEATS DISARMAMENT. About this date In every State Sham battles rage. Militia stars That mimic wars Now garly wage.

One gallant aide Deth march or ride And plot an scheme Against a foe, Whilst cannon show And sabers gleam.

And well might man Adopt this plan In sterner fray; Forego the scars Of war and its gains For points, I say.

Not Sufficiently Exclusive. "Judge, we wish to protest against these \$5 fees."

"I consider that very reasonable for reckless motoring."

"It's too reasonable. At that rate, anybody can exceed the speed limit."

Inconsciently. "Dad, you told me always to take a woman's part."

"What of it?" "Then why kick because the college dramatic club has cast me for the fairy queen?"

Making Concessions. "I'm a terror," announced the new arrival in Frozen Dog.

"Be ye?" "When I get started, it takes three men to hold me."

"You don't say?" "But if you're shorthanded, two men kin hold me at a pinch."

Not a True Picture. Truly trustful on the stage, In every wife, But wives, I say, are not that way In real life.

Life's Hollowness. "That fellow is a false friend."

"Why do you say that?" "He don't care no more for me than I do for him, and I know it."

Middle-aged Citizens. "Back from your vacation, I see."

"Yes."

"Well, are you glad you've gotten it over with, or do you wish you still had it to take?"

Half and Half. "I have nothing but ups and downs."

"Sure of that?" "Yes."

"Then you shouldn't complain. By your own statement you have as much good luck as bad."

PATERNAL GOVERNMENT.

Some of Its Acts Savor of Self-preservation.

Government establishes quarantines against diseases and to an extent against crime. It makes laws for pure food. It searches the earth for new items for the American bill of fare. It distributes seed to farmers. It imports bacilli for use in making such foreign cheeses as Camembert and Brie. It cultivates birds, animals, and insects that destroy the enemies of crops—such, for instance, as the particular species of ladybug which is dealt on the San Joaquin. It keeps out the mosquitoes, natural foes of the helpful field birds. Finally, through the Department of the Interior, the government is planning to reclaim sterile land and swamps whose extent, a Van Norden magazine writer estimates, would form a stretch sixty miles wide from New York to San Francisco. Some of these acts savor of self-preservation. But that means preservation of the people, who are the government's interest, and that knows how to be discreetly paternal—that knows where to stop.

Between Two Fires.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. While various railroad officials are using the word "disaster" to describe the freight rates at no distant date, and the public is asked to consider the predicament in which these great transportation corporations stand, the steamship lines entering New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Philadelphia have made a formal demand on the railroads to reduce their rates east from Buffalo. These steamship lines speak very plainly, and say that unless rates are reduced, a general harm will be done more than one ocean port.

The claim is made that grain rates from Boston to New York and Boston are higher than the rate from Georgian Bay points to Montreal, in addition to which the Montreal rate includes elevator service. While that is true, New York and Boston does not. The railroads are blamed for a "deplorable situation which threatens the supremacy of the American ports. The railroads are thus between two fires of criticism, the public on one side and their transportation allies, the steamship companies, on the other.

The Forestry Service.

From the Springfield. An amendment was tacked to the agricultural appropriation bill stating that no part of the forest service appropriation should be "paid or used for the purpose of paying for, in whole or in part, the preparation or publication of any newspaper or magazine article." It was stipulated, however, that this should not prevent the "giving out to all persons who desire to receive it" of newspapers, papers and magazine writers and publishers, of any facts or official information of value to the public." It was at first thought that the restriction might oblige the service to discontinue preparing and circulating the instructive matter which has been given out to the press in recent years, but the contention is made by the heads of the service that such publicity is part of the fundamental part of the Department of Agriculture, as defined by the statutes, and this view is upheld by the Attorney General.

Liberty in Turkey and Persia.

From the New York Globe. Has Persia, has Turkey, through a long century of the most momentous change in European government, been wholly blind to what was going on without? Those who would answer "yes" do not understand the perceptions of the silent nations. Charles Borgeaud describes how Franklin, at that time living in Persia, and the alleged "Dink Bott" the Seattle policeman and renegade from Vermont, whose high-water mark in political life, if he really exists, is to patrol the walk in front of halls where statesmen like Dink Botts do congregate, and to be classed in facetious paragraphs with the Hon. Bourke Cockran.

His Lost Hopes.

From the Cleveland Leader. When Bryan says that Taft is stealing the Democratic party he really means that the Republican candidate is making away with the last lingering Democratic hopes.

The President at Newport.

From the New York Evening Post. Approaching retirement from public life has not tempered Mr. Roosevelt's passions nor sobered his style. In view of the harm that a speech like yesterday's may do, it is a pity that he desires to hunt in Africa cannot sooner be realized.

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POLITICAL COMMENT.

The New York Evening Post thinks that the Republican National Committee is working in the interests of increased efficiency when it secures the retirement of Elmer Dyer, whom it characterizes as a back number. It says: "The retirement of Elmer Dyer from the secretaryship of the Republican National Committee is another movement in the direction of efficiency. There has been a feeling for some time among the enterprising politicians of whom Chairman Hitchcock is the type that Mr. Dyer is a 'back number'; that he does not know how to 'play the game' according to modern rules. The conduct of a political campaign in these days a businesslike proceeding. The brass band and the torchlight procession have been put out of the door. We have instead thorough canvasses of every district, card catalogues of voters—Republicans, Democrats, and doubtful—and the systematic distribution of political tracts. Tons of pamphlets are sent broadcast through the land. To do all this requires not merely money, but a high degree of organizing skill, such as Mr. Hitchcock admittedly possesses. In his new secretaryship, William Hayward, has secured a man of the same kind, who may be certain that the Republican campaign will be conducted with energy and intelligence."

The Revue de Deux Mondes has a striking pen portrait of Mr. Taft from the pen of M. Andrew Tardieu, who says picturesquely: "William Howard Taft aura deux caractères et un ans le 15 septembre prochain. C'est un colosse aux vastes épaules, haut sur jambes, large de torse—il pèse 135 kilos—les yeux bleu clair, la moustache, d'un blanc pâle, fournoise les favoris, a une coupe de cheveux qui représente celle des chefs gaulois, nos aïeux. Les cheveux, dit même ton, mais estompés de blanc, sont partagés par une raie au milieu du front. L'expression dominante est de calme et de sérénité, de volonte aussi. Retn d'appareil. M. Taft est simple et tranquille. Le doute doit s'agiter rarement. Il voit la vie en son entier. Il est un homme qui dans son développement régulier, bien que brillant, lui enseigne qu'au mérite tout vient a son heure."

The New York Times is still harping on the efforts of Mr. Bryan to raise campaign contributions, and says that the farmers are not coming forward with their subscriptions with the alacrity that was to have been expected. It attributes the farmers' indifference to the Democratic appeals to their prosperity, and says: "The farmers are said to be disappointed the expectations of their Democratic friends as to their contributions in aid of his campaign in their behalf. It would be odd if they should make a like response to the overtures of their Republican friends. No farmers are known to asking anybody's favor in these golden days of agriculture, and nobody would have any patience with them if they were."

"No class making a greater percentage of profit, however, had not before been interested in what to do with money. The telephone and the automobile, the rural free delivery and the trolley, have reduced the inconveniences of residence in the country to the vanishing point, and made the farmers' lot an enviable one. Yet the campaign is enticed by appeals in their behalf. It is 'too thin.' The farmer knows that he is over the hill, and has no other, and is not likely to have any other after election."

The New York Mail, speaking about the effect of the direct primary and its defects, says: "We are of opinion that the direct primary would be preferable to the present system of 'representative government' in State politics, for the reason that the system is pretty well broken down. The system lodges the choice of party candidates almost as completely in the discretion of the few as in an autocratic government. The administration of affairs is lodged in the discretion of bureaucratic chiefs. Party government in this State should have a larger infusion of democracy. At present, it may be described as a despotism tempered by defeat—or the fear of defeat."

"This is not to blink the defects and dangers of the direct primary system, of which we have no doubt, but the Illinois election of Saturday, some only threatened. Gov. Deneen had too narrow a margin in his contest for a re-election that was his right. It is complained that in both parties there are too many candidates, especially for the minor offices, to permit the average voter to make an intelligent choice of men. It is suggested that Republican and Democratic gubernatorial candidates, and vice versa, with the object of saddling on the other party a nominee easy to defeat."

The Nebraska State Journal has this to say as to the need of tariff revision: "An urgent reason for revising the tariff rests on the fact that the Dingley law makes no direct provision for a duty on airplanes. The Mills tariff bill of 1906, which Cleveland signed, provided in like manner. It has been rendered obsolete by the arrival of the automobile. The march of invention demands a revision of the tariff at least once in ten years."

The Nashville American comments on President Roosevelt's desperate attempts to free Mr. Taft from blame in the Brownsville affair, but does think he is likely to succeed. It says: "President Roosevelt is making a desperate attempt to free Taft from the Brownsville imbroglio by retreating and emphasizing his sole responsibility for the discharge of the negro troops; but it is too late to realize political results from such efforts. That Mr. Roosevelt acted in the matter on his own initiative and personal conviction is most probably true; but Taft, first, as Secretary of War, and second, as the Roosevelt chosen heir, cannot hope to be dissociated from what ever credit or blame attaches to the administration's course in regard to the negro troops."

The Boston Transcript comments on the nomination of Adlai E. Stevenson for the governorship of Illinois, and says: "The nomination of Adlai E. Stevenson for governor of Illinois apparently means that Roger Sullivan and his associates have decided to let the State go by default, on both local and electoral tickets. Had they really desired to carry the State they would have steered the selection to somebody in whom they were genuinely interested. Adlai is one of the long stayers among American public men. For four years only one life stood between him and the greatest office in the land."

The New York Sun thinks that Gov. Hughes has become the conspicuous representative of an idea in government. It says: "The truth about Gov. Hughes is that he has become the conspicuous representative of an idea in government, which squares with the best American traditions. It is not Hughes who is being talked about to-day, not only in the State, but throughout the United States. It is Hughes, the governor. His personality is merged with the office, which he has administered without regard to his own fortunes, or the fortunes of any political party. He has made his impression on the people. He has made his impression on his times solely by the way in which he has embodied the theory on which our American institutions are founded, that this is a government of laws, not of man."

ENGLAND AND INDIA.

Great Britain Holds She Cannot Retire.

The loss of India would be a fatal blow to our empire, but our retirement from India would also be an incalculable disaster to India herself. It would plunge the country into a welter of anarchy, which, after much suffering, would provide the opportunity for another and probably much harder taskmaster. We should have no right to retire, even if it were politically convenient to us to do so. There remains, then, only one thing, which is that we must stay and solve the problem—the problem of reconciling the people to us, and by degrees bringing them more and more into the ruling circle and satisfying their reasonable aspirations for self-government. Thus stated, it sounds a platitude, but in practice it means a change of thought and attitude going rather deep. The Indian civil service is manned by an able and disinterested body of men, but it has a tradition which makes it extremely sensitive of criticism and somewhat resentful of any encroachments upon its prerogatives. Naturally, it tends to think that quick, strong measures are the right remedy for the present situation, and that much of the present trouble is due to what it calls "injudicial leniency." Despite the frequent assertion, "says the Quarterly Reviewer, 'of the fundamental difference between the East and the West, the truth is that in many respects Asiatics are very much like the rest of the world.' That is the idea to which our government of India has now to adjust itself, and we are glad to learn that Lord Morley is steadily applying himself to it, and that, in spite of the difficulties made for him by agitators, he means to go forward, before the year is out with large and serious measures of government reform."

Both Are Coming Closer Together in Good Work.

The "Pageant of Darkness and Light" connected with the "Orient in London" was in every respect a spectacular theatrical performance. The London Missionary Society, when it decided to present the piece, did wisely in putting the management of it into professional hands. It was staged superbly by an experienced theatrical manager. The training of the performers was entrusted to persons who knew their business, and enough of professional actors were employed to save it from any appearance of amateurishness. The Pageant succeeded in its own ends. It would have drawn crowded audiences in any theater in any city in England quite apart from its connection with missions. To multitudes not accustomed to attend the theater it was a revelation and it was interesting to see their faces. Unless we are much mistaken there were hundreds and perhaps thousands of young people in the daily audiences who will go to the theater to see the pageant again. As Taft was interested in it. The singing of Old Hundred by the great chorus deploying on the stage, following that magnificent stage spectacle of the Hawaiian volcano, "the eruption of Mount Fuji," and during the wrath of their God, jarred on some ears, but seemed to many in entire harmony with what had gone before, and, no doubt, hundreds of thousands have been thus interested in the play of missions by the theater as they never would have been taught by the pulpit. The Sunday school or the missionary concert. The question arises, in what will be greater, the attitude of the churches toward the theater as an institution?

Turkish Amnesty.

No Turkish subject in this country, Armenian, Albanian, Syrian, or Arab, is likely to make any haste to return to Turkey upon the reported amnesty proclaimed by the Sultan for all past political offenders in exile. Turkey has always refused a treaty such as the United States has with Germany, permitting a naturalized citizen to return for a period. So has Italy. In such countries the naturalized American, when he returns to the land of his birth, finds his naturalization and passport disregarded. Italy, at least, lets a man return in person, but he must do so in the summer time or has some other charge under Italian law against him. But in Turkey any man formerly a Turkish subject presenting an American passport is arrested and imprisoned unless he leaves without delay. Even this grace cannot always be secured.

With the large number of faithful and loyal American citizens of Turkish origin in this country, our country ought, now that Turkish revolution has come, to secure from a more liberal administration what has hitherto been denied, the recognition of naturalized American citizenship in Turkey.

Limit of Life.

The Ohio State Journal. Even the Old Man has been declared that a human being is given too much to nervous and muscular force, and he can dispose of it in any way he pleases. He can make a million pounds of physical force last fifty or sixty or eighty years, according to the way he feels like disposing of it. If he resorts to riotous living, or the terrible strain of athletics, or submerges himself all sorts of strains upon his nerves and muscles, he will not last long.

But if he conserves these powers through a quiet life, doesn't strain his nerves, doesn't indulge in athletics, and spasmotic emotion, he will live a long time. That is the theory, and it is often borne out by actual experiences. You see a comparatively young man grow old tremendously in a slow slipping, and it is very likely he has disposed of most of his strength in his earlier days, not by any means always blameably, but in business or pleasure, or in some direction that used up nerve and muscle.

Even Naval Officers Amazed.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. This is the true military spirit, the spirit of forceful assertion which Mr. Roosevelt regards as the essential condition of national importance, power, and success. Even the naval officers gathered to listen to him appear to have been astounded by the high key of militarism on which the address was pitched. The navy never has been so equipped, and so encouraged, and kept always at the highest efficiency, and everybody will agree. But to base its claims upon a policy of belligerent aggression is not the wisest way to win the public confidence, and will not, we believe, meet a sympathetic response from the hearts or minds of the American people.