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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1892.

"All patriotic and just citizens must commend liberal consideration for our worthy veteran soldiers, and for the families of those who have died."—Mr. Cleveland's Letter of Acceptance.

A LITTLE POLITICAL STUDY.

The so-called "campaign of education" that is being prosecuted in Montana by the orators of the republican party might be better called a campaign of evasion, deception and sophistry. Mr. E. D. Weed is put forward as one of the "stand bys" of his party, and is supposed to represent the best thought of his party, as well as the best vehicle for the expression of this thought. His prominence in this respect makes it worth while to analyze his presentation of his party's cause on the stump.

He starts out with this proposition, that he is first a Montanan and second a republican. He says virtually that local self interest is the gage of battle, and he makes a direct appeal to the pocket book of his audience, reiterating again and again the appeal to the people before him to answer whether or not the support of his party is a business proposition. "Is not this business? There doesn't seem to be much politics about it. I don't see where the politics comes in. But isn't it a good business proposition?" Such is the language throughout his discourse.

So far as the silver question was concerned Mr. Weed beggared it entirely. He argued from false premises and sought to lead his audience to conclusions based only upon a partial knowledge of the facts. He purposely misled them, and indulged in the rankest kind of sophistry and misstatement, for the purpose of forcing upon them a preconceived conclusion which he knew was not warranted by the facts.

So far as his treatment of the tariff question was concerned he dwelt only on the question of wool, making it appear that while the Canadian wool raiser just across the line from Montana was getting 11 cents a pound for his wool, the Montana sheep raiser owing to protection was receiving from 16 to 19 cents for his. The Montana herder, he said, was getting \$40 a month, and the Canadian herder \$25, and he was extremely amusing in the contrasts he sought to draw, respecting the anxiety of the American sheep herder to be placed in competition with the Canadian. His irony was really most corroding.

But in all this as in every other portion of his speech, he entirely lost sight of the main point and the point which the democratic party makes against the republican party all along the line in the present campaign. It is just as much of an exclusive privilege to allow the owner of sheep to collect a tax from the people for his own benefit as it is to permit the New England manufacturers to do the same thing. This is the point of departure between the republican and democratic parties at this time. The democratic party says there shall be an end to this class legislation, to this granting of special privileges to the few, to be paid for by the many.

The principles of the American constitution if they mean anything mean that the purposes of the republic are to secure the greatest good to the greatest

number, and not advantages and privilege to the smallest number. The men who raise sheep are a very small minority. They have no more right to collect a tax from the people on their business than has the man who raises horses, cattle, hogs, or ducks and geese. In any population the sheep-herders and sheep-owners are comparatively few, and when they are all taken together in the United States and compared with the vast population of this country they are not a drop in the bucket. But while so few are engaged in the production of wool in this country there is no family in the country that does not require the use of wool for its clothing, its carpets, and its bedding. The woolen clothing is needed for the little children in winter time who have to trudge through the snow and the bleak wind on their way to school. It is required by the teamster who is camping out in all kinds of weather; by the sheep-herder who must take care of his flocks no matter what the temperature may be; by the invalid, the aged, both male and female, who as years advance feel the chilling blasts of winter time and must have warm clothing for comfort and safety. By the rich and poor warm woolen clothing is absolutely demanded, especially in this northern climate, and to secure it all alike are forced to pay this heavy tax to the men who own the sheep.

Is not this then an exclusive privilege? Is not this class legislation of the most palpable type? Is not taxing the many for the benefit of the few? Is it not indeed an infringement of both the letter and spirit of the constitution of the United States, which grants equal rights to all, and which says that there shall be no privileged classes in this nation?

To pursue the matter a little further let us inquire what benefit is possible to the average citizen from this kind of a privilege granted to men engaged in any pursuit. The man who has the sheep grazes them on the government land as a rule. He makes so large a profit on his investment that he soon heaps up a fortune, not because he is especially clever as a business man, or because of his good methods or intelligence, but because of his special privilege to tax his neighbors under the authority of the government. Even if wool were reduced in this country to the price which Mr. Weed says prevails in Canada, the sheepmen would still make a large profit on their business. If they were not protected in the manner they are now, they would make all they are entitled to, and they would be on the same footing as men in every other business that is not protected, that does not enjoy special privileges.

But the whole policy of the republican party tends towards favoritism, to the establishment of privileged classes in various walks of life, and to the advantage of a few favorites who are given lawful license to prey upon the many who must take care of themselves. If this is the sort of thing the people want, by all means let them vote for Harrison and the republican ticket. But if they want all the citizens of the republic placed upon equal ground as the constitution intended, they must vote for Grover Cleveland, the great champion of popular rights.

FAVORS CONVICT LABOR.

Several propositions favorable to labor were presented to the constitutional convention and among these was one prohibiting convict labor in the state. T. E. Collins and J. E. Rickards, the democratic and republican candidates, and Congressman Dixon, were members of that body. The proposition was brought forward and ably advocated by W. W. Dixon. T. E. Collins supported and voted for the measure. J. E. Rickards opposed it, worked industriously against it and voted against it. In debating Mr. Dixon's substitute in the convention, Rickards expressed himself as follows:

"I favor leaving this entire matter to the legislature. It does not seem to me that it is our province to attempt to legislate on this question. It is safer and better and wiser to leave this entire matter in the hands of the legislature. Two years ago I had the honor to be a member of the territorial legislature and we wrestled with this question and I suppose further legislatures will wrestle with it. I believe if we attempt to adopt either the original section or any amendment we will act unwisely, and therefore I shall vote, and I hope I am understood, against the adoption of the original or any substitute that may be adopted in lieu thereof."

The convention did not leave this matter for future legislatures to "wrestle" with, despite Mr. Rickards' best efforts, and the result was that the following clause was incorporated in the constitution where it is a permanent safe-guard to the workmen of Montana:

"It shall be unlawful for the warden or other officer of any state penitentiary or reformatory institution in the state of Montana, or for any state officer to let by contract to any person or persons or corporation the labor of any convict within said institutions."

Still Mr. Rickards is making a hypocritical pose as a friend of the workmen of Montana! Fudge!

The Helena Independent has discovered that Columbus resembled our Tom in the fact that he was a book agent at one time in Genoa. Tom will still further resemble the great discoverer on November 9. He will discover America, and that it has gone democratic.

COLUMBUS IN HISTORY.

Because I know the grand success our Lord has granted me on this voyage, will be pleasing to you. I wrote to say that in thirty-three days I crossed to the Indies with the fleet which the illustrious King and Queen, our Sovereigns, gave me. I found there very many islands, with innumerable inhabitants. Of all I took possession for their Highnesses, by proclamation, and by unfurling the Royal Standard.

Such is the opening of a letter written by Columbus in February, 1493, on his return to the Canary islands after his discovery of the West Indies the previous autumn. It was addressed to his old friend, Luis de Santangel, the man who secured him recognition at the hands of the crown, and through whose intercession he was enabled to fit out his expedition. He tells the names he gave the islands, most of which have been changed, and he described the scenery and general appearance of the new world he had discovered, with such accuracy that his descriptions would fit almost as well today except for the changes made by civilization. He found the people entirely naked and learned that they had never known the use of clothing. They were extremely timid and fled in terror from their white visitors whom they believed had come from heaven.

Of the mildness of their manners and disposition Columbus says: "They possess no iron, steel or arms, nor are they lit to use them, not but they are well built and of handsome stature, but that they are curiously timid. Their only weapons are the flower stalks of reeds to which they fasten small bits of wood." They fled in dismay from the presence of the strangers, but when reassured they were willing to share all they possessed. They had ornaments of gold which they gladly exchanged for worthless bits of colored glass.

Columbus says that the common people seemed to be content with but one wife, while their kings were allowed to have twenty, and so far as he could make out property was shared in common. He saw no inhabitants that were not of the gentle type he described, but as soon as he could hold communication by signs and by catching the meaning of a few words, he was told terrible stories of cannibals and monsters of human shape who were supposed to people islands farther west. He speaks of one large island inhabited only by women who seem to have been a species of Amazons with some talent for warfare.

Finally, and referring to this voyage alone, hasty as it has been, says the navigator near the close of his letter, their Highnesses can see that I shall be able to give them all the gold they want with but trifling help; spices also, and as much cotton as they shall order shipped; mastic, as much as they wish for, which at present is only found in the island of Chios, and is sold by the Genoese senate at their own price.

At that writing it is evident that Columbus had no conception of the importance of his discovery. He had no idea that he was the pioneer of a new world, and the gold and other trifles he mentions no doubt embody his own opinion of the value of his voyage. It was not his fortune ever to have a clearer realization of the significance of his exploit. But history has done him justice and today the world is at his feet. In Chicago men of every nation, the most able, brilliant, and learned, are doing homage to his name, and half the civilized world is thinking, talking, and writing of the poor sailor man who had to beg help 400 years ago for a voyage that was destined to revolutionize the world.

If there were no other great historical event that clearly proves the rule on this earth of a power above and beyond man this one alone should be sufficient to convince the most callous skeptic. Throughout his enterprise Columbus was moved and inspired by a religious impulse. He firmly believed that God put into his mind the entire conception of the earth being a sphere, and of the presence of rich lands beyond the western seas. To his contemporaries he was a "crank," a visionary; but in the hands of Providence he was a genius among men come to fulfill the Divine will, a prophet greater than all who had gone before him.

For a thousand years Columbus will remain the central, pivotal figure of the civilization of the Western hemisphere, and even if the time should ever come when the story of his fame is lost or reduced to a fable like that of Jason and the golden fleece, the laurel cannot be entirely plucked from his brow while the human family remains and possesses any kind of records of the past.

Had the American republic ever a better friend than Abraham Lincoln? He was a prophet and a seer, a man who stood head and shoulders above his fellows in intellect and prescience as well as in physical stature. This is a warning he gave, and one that every American should heed:

In my present position it would be scarcely justified were I to omit exercising a warning voice against returning despotism. There is one point to which I call attention. It is an effort to place capital on an even footing, if not above, labor in the structure of the government. I bid the laboring people beware of surrendering a power which they already possess, and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement to such as they, and fix now disabilities upon them until all of liberty shall be lost.

Do we realize the force of this warning? If we do, is there a "soul so dead" as not to see that the whole tendency of the republican party in these days is towards the reign of despotism which Lincoln foresaw?

MR. WEED'S LARGE OMISSIONS.

In yesterday's TRIBUNE something was said about the attitude of the republican party on wool in which it was shown that special privileges are granted for corrupt purposes, and to build up a wealthy class which is to keep the republican party in power by its liberal contributions. This, in short, is the whole and sole purpose of the republican tariff. We showed that Mr. E. D. Weed being a beneficiary under the tariff and under the Harrisonian regime ardently defended this policy.

He also ardently defended the republican party in its silver record, and held that it had always shown a more friendly feeling towards silver than had the democratic party.

It is the purpose of this article to show the fallacy of Mr. Weed's arguments and to prove that he was unaided and misleading in most of his statements. He took good care to ignore every vital fact and principle relevant to the discussion of the silver question.

The silver coinage of this country was extremely limited prior to 1873, at which time the great silver mines of this continent began to be discovered, and the metal was in that year actually at a small premium in the market. The quantity of silver available had not been sufficient prior to that time to alarm the money-lenders, but the discovery of the Comstock mine in Nevada caused a feeling of uneasiness among the lending class of this country and England lest their rates of interest might be cut down by an increased ratio of the circulating medium of this country. Knowing that the matter had received little consideration here, and that congress and President Grant and republican officials generally were entirely ignorant of the importance of the subject, the British money-lenders sent agents to this country to bring about legislation which should put a stop to the coinage of silver as a legal tender. Up to that time silver coin was as good as gold for the payment of all debts, and no limit was placed as to the amount of silver that might be received as a legal tender.

The British agents had with them from certain banking houses at London £100,000, equal to almost \$500,000 as a corruption fund. Their work was well done, for before the session of congress was over they had succeeded in getting a bill through which passed both houses and received the signature of the president which demonetized silver and placed it upon the level of a mercantile commodity, any sum over \$5 not being valid as a legal tender. This death-blow to silver was unquestionably the greatest crime that has ever been committed in the history of this country. It was a crime which struck at the very life and being of the poor and struggling masses, and it placed a lash in the hands of money-lenders and the owners of gold with which they have scourged the people ever since.

President Grant was in the white house, James G. Blaine was speaker of the house of representatives, and such was the situation that the republican party was able to have controlled this matter. It makes no difference to the country whether the demonetization act was allowed to pass through ignorance or was brought about by deliberate design, the crime was equally serious in its effects in either case, and whichever horn of the dilemma the republican party may take, it cannot deny its responsibility. The evil that was done was scarcely appreciated at the moment, but the great panic which immediately followed and which spread to every part of the country was a sufficient proof of the seriousness of this act, and its effects are still felt throughout this country.

It is customary with the republicans, as exemplified in Mr. Weed, to boast of the wonderful resources of this country, but they always carefully avoid any mention of the indubitable fact that the progress and advancement of the working classes, and those who must earn their living by toil would have been quadrupled but for this great crime against the rights of the people, and in favor of the plutocrats. Possibly many of the questions that now cause strife between labor and capital would have been settled by this time had the free coinage of silver not been interfered with.

Mr. Weed carefully avoided all this, and gave his time to decanting upon the wonderful amount of silver that the republican party has bought since 1873. What are the facts? In a few words this explains them: Mr. Bland and other democrats were constantly endeavoring to have silver rehabilitated; to have it placed where it was before the criminal act of the republicans in 1873. The public demand became so strong that something should be done in this direction that republicans in congress and in the senate saw that they must take some step to allay the storm of popular disapproval which was sweeping upon them. By cunning sophistry and lies they tried to make the people believe that the purchase of silver by the treasury would amount to the same thing as placing it in circulation for the convenience of the people. They knew all the while that this was only a make-shift, and that it was a villainy to purchase this metal at the depreciated value to which they had reduced it, but by this scheme they were enabled to give a "sop" to the gold lobby and to the blood-sucking money-lenders who wished to have the right forever to bleed the people, and at the same time

to make the people believe that they were doing something for silver.

As a matter of fact they were stabbing the silver interests in the back, and have been continuing to do the same from that day to this. Mr. Bland's constituents returned him again and again to congress, knowing that he would do all in his power to bring silver back to the position in which it was placed by the constitution of the United States. But in spite of all his zeal and devotion his efforts have been unavailing, and the loss to the people has amounted to hundreds of millions, stolen from them, filched from their pockets by the same party that is robbing them through its tariff, through its pension steals for camp followers and other degraded beings who have no title to the name of soldier of the union, and by its hoards of useless office holders who have been constantly augmented in numbers for the purpose of making perpetual the power of the republican party.

And Mr. Weed had the effrontery to boast that this purchase of silver at the degraded price to which the republican party had reduced it—a price below the actual cost of mining—was an advantage to Montana and to the silver mining states. Instead of an advantage, it is an absolute drawback, and it would be better and wiser today for every silver mine in the country to shut down entirely rather than to sell its product at the prices now paid; and the only reason that most of these mines are not shut down is that their owners have more mercy and charity than the republican party and keep them open to give bread to their employees. But every ounce of silver bought by the treasury at any price below its actual value of \$1.25 per ounce is a robbery of the silver miners of from 10 to 50 cents on every ounce of silver so purchased.

It is not to be wondered at that Mr. Weed so carefully abstained from mentioning these points. That he avoided them should be sufficient proof to all thinking people that he knew his party's record on the silver question too well to aid in any way in bringing the true facts before the public.

COMPARE THE RECORDS.

A portion of the republican press of the state, for lack of better material, have made the flimsy charge against Hon. T. E. Collins, democratic candidate for governor, that he is opposed to organized labor. The grounds upon which this high sounding accusation is predicated are (1) that he holds the position of vice president of the Great Falls & Canada railway, (2) that the First National bank of Great Falls of which he is an officer, had trouble with the Carpenters union, and (3) that he is a director of the Great Falls Water company. This is the extent of the allegations so far as we have been able to see.

It is only fair to say that Mr. Collins must plead guilty to the charge of being connected with these several institutions. He is also connected with various other like public enterprises in his home city of Great Falls. No citizen of that progressive town has been more public-spirited or has more cheerfully contributed to any cause or enterprise calculated to advance the welfare of Great Falls. He has been at the front of every such movement in Great Falls since the day he made it his home. Can as much be said of Mr. Rickards? What has he ever done to advance the interests of Butte—to open up her mines, or in any manner aid in developing the resources of that great camp? So far as our knowledge goes, absolutely nothing. He is not that character of citizen.

Now as to the charges that have been made, and we will take them in order:

1. The Great Falls & Canada railway. This is a narrow gauge railroad and it was first projected five or six years ago. The objective point of the road in this state at that time was Fort Benton, and Mr. Collins with other citizens of Great Falls interested himself in having the latter city made the terminal point. In this he was successful and as a result he was honored by the company in being made a director and vice president. He has no pecuniary interest in the road and simply holds stock enough to be an officer. The headquarters of the company are in Lethbridge, Alberta, and Mr. Collins has no more to do with the management of the ordinary business of the company than any other citizen of Montana. Mr. C. W. Cannon, of Helena, is a director of the Montana Central railway and it would be just as proper to hold him responsible for the acts, good or bad, of that corporation as to charge the doings of the Great Falls & Canada management to Mr. Collins. The arduous labors of these gentlemen, in each case, consists in meeting with the stockholders once a year to elect a board of directors in accordance with the wishes of the management. Whether or not the Great Falls & Canada railroad was in fault in bringing some of their mechanics from Lethbridge to repair a bridge across the Teton which the floods had washed away it is not necessary to discuss; the simple fact is that Mr. Collins had nothing whatever to do with it and knew nothing of it until reference to the same was made in the public prints.

2. The First National bank affair. During the past year the First National bank and Townsite company of Great Falls constructed, jointly, a stone business block in this city at a cost of \$125,000. The building committee consisted

of A. E. Dickerman, cashier, representing the bank, and J. Bookwalter, representing the Townsite company. This work was not let out by contract but was done "by the day," under supervision of the architect and a manager. None but union labor, at a union rate of wages, was employed; this way the building was completed there never was the least ground for complaint from anyone. When it came to providing the furniture and fixtures for the bank (all mahogany) bids were asked and the contract awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, a Mr. Alexander of Minneapolis. With this of course the bank had nothing to do, except to look to Mr. Alexander for its completion under terms of the contract and according to the plans and specifications. The contractor brought with him from Minneapolis three or four experts at such work who were not union men and were refused to join that organization. It was a matter wholly between the contractor and the men and with which the bank had nothing whatever to do. Inward the affair was adjusted in an satisfactory manner—and this is the for the charge that Mr. Collins is equal to organized labor!

3. The Helena Journal says Mr. Collins is responsible for reducing wages two dollars a day at Great Falls, because the men who dug the trenches for the water company of this city worked that sum. We do not know whether or not workmen were engaged at this rate, but we do know Mr. Collins has nothing whatever to do with it. He is not the manager nor an officer of the company. Besides, this work was done by contract and it was wholly a matter between the contractor and his employees. These are the specifications to maintain the charges made that Mr. Collins is an enemy of organized labor, and will be seen at a glance how frivolous they are.

Let Mr. Collins' record in the constitutional convention be compared with that of Mr. Rickards and it will be apparent to once who is the true friend of organized labor and of the working people of Montana. Mr. Collins presented and supported every proposition presented that body to protect labor, while Mr. Rickards did his utmost, by direct opposition and specious pleading, to defeat them. There is the true test, and the workmen of Montana will not hesitate to recognize it.

MR. POWDERLY'S POSITION.

With the deliberate purpose of deceiving workmen in the Helena Journal and other republican newspapers are false making it appear that T. V. Powderly, the master workman of the Knights of Labor, is in favor of the republican ticket. Workingmen know better, and the attempted deception simply makes the republican chances more despicable. Here is what Mr. Powderly really said:

I will venture the assertion that 20,000 workmen in the United States would make ready to march to hang a man for being a traitor if I did not vote for Weaver. They would be right. I would be a traitor, and I really believe that should be hanged for not voting for Weaver if my vote would decide these tests. I would agree with anyone who would hang me for treason, and I should not refuse to agree with me if I say that each workman who did not vote for him (Weaver) should be regarded in the same light. I have ten no campaign documents in either the democratic or republican party; I will not write any, and will support the candidate of any party, be the one which had the honesty and patriotism to lay claim to the votes of the Knights of Labor by adopting the platform of the Knights of Labor international platform, the people's party candidates, General James B. Weaver and General James G. Field."

Is this not sufficient evidence to show Mr. Powderly stands? And in the teeth of this straightforward statement will the republican press still have the effrontery to say that Mr. Powderly favors the candidacy of Benjamin Harrison?

The republican hired professional liars are beaten again. They started a story from Kansas the other day to the effect that Mrs. Lease had "come out" for Harrison. Here is a despatch Mrs. Lease sends to the Denver News:

MR. PLEASANT, INDA, Oct. 17. The special agent the rounds of the press in regard to an interview in which I am reported to have advised the populists "to vote for Harrison," or that "a vote for Weaver was a vote for Cleveland," is unqualifiedly false. I would consider it a public calamity for Harrison to be elected.
MRS. MARY E. LEASE.

This looks as if the lady from Kansas wished to help "little Ben," does it not?

And! Very well. Mr. Weed is too busy just now to discuss the issues of the day under conditions that would expose him to the unveiling of his falsehoods and sophistries. He will have plenty of time after election for his occupation will be gone and he couldn't "draw" a corporation guard. So be it. He has done much to cook his party's goose down this year.

Representatives of the Minneapolis Brewing company were in the city recently and the rumor became current that they would put in a large brewing plant here. From Mr. A. F. Schmidt it is learned that the company has abandoned its intentions of so doing since learning that the Montana Brewing company has filed articles of incorporation and will enter upon the immediate construction of their buildings. The Minneapolis men were anxious to come here and made a proposition to the Montana Brewing company which was refused. It is not unlikely, however, that the Minneapolis gentlemen will have a first interest in the plant put in here as they have now under consideration an offer made them by the incorporators of the Montana brewing company.