

NO HOPE FOR PARKER-- BRYAN'S SCALP SOUGHT

EASTERN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS FEAR STAMPEDE TO THE "PEERLESS LEADER" AFTER THE NOVEMBER DEFEAT.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—A special dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says that, with inevitable defeat staring the Democrats in the face, all expectation of carrying the Presidential election has been finally abandoned by them. The Parker leaders of the Democracy are confronted with a form of treachery which strikes terror to the hearts of the sponsors of the "safe and sane Democracy." According to a thoroughly trustworthy report which has reached the headquarters of the Democratic National committee in Washington, the Belmont-Hill-Sheehan combination will devote all its energy from now until election to preventing William J. Bryan from regaining the ascendancy in the Democratic party which he enjoyed for eight years.

If, as seems probable, Parker fails to secure as many electoral votes as Bryan did, no influence will be able to check the stampede of the rank and file of the Democracy to the extreme radical wing of which the "peerless leader" has always been the exponent. The New York leaders are thoroughly alive to this fact, and for that reason they will strain every nerve to carry New York, West Virginia and Nevada, the only States which in their opinion offer the slightest opportunity for Democratic gains, although they would prove far from sufficient to elect the national ticket, as they would leave Parker and Davis 39 votes short of the number necessary to win.

Taggart Helping Bryan.
The effort of the New York contingent to carry New York is certain to be seriously hampered by what they term treachery of the basest sort. Despairing of achieving a national victory and hopeless of carrying Indiana for Parker, Chairman Taggart has listened to the siren voice of William J. Bryan, and, with the co-operation of ex-Senator James K. Jones, has arranged a speaking tour of Indiana for the Nebraskan. Mr. Bryan has already, in the opinion of National leaders, become a traitor to Parker, in conceding Nebraska to Roosevelt and Fairbanks, with the hope of simplifying his own effort to carry the Nebraska Legislature, and to succeed to the seat in the Senate occupied by Charles H. Deitrich. The tenor of Mr. Bryan's remarks throughout this campaign has been detrimental, if not actually inimical, to Parker's chances, and the probability that his Indiana speeches will be such as to remove the last hope of the Parkerites to enlist the support of the conservative Democracy of New York, is fully appreciated by the New York contingent.

In the face of a situation which would sadden any Republican organization in the country, there is evidence at Democratic Congressional headquarters of a certain gleam of triumph. Chairman Cowherd went to New York and pleaded eloquently with Mr. Sheehan and his partners not to waste their entire substance on the ignis fatuus of a Democratic national victory, but to lend some assistance to his efforts to secure a Democratic majority in the House. To Mr. Cowherd's pleadings the New York contingent turned a deaf ear. With the rich plum of New York patronage dangling so temptingly before their eyes, and with the possibility of restoring the tarnished prestige of David B. Hill to his pristine brilliancy, he and other Parker managers had neither time nor money to waste on Congressional districts, and Chairman Cowherd returned to Washington with no more available asset than a large consignment of "professed sympathy." It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the admission which Belmont, Sheehan & Co. have now been reluctantly forced to make to Mr. Cowherd and his fellow workers should result in some disposition to say, "I told you so."

Those states which by the furthest stretch of imagination, may be listed as "doubtful," are as follows:

Colorado	5
Delaware	3
Idaho	3
Indiana	15
Maryland	8
Montana	3
Nevada	3
New Jersey	12
New York	39
Utah	3
West Virginia	7
Total	101

Figures Give Them No Hope.
An interesting summary of the situation which has forced the New Yorkers to a conclusion that their Presidential nominee has no chance of election, has reached the Democratic Con-

gressional committee. These figures show the "Solid South" as follows:

Alabama	11
Arkansas	9
Florida	5
Georgia	13
Kentucky	13
Louisiana	9
Mississippi	10
Missouri	18
North Carolina	12
South Carolina	9
Tennessee	12
Texas	18
Virginia	12
Total	151

The States frankly conceded to the Republicans are as follows:

California	10
Connecticut	7
Illinois	27
Iowa	13
Kansas	10
Maine	6
Massachusetts	16
Michigan	14
Minnesota	11
Nebraska	8
New Hampshire	4
North Dakota	4
Ohio	23
Oregon	4
Pennsylvania	34
Rhode Island	4
South Dakota	4
Vermont	4
Washington	5
Wisconsin	13
Wyoming	3
Total	224

The Democratic managers, by their own calculations, show that to gain the 229 votes necessary to a choice they would have to secure 88 votes in addition to the "Solid South," whereas the Republicans require only 15 votes in addition to the certain Republican States enumerated above. New York is not necessary to Republican success, but it alone would insure the election of Roosevelt and Fairbanks. So would Indiana alone, so would New Jersey and Delaware together, or any other combination of the alleged uncertain States aggregating 15 votes.

Forlorn Chance.
The Democrats, on the other hand, to win must carry New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Maryland, West Virginia and two others, provided one of them is Colorado, and three others if Colorado goes Republican. The most sanguine interpretation of the reports received at National Democratic headquarters offers not the slightest ground for believing that any such Democratic landslide is possible. In fact, it is admitted that there is no hope of preventing Roosevelt and Fairbanks from securing the 15 votes, in addition to the certain Republican States enumerated, and Chairman Cowherd has been advised that the Parker machine stands ready to co-operate with him in any plan that promises to curtail the extent of the approaching Democratic disaster, and incidentally, to head off the irrepressible "Peerless Leader."

ROOSEVELT BETS FIND FEW TAKERS.

\$1,000 is Wagered, However, He Will Not Have 20,000 Plurality in New York.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—Upward of \$10,000 was offered in Wall street yesterday on Roosevelt, but there was little Parker money in sight and the odds offered were not inviting. D. C. Moore bet \$1,000 even with S. G. Good that Roosevelt would not have 20,000 plurality in New York State. Bunnell & Buchanan offered \$1,000 to \$700 that Roosevelt will carry New York, and Allen, McGraw & Co. wanted to place a bet of \$1,000 to \$750 that Roosevelt will carry the State, but neither bet was taken. Fred H. Brooks, bet \$2,000 on Herrick against \$1,000 on Higgins, the latter amount being taken by Wren Bros. An offer of \$500 to \$300 that New Jersey will go Republican was not covered.

Charles H. Marshall, of No. 2 Wall street, was unable to place two commissions of \$2,000 to \$1,500 that Roosevelt will carry New York State and \$1,000 that his plurality in the State will exceed 20,000 votes.

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NEW TAX LAWS

WHAT THEIR PURPOSE IS AND WHAT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH—ALL THE STATUTES RECENTLY ENACTED BY THE SPECIAL SESSION CLEARLY EXPLAINED

AND THE GREAT BENEFIT THEY WILL BRING SET FORTH CLEARLY AND DISTINCTLY—VOTERS, READ THIS.

[From the Parkersburg State Journal.]
The twenty-one tax laws passed at the special session of the Legislature of 1904 have been published and widely distributed. The acts cover 155 printed pages and as they appertain to the entire system of collection, assessment and disbursement of revenue, are of the utmost importance and far reaching in their effect. They mark a decided step forward toward a fairer and more just system of assessment and lower rates of taxation and their merits need only to be fairly considered and fully understood to meet with general approval.

What the Acts Are In Brief.
In brief, they reduce the State tax rate from thirty-five cents to five cents on the hundred dollars by 1907; increase certain license taxes and create new ones, thereby raising a large amount of new revenue for the State from these sources; reduce the maximum county levy to sixty cents instead of the present limit of ninety-five cents; limit the maximum levy for the regular school "building fund" to twenty cents instead of forty; making a total reduction of 85 cents in a total of \$1.70 or ONE-HALF; prohibit unauthorized expenditures by any officer of the State, county courts or boards of education; require the counties having special Criminal Courts to pay the salaries of the Judges; provide for a Tax Commissioner, who becomes the head of the tax assessment system of the State; create a better system of assessor and assessments, much of which in regard to the duties of the assessors goes into effect in 1907; provide for a re-assessment of all the real estate of the State in 1905, under the direction of the Tax Commissioner, by commissioners appointed by him, the valuation being subject to review and correction by the County Courts and by the State Board of Public Works, as an equalization board; make the first tax levies in the new values or appraisement of real estate apply in 1906; provide for assessments of pipe lines, telegraph lines, telephone lines, car lines, railroads, etc. annually by the Board of Public Works, requiring complete and accurate sworn returns of the true and actual values of the property from these corporations; increase and perfect the collateral inheritance tax; change the method of conveying prisoners to the penitentiary, saving thousands of dollars annually; fix the fees to be charged, adding new ones and raising old ones in the offices of Secretary of State and Auditor, which are to go to the State hereafter as new revenue; require that the regularly elected assessors of the counties beginning in 1905, shall thereafter annually assess the real estate as well as all other property, the special re-assessment of real estate of 1905 holding until that time; provide that corporate and all other property shall be returned for taxation at its true or actual value; require counties to pay \$50.00 a year toward the education and support of their reform school inmates and those in the W. Va. Asylum (formerly called the Home for Incurables); and a number of minor matters of more or less importance.

The general scope of these bills is to perfect the taxation assessment system and give it a head and to cause all property to be valued as the constitution contemplates; at its real value, in order that there may be (1) uniformity and honesty in valuations of similar property; that (2) the rates of local taxation be greatly reduced; that (3) direct State taxes may be wiped out as far as possible, and the needed State revenues raised otherwise.

Our present system of unequal and low values with high taxes is fatally defective. The object of the new laws is to put corporate and all property on the same equal footing, to assess all property at its value, equally and uniformly, and then to reduce State, county and municipal taxes.

It will take no more money to run local and State governments under one system than another. A full tax valuation therefore means low taxes. The keynote of the bills is "fairer valuations and lower taxation." With lower taxation invisible personal property will more largely appear on the tax duplicates. The State revenues are to be raised from license and privilege taxes, inheritance taxes, etc.

A study of the bills in detail will give a clearer idea of their scope and value.

General License Act.
The general license law (chapter three of the Acts) covers thirty pages. It raises the retail liquor license from \$350.00 to \$450.00. The tax on distil-

leries other than fruit and brandy, for selling in this State, whether the distillery is in or out of the State, is \$500.00; the "manufacturing" license for all kind of distilleries is \$100.00. On breweries the manufacturer's tax is \$100.00 and the "selling" license tax is gauged according to the capacity of the brewery of ten thousand barrels capacity up to \$6,000.00 tax for a brewery of 100,000 barrels capacity. And, as in the case of distilleries, this selling tax applies to breweries, whether located in or out of this State.

The revenue feature of the bill is very attractive. Heretofore the total license taxes derived from breweries and distilleries have been less than \$5,000.00. It is estimated that they will under this act reach fully \$100,000.00. The stock brokers' license is \$50.00 and for conducting a bucket shop \$500.00; for sale of tobacco in any form, other than cigarettes, \$5.00; with cigarettes \$10.00; junk dealers will have to pay \$25.00; to sell trading stamps the tax is \$500.00; to maintain or occupy a houseboat \$10.00; to maintain a slot machine, other than gambling devices, \$5.00; to sell at wholesale revolvers, pistols, slung shots, etc., \$300.00 and at retail \$100.00; pawn brokers \$100.00.

There are many other license taxes. The new license taxes are included among those enumerated above. The law it is believed will raise in new revenue as much money as a 12 or 15 cent direct tax levy would raise. (Other laws raise additional new revenues.)

State Taxes Reduced.
The important feature of this act, however, is the fact that it reduces our present direct State taxes of 35 cents on the \$100 by eleven cents in 1905, and an additional eleven cents in 1906 and an additional eight cents in 1907, leaving only a direct State tax of five cents after 1907, which shall be devoted to the public schools. It will thus be seen that the Legislature has provided for wiping out six-sevenths of the direct taxes of the State inside of the next three years. This of itself is a magnificent achievement.

The proposed constitutional amendment, permitting the total abolition of all direct State taxes, was defeated by the Democrats, including Senator CORNWELL, the Democratic candidate for governor. This measure required a two-thirds vote, and as the Republicans did not command a majority of the House they were unable to pass it over the solid Democratic opposition. Every Republican in the Legislature voted for the measure, and they were unanimous, apparently, in their desire to eventually abolish all State taxes. Not being able to do this the Legislature did the next best thing. After 1906 the State taxes are only five cents which is to be devoted exclusively for the State school purposes until such time as the constitution is amended and thus permit all direct State taxes to be abolished.

Assessment of Taxes.
The act (chapter four) relating to the assessment of taxes and also to create the office of Tax Commissioner, is the longest, as well as the most important one. It occupies sixty-six pages and revises the entire system of laws in regard to the assessment of taxes. It provides for a better system of assessors and assessments. The office of Tax Commissioner, which is created, is an exceedingly important step and creates for the first time in the State's history a head to the tax levying and tax collecting system of the State. This office is destined to be one of the most important offices in the State, and will amply justify the wisdom of the Legislature in creating it. The appointment of the Tax Commissioner is by the governor for six years, and he is ineligible to re-appointment.

All property, real and personal, must hereafter be assessed at its actual value. After 1909 the real estate shall be assessed annually by the county assessor. The assessor collects the poll or capitation tax. He is supposed to do this at the time he obtains the list from the taxpayer. He has the same right to distrain for this tax that the sheriff has. In case the assessor does not collect it and the sheriff should subsequently collect it, the assessor must pay a commission to the sheriff for so doing. It is estimated that the State will derive from this fund alone from forty to sixty thousand dollars in excess of what it has heretofore collected. Railroad, car line, telephone, telegraph and pipe line companies will be assessed at their actual value by the Board of Public Works, to which they must make their return hereafter. (Only railroads have reported hitherto.) Banks are required to return for taxation their capital stock, surplus and undivided profits, after deducting real estate and such other exemptions as may be authorized by law; or they may elect to have the shares of stock assessed to the owner thereof, in which event the shares shall be assessed at their market value, and the bank must pay the taxes and recover the amount paid

(Continued on Third Page.)



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