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WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Friends of William Jennings Bryan Have Staked Their Political Future on His Being Nominated and Elected—An Early Democratic Convention Will be in Order.

(Special Correspondence.) Washington, D. C., December 28. I have received many commendations from Congressmen and other Democratic leaders for the statement in my last letter of the present outlook for the Democracy based on former elections. Since writing that letter the meeting of the Democratic National Committee has been held and the time and place for the convention agreed upon. A great effort was made by the friends of Mr. Bryan on the Committee to force an early convention, for fear that something would occur to cause him to reconsider his decision to be a candidate if too many months intervened before the convention met. The enthusiastic friends of Mr. Bryan have staked their political future on his being nominated and elected, though as one of his most ardent supporters declared to me "he would sooner be beat with Bryan than win with some other candidate." Such, however, was not the feeling of the majority of the committee; for the opinion was expressed in the determination to postpone the date for holding the convention as long as possible with the hope that events would cause a concentration upon some other candidate who could better unite the party. On the face of it, there was but little open opposition to the nomination of Mr. Bryan, but a majority of the members of the committee were quite willing to say privately that they feared Mr. Bryan could not be elected.

The chief reason for this fear that Mr. Bryan cannot unite the party was the number of "new ideas" which he has adopted as necessary for the public weal, and that he no doubts intends to implant in the Democratic platform as Democratic principles. The latest of these "new ideas" does not meet with the concurrence of any Democrat I have talked to. This is the proposition of President Roosevelt that Congress provide an appropriation for the campaign expenses of "each of the great political parties." The Bryan boomers at the meeting of the Committee, one and all, declared that it could not be possible that Mr. Bryan had endorsed the Roosevelt proposition. It is painful, therefore, to Democrats to find in the Commoner of the 13th inst an endorsement of that proposition by Mr. Bryan. The Commoner quotes the President's remarks in full and adds: "The recommendation is given in full, because it is a new idea and an important one. The Commoner is glad to bring it to the attention of its readers, and to endorse it." Now, these words import an unqualified endorsement of Mr. Bryan of the most audacious novel, and dangerous proposition ever enunciated in a civilized country.

There is no warrant for it in the Federal Constitution. Indeed, it is prohibited by the First Amendment which guarantees freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, and of assembly. Party politics is a matter of opinion; and Jefferson declared, in the most famous bill he ever wrote that "to compel a man to make contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical." To compel a man to pay taxes for the propagation of religious opinions is sinful. To compel him to pay taxes for the propagation of political opinions is tyrannical. There is no more justice in the one taxation than in the other, nor is there any more authority in Congress for the one than there is for the other. Even Mr. Bryan's staunchest supporters in Washington admit that he was innocent in giving his endorsement hastily and inadvertently to such a proposition. No independent man is fit to be President of the United States in this age, as well as in the matter of government ownership of railroads. In the matter of compelling the Federal Government to support the Danville bank and in the matter of licensing corporations

and in many other matters. Doesn't it logically follow, therefore, that he is unfit, by reason of his imprudence and indiscretion, to be the Chief Executive of a nation like ours? Let this question be answered by every Democrat for himself, remembering Jefferson's declaration that every officeholder high or low, should be faithful, competent, and honest. For, surely, no imprudent, hasty, vote-seeking man is competent. And if he is incompetent, the more faithful and honest he is, the more certainly will his incompetency lead him and those who entrust their affairs to his care into misfortune and ruin. The very essence of politics is prudence. The word politics signifies prudence. Why, then, should any great party select for its leader an imprudent man?

The Democratic party cannot be united on such new and undemocratic policies. To attempt to force such down the throats of Democrats will disunite instead of uniting the party. We can agree upon essentials that have been tested and that the people believe in, and it would appear to be political wisdom to lay aside these "new ideas" until a more convenient season. There are any number of Democrats from which could be selected a candidate who would unite the party. Governor Johnson of Minnesota, or Folk of Missouri, or Hoke Smith, of Georgia, who was here a few days ago, after having attended to some private business in New York said he found "the conditions have brought about a political chaos. No one knows what to expect, and no one can speak authoritatively as to the outlook." Governor Smith is a great lawyer and a competent business man, and no one is better able to gauge public sentiment as it exists today. During the coming months before the National Conventions are held, there may perhaps be a settling and clarifying of conditions which may point out the necessary political road to travel. Those Democratic State Conventions that select delegates to the National Convention at an early date cannot but take notice of the prevailing political chaos. Prudence would seem to instruct them to select the most reliable and able members of the party and without instructions leave them to deal with the changed political conditions that may prevail when the convention meets which may indicate the best policy as to platform and candidates. The friends of Mr. Bryan and of others who are mentioned cannot object to having their qualifications to win being left to the great leaders of the party from every state, who must be the best judges of who can achieve success.

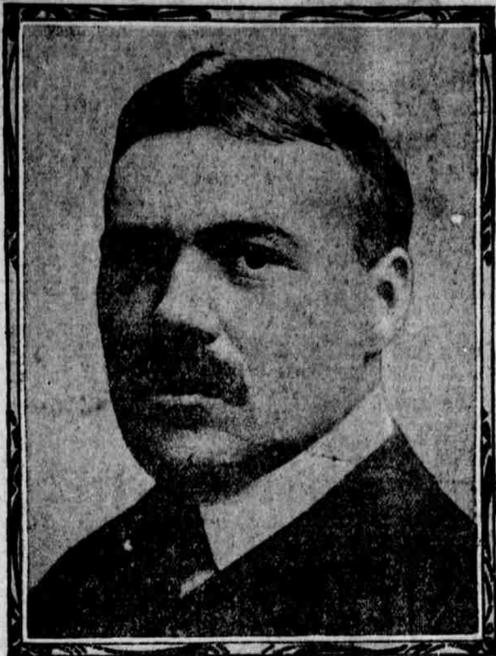
ROBERT MILLER.

Better Than Spanking.

Spanking does not cure children of bedwetting. There is a constitutional cause for this trouble. Mrs. M. Summers, Box W, Notre Dame, Ind., will send free to any mother her successful home treatment with full instructions. Send no money, but write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child, the chances are it can't help it. This treatment also cures adults and aged people troubled with urine difficulties by day or night.

Help for Insomnia.

Wet a cloth or handkerchief in cold water and bind around the wrist, tuck the loose end in securely. The cold cools the blood before it reaches the head and whatever draws or cools the blood will relieve the brain.



ROBERT W. CHAMBERS.

No writer remains year in and year out more actively in the public eye than Robert W. Chambers. His stories always seem timed to the public pulse. When the historical novel took the ascendancy a few years ago his books proved quite as popular as any others of their kind. In "The Fighting Chance," now so widely discussed, he has seized the spirit of social evolution or revolution. If you will—and has provided a story that is at once timely and vital, dramatic and truly up to the standard of the tastes and inclinations of the readers of present day fiction.

STATE CENTRALIZATION OF THE COMMON SCHOOLS

A Philosophical System With the State as a Unit. Copyrighted by Charles E. Luken's 1907.

The writer is gratified in the thought that should he die a citizen of the state of Ohio, and leave an estate, the state has already prepared a will for the settlement of his estate and has expressed its willingness to take full charge of his affairs in the interest of his heirs, and he is assured that his heirs will be as well satisfied with the settlement as many thousands have heretofore, who have at least made no successful contest of the last wishes of their forefathers.

The writer recommends that the citizens of the state quit claims their equity in all public school property including several tribal high schools with rolling stock, to the state.

In making this recommendation, he is confident that the state can settle neighborhood differences better than localities can. By syndacating the school property vast sums would be saved and graft practically eliminated from an institution that now requires one-third of all taxes.

As a result of state management and control of school property, (The system advocated takes no cognizance of board control or any phase not purely economic) many school buildings would be vacated, but none would be abandoned. The local conditions would be recognized and considered. Many schools would be consolidated but in no instance would district, township or county lines be recognized. School houses would be removed if necessity required it. Along electric lines, several of our present forlorn buildings could be placed in one large lot and modernized. The population in both country and city is as unsettled as the waves of the sea.

In the most fertile sections of the state, there has been a constant decrease in population, in some instances, covering a period of forty years. We know not what the future has for us. We have an abundance of floor space in school buildings throughout the state. Under state centralization, the state would build all buildings required and replace he same in case of fire.

There is another little matter which the writer wishes our readers to consider. He has no objection in the least to the letter R shaping the destiny of the highest type of the Mollusk family, but does not quite understand why all vacations should end and all school begin with the first month having the letter R. Perhaps a settlement of this matter might result in a refutation of the accusation that there is an intellectual relationship existing between man and the oyster. In cities there are many that have no playgrounds except the highways. This results in various ages mingling together resulting in crime that could be prevented. Would it be a violation of any established custom if these vacations are at various seasons of the year according to age and manual labor pursued? Suppose that in a family of five children of school age and one of these is enjoying a vacation, could not parents in many instances find employment that would serve as a discipline?

Would not it be desirable in many plural standard families if the beginners were in school on Saturday, the busiest day in the week and have a holiday on Monday when they could play without being molested by older pupils? Of course, we must not be too hasty in these matters as these other matters that seem to be of greater importance than the perpetuation of the race. With the state as a unit, we would have a foundation for a system of education that would be a model for all other states and a beacon-like to civilization.

Every secular problem in life can be solved in the class room. He that is not with us let him be against us, prove all things and then strive to mendmize where others have feared to tread.

The railroad has taken up the problem of cooling the fruit before it is packed in the cars. The company is working on the lines shown to be the most successful by the experiments of the Department of Agriculture, which loaded fruit just as it came from the grower, then after careful selection and brushing, and lastly after it had been pre-cooled before it was put in the cars. All this fruit was sent across the continent in refrigerator cars, under careful observation as to temperature along the route and the condition of the fruit on its arrival. It was found that the pre-cooled fruit was far in advance of any other.

The Southern Pacific has already begun the building of pre-cooling plants, as well as ice making plants to supply its cars. When pre-cooling comes to be the general rule, it will mean not only the saving of a large amount of fruit that now becomes spoiled, but also that the fruit can remain on the trees longer and be in finer condition when it reaches the consumer. It is expected that pre-cooling will add from 10 to 20 per cent to the value of California citrus fruit production which, in the season just closed, brought \$34,000,000 and made the total fruit crop of the state worth twice as much as her gold production.

Largely as the result of the demands of its fruit shippers, the Southern Pacific has carried out extensive improvements between Sacramento and Truckee, which increase the efficiency of this part of its lines by at least 50 per cent. Fifty miles of track has been laid in the new Roseville classification yard, the natural distributing point for coastwise transcontinental service that brings California's oranges from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast in the finest possible condition, not only at this time of the year, but throughout the twelve months during which the California grower now sends his product to market.

All the year round demand for oranges has increased to such an extent that California growers have found it necessary to propagate more very early and very late varieties, until now there is hardly a day in the year in which citrus fruit shipments are not made from this state. The bulk of the crop, however, is handled between January 1st and July 1st. For the fruit season ending last month, the total number of cars of oranges shipped was 23,000, and the increase for all citrus fruits was 2,000 cars for the year.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Mutual Insurance Co. of Richland Township will be held at the township hall Tuesday, December 31, 1907.

A. OBORN, Secretary. 12-26-07

OREGON APPLES STARTED ON LONG JOURNEY TO SIBERIA

Six Hundred Boxes of the Finest Fruit Grown in the Hood River District are Started This Week on Ten Thousand Mile Journey.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 28.—Six hundred boxes of the finest apples grown in the Hood River district have started this week on a 10,000 mile journey to Vladivostok, Siberia. Carefully wrapped, packed and boxed, this fruit is expected to reach its remote destination, via Puget Sound, Vancouver and Japan, in perfect condition. It is probably that no other fruit product of American orchards is shipped so great a distance.

So perfect are the methods of selecting and packing these apples that should there be a defect in this or any other shipment it can be traced immediately to the orchardist and packer responsible. Nothing but absolutely perfect fruit is allowed to go out of the state with Hood River's name on the box. The apples are long ago abandoned. The apples are graded, and placed in uniform rows, a bushel of from 54 to 128 apples to the box. All packing is in the hands of professionals entirely independent of the grower, who more often than not sells his crop on the trees, and has no further control over it.

No orchardist is allowed to pack his own apples, even if he wants to do so. The apple growers' union attends to that, and their men are under orders to reject all fruit that shows the slightest blemish. So great is the confidence built up by this rule that thousands of boxes that the purchaser has never seen are sold at prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$7.50. The methods of Hood River apple growers are unique in this respect.

A soil of volcanic ash and a climate perfectly suited to fruit growing were the foundations upon which the fortunes of the Hood River district were built. With these advantages and the most advanced methods of growing, less than two per cent of the average crop fails to come up to the high standard the growers set for themselves. Last season one orchard reported only 60 defective apples out of 2000 bushels.

So great is the care exercised by the Hood River growers, however, that 20 acres is considered to be as much as one orchardist can look after properly. But the returns per acre are so large that there is no complaint in regard to the income derived, which runs above \$15,000 a year from these small tracts. Seven hundred dollars an acre is considered an average return.

Open cultivation with the space between the trees kept as clean as a barn floor is the approved method followed throughout this section. This allows the trees to derive the maximum amount of moisture and nourishment from the soil. Small or defective apples are picked before maturity in order that the healthy fruit may reach its best development. To ascertain the right moment for attacking moths and insect pests, their growth is watched day by day on trees surrounded by fine screens, and at the first time signs that any insect has begun to do damage, spraying is begun.

Only 10,000 of the 40,000 rich acres of the Hood River district are under cultivation. The enormous profits realized on the crops grown here are bringing in settlers from all parts of the country and drawing them from all employments. Nine out of ten Hood River orchardists followed some other calling most of their lives. Physicians, editors, engineers, machinists, bricklayers, and printers are among the most successful of late arrivals. Men who arrived a few years ago with but a few hundred dollars and now own orchards valued at \$50,000 are numerous.

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DIRE DISTRESS

Is Near at Hand to Hundreds of Marion Readers.

Don't neglect an aching back, backache is the kidney's cry for help. Neglect hurrying to their aid means that urinary troubles follow quickly. "Dire distress, diabetes, Bright's disease, profit by a Marion citizen's experience."

Mrs. Emma Moore, of 279 South Prospect St., Marion, Ohio, says: "You may repeat for me the testimonial I gave in 1899, telling how Doan's Kidney Pills cured me of a bad case of backache. For days at a time I suffered acute pain which often extended up to my head and made me restless at night, and in the daytime also my household work was irksome. Doan's Kidney Pills came to my notice and I got a supply at Flocken's Pharmacy and began using them. I found relief in a few days. Soon all traces of the trouble had disappeared and up to the present time I have had no return of it. My son, who was suffering from rheumatism, also used them with the most gratifying results." For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

Towns With Famous Names. There are 27 cities and towns named Troy in the United States, 19 named Athens, 17 Utica, 16 Alexandria, 15 Rome and 12 Carthage, not to speak of 7 Attica and 7 Syracuse. Only two states, Indiana and New York, contain towns bearing a majority of the names. Ohio and Missouri contain seven each.



CAPTAIN HUGO OSTERHAUS.

No officer in the United States navy has more reason to be proud of his command or his ship than Captain Hugo Osterhaus, who has charge of the battleship Connecticut, which flies the flag of Admiral Evans. The flagship herself is the pride of the navy, and no nation can boast so fine a crew as is aboard this great warship, which was built at the New York navy yard. The men of Captain Osterhaus' command are regarded by him as the flower of the navy, and they are as proud of their captain as he is of them.

REDUCED PRICES. On all holiday goods. Lowest prices on suits and overcoats in the city. Mcn's fine shoes and slippers at lowest prices. Save money by coming here. L. M. Hayter & Co. West Center Street