

COLFAX GAZETTE

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COUNTY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Washington republicans are excellent platform builders. They write good republican doctrine when they meet.

Admiral Dewey said in an interview at Philadelphia that he had never voted in his life. His interest in politics comes rather sudden.

Didn't the great American people club together and buy Dewey a costly residence in Washington? Why isn't he contented to leave the White house for some poor fellow who can't pay rent?

The future of iron and steel prices seems to be uncertain. There is a large and increasing demand, but it is predicted by some prominent authorities that the building of new works will increase the supply to a point that will lower prices.

The salt trust is now salted for trouble. An independent company has been organized in the east to build a 2500 barrel plant in New York state, one of equal capacity in both Michigan and Kansas and additions whenever business justifies them.

The democrats are now claiming that as the gold standard is assured it will do no harm to put the free silver plank in the democratic platform. On the same principle they might as well put in the old plank in favor of slavery and the one declaring the civil war a failure.

Washington republicans have held the first convention. It was a McKinley gathering, and the people are pleased that they started the ball rolling in the right way by enthusiastically and unequivocally endorsing the president and instructing the delegates to support him.

The democrats who have been waiting for the municipal election news from Ohio and prophesying great things for themselves are silent now. The towns have gone the same way that the election for governor did in November, only a little more so. There is nothing wrong with Ohio.

At Salem, Oregon, a populist in the crowd at the Bryan speaking was robbed of two gold "twenties" and a quantity of silver. The Oregonian unfeelingly remarks that he had more money than even his political party concedes to be a proper "per capita," so he is not entitled to complain of the man who was "equalizing the condition of the rich and the poor."

The republicans in congress are preparing to take up the trust question. If the democrats are in earnest in their cries against monopoly, they will soon be given an opportunity to show it by joining in progressive measures to limit the powers of the mammoth corporations. Something over 30 anti trust bills have been introduced in the house alone this session.

It is not yet positively known whether Mr. Bryan was responsible for the appearance of the initiative and referendum plank in the platform adopted by the Nebraska democrats, or merely acquiesced in it as a bait to hold populist votes, says the Pomeroy Washingtonian. If the former, he intends to try to have a similar plank put in the Kansas City platform, as democrats from the south in both branches of congress openly announce their intention to fight the insertion of such a plank in the national platform. Ex-Gov. Campbell, who is an expansion democrat of about the same stripe as Senator Morgan, said: "Such a platform as was adopted by the Nebraska democrats, with a candidate who indorses it, seriously endangers our chances of success. We can't hope to win by adopting populist ideas."

There seems to be brighter times in store for the wheat growers of this country if reports are to be believed, but they may not come for several months yet, says New West Trade. Crops of all kinds, especially wheat, are said to have suffered almost to famine extent in India. Then there is the additional fact that while wheat and flour have not been exported in such volume from the eastern seaboard this year as last, there has nevertheless been a large movement of Minnesota, Dakota, Washington and Oregon flour to the orient, so that exportable surpluses of grain are probably not so large as general estimate says they are. The fact that with weak foreign demand, grain markets at the east have not declined materially for several weeks, proves that there is some supporting factor. It is generally the case that the grain grower of the northwest never gets a genuine inning until there comes a famine in India. Should the market improve before the coming of this year's crop it would not benefit growers to any very large extent in this immediate territory, for the fact is that most of the grain has long since passed from the hands of farmers and is now owned by the banks and other institutions that make a practice of advancing money on it.

Where the Trusts Stand.

An action has been started in the city of New York against the collector of customs to recover some \$2,000,000 collected on imports from Puerto Rico since the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain. One of the principal plaintiffs is the American Sugar Refining Company, or the sugar trust. Of the amount which the parties seek to recover 90 per cent represents the duties paid on sugar and tobacco.

In spite of this plain proof where the tobacco and sugar trusts stand in the matter of the Puerto Rican tariff, the democrats are trying to make it appear that the tariff has been dictated by the trusts. If this attitude of the trusts does not show which party has been working in the interest of the sugar and tobacco kings, nothing can. Senator Fairbanks put the matter well in a recent speech in congress:

"To maintain the suit the sugar trust denies the constitutional power of the United States to collect any duty whatever. Strangely enough, the opposition would have us believe that while the trust was in the courts denying the constitutional power of congress to impose any duties upon the raw sugars imported by it at New York, it was in Washington advocating before congress the imposition of a duty upon sugar. I do not believe any one will fail to understand how utterly contradictory and absurd the proposition is."

The democratic senator from Arkansas, and chairman of the national democratic committee, J. K. Jones, has suggested the only legislation which has been proposed to the benefit of the sugar and tobacco trusts. Last month he introduced an amendment to the appropriation bill proposing to turn back all duties collected on articles imported from Puerto Rico. If Senator Jones' amendment had been adopted the \$2,000,000 which the trusts are endeavoring to collect in the courts would have been turned over to them through the efforts of democrats in congress.

Where is the Bad Faith?

One of the strongest arguments against the Puerto Rico bill has been the charge that it violated the promise made to the people of the island by Gen. Miles, says the Post-Intelligencer. This has been dwelt upon by many opposition speakers, repeated by every opposition newspaper. The Puerto Ricans, it is said, welcomed our authority on the strength of a pledge made by the general of the army, and we now renounce it. Here is the official text of the proclamation:

"Headquarters of the Army, Ponce, Puerto Rico, July 28, 1898. 'To the inhabitants of Puerto Rico: In the prosecution of the war against the kingdom of Spain by the people of the United States, in the cause of liberty, justice and humanity its military forces have come to occupy the island of Puerto Rico. They come bearing the banner of freedom, inspired by a noble purpose to seek the enemies of our country and years, and to destroy or capture all who are in armed resistance.'

"They bring you the fostering arm of a nation of free people, whose greatest power is in its justice and humanity to all those living within its fold. Hence, the first effect of this occupation will be the immediate release from your former political relations, and it is hoped the cheerful acceptance of the government of the United States. The chief object of the American military forces will be to overthrow the armed authority of Spain and to give to the people of your beautiful island the largest measure of liberty consistent with this military occupation. 'We have not come to make war upon the people of a country that for centuries has been oppressed, but, on the contrary, to bring you freedom, not only to yourselves, but to your property, to promote your prosperity and bestow upon you the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of our government. It is not our purpose to interfere with any existing laws and customs that are wholesome and beneficial to your people so long as they conform to the rules of military administration of order and justice. This is not a war of devastation, but one to give to all within the control of its military and naval forces the advantages and blessings of enlightened civilization. 'NELSON A. MILES, 'Major General, Commanding United States Army.'

There is nothing in this that can be construed as a promise of free trade. There is not one word with which the Puerto Rico bill is inconsistent. Gen. Miles promised "the largest measure of liberty consistent with this military occupation." It has been given. He promised that we would promote their prosperity and bestow upon them "the immunities and blessings of the liberal institutions of our government." That we are doing and shall continue to do. The text of this document convicts those who have been misusing it of insincerity and false representation.

The New Bryanism

The Oregonian thus depicts the new Bryanism: Love of country is one of the most sacred emotions, one of the most absorbing purposes. It nerves the father to forsake his little ones, the fond husband to leave his bride at the altar. It steals the soft heart of mother, wife and sweetheart, who bind their warrior's sash in tears but yet in pride and joy. It sweetens the pangs of defeat, it makes names like Thermopylae and Marathon an inspiration of nobility and heroism to all time, it sanctifies benevolence and makes of agonies and afflictions a hallowed memory. To betray and pervert this pure impulse is to sound the depths of baseness; and there is little hope for the man in whom an appeal to patriotism awakens no response.

Bryan in 1896 and Bryan in 1900 are two very different things. Four years have seen evolution at work in its accustomed methods upon his political creed. Once a hodge-podge of disconnected tenets, its parts are correlated, systematized, integrated. A system has grown up, a central thought runs through all. On this backbone of doctrine, everything else is hung, from it everything else radiates, to it everything else comes back. Nobody can say of Bryan this year that there is no method in his madness. He has a well-considered, consistent appeal, and he makes it with adroitness. The central thought of Bryanism in 1900, the keynote of the system he puts before his hearers, is that "Money is the Master, and Man the Slave." Considerations of moral justice and economic truth he ignores. As to trusts, he is not concerned that their special tariff privileges or stock-jobbing be done away with. His idea is, Let us get at

these accumulations of capital anyhow at all, but somehow. As to Puerto Rico, he has no word for justice to the people there or the desirability of wise policies for our own welfare and self respect. There is not a word in Bryan's speeches about justice to Puerto Rico for the sake of justice, or the abolition of tariff abuses for the sake of justice, or the reform of the army for the sake of justice, or the perfection of our money system by what is right and just, or the correction of our tariff or taxation systems by what is right and just.

"Fight the trusts—why? Because money is the master and man the slave! Fight the gold standard—why? Because money is the master and man the slave! Fight the retention of the Philippines—why? Because the Money Power wants them, and money is the master and man the slave. Everything that Money wants, it gets. It gets the money, it gets the power, it gets the National domain, we must resist, not because it may be wrong or unjust or unadvisable, but because Money wants it.

The evil genius of humanity, according to Bryan, is one thing that must be humbled and dragged down, is Money—and when he says Money, he means Properly. I ask you, says Bryan, to follow me to the attack of the Man That Has. I claim as my army of nobility, pledged to fight all the wrongs of humanity, The Man That Has Not. Take this prosperity, is there? Well, you take the rich and the prosperous, and give me as my share every man that has failed, every man that is disappointed, every man that thinks he hasn't quite got his share. There is money, but it shall be dispersed. There is wealth, but it shall soon be stripped from its possessors. There is property, but the protection the law throws around it shall soon be thrown down. There you have Bryanism in its forms that four years of development have given to it. It is the spirit that menaces established order all over Europe today. It is the spirit that gave Paris its commune, Homestead its horrors, Chicago its riots. It may not seem formidable today, but formidable it may easily become the next time that panic strikes us and hunger and want take the place of prosperity and employment.

The Bryanized appeals to ignorance and discontent discover an abyss of baseness which may well cause the intelligent patriot to shudder and draw back. It is a serious responsibility for any man to encourage the new Bryanism by any act or word, positive or passive. Will not those who are tempted to do so think twice before they commit themselves? It is a question every man must ask himself. It is a responsibility impossible to evade, and in its ultimate consequences of appalling possibilities. The man who leads his encouragement today to these dangerous doctrines, and by his example leads less enlightened minds to believe them true, may be sowing the wind which his children shall reap in whirlwinds of contagions and rapine and rivers of blood.

The Bryanites are just now in a deplorable state of mind over the announcement by Admiral Dewey that he is a receptive candidate for the presidency and, after much halting and stammering, giving the assurance that he is a democrat. They can scarcely find words to vent their indignation. It is sad, indeed, that the gallant old sea fighter should displease western populocrats just to please the eastern gold democrats who are boosting him.

The Gazette has had no hesitancy for the past three years in expressing a flat and unqualified opinion that Judge McDonald is an unfit man in the high and honorable position of judge of the superior court of Whitman county. That opinion grows stronger daily. The wheels of time should be turned quickly around to the second Monday of January, 1901.

Admiral Dewey's brief candidacy for the presidency was due to the ambition of Mrs. Dewey and the desire of the eastern democracy to put Bryan out. The lambasting given him by the Bryanites has caused the admiral to change his mind, according to latest advices, and he will not be a candidate.

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