

COERCION!

SENSATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF COERCION AND INTIMIDATION.

Will Discharge Employees for Voting for Bryan—See That They Cannot Win by Fair Means, So They Determine to Win by Force—Sensational Proceedings of Sound Money League—A New Burghard—Yellow Bow Stands for Coercion—Bureau Notes, Etc.

REFORM PRESS BUREAU.
St. Paul, Oct. 18, 1900.
The sensation of the week has been the meeting of the Sound Money League in Raudenbush hall in this city and the campaign of coercion and intimidation which was inaugurated.

The call for this meeting had been signed by a number of business men, mainly members of large wholesale houses, combines and syndicates, with hardly a sprinkling of middle class business men among them.

The call came from the class most directly concerned with the trusts and money powers that have determined to secure the election of McKinley, by fair means or foul.

When Bryan made his triumphal tour of the state and called forth such an overwhelming and irresistible display of enthusiasm that swept over the country like a tidal wave and carried everything before it, the Republican leaders realized that their cause was hopeless, and seeing that they could not win by fair means, they determined to fight by foul, and this meeting was one of the results.

The sentiments of the resolutions adopted at this meeting were extreme; but the speakers were positively rabid. The chief speaker of the evening was Mr. Grover, who was certainly plain spoken enough and left no ground for misunderstanding as to the purpose of the meeting. And other things he said of the government by injunction, such as was employed on the striking miners in Idaho. But it was Mr. Jesse Gregg of the firm of Nichols & Dean that expressed it in all its brutal bluntness.

"I was in New York last week, and passing down the street I was surprised to observe a large banner floating from a business house upon which was the inscription: 'Bryan's Traveling Men's Club.' In our firm we have 20 traveling men at work, and I do not know how but one of them is going to vote this fall, but I want to say to you gentlemen that if any one of these traveling men should vote for Bryan, and I knew it, I would discharge him immediately. I don't understand me to say that I would discharge him for being a Democrat, I would discharge him for being a damned fool. I would presume that any man who didn't have better sense than to vote for Bryan, didn't have sense enough to represent our business."

The audience received this speech with ringing applause, and thus approved the sentiments expressed and subscribed to them as their own. The morning papers brought an account of the meeting and the speeches, and soon it became the all absorbing topic of the streets. Everywhere on the street corners groups of men were excitedly discussing it, and when the papers reached the outlying towns and country districts, telegrams and letters of inquiry began to pour in at the Democratic headquarters from all sides and very soon it became evident that in the excitement and interest aroused all over the state and adjoining states, this incident would surpass in sensational interest even the celebrated Burghard episode which defeated B'sine in '84.

Coming in the wake of Roosevelt's rabid speech here in the Auditorium, in which he put Democrats on a level with horse thieves, and made that far-reaching assertion:

"They stand for lawlessness and disorder, for dishonor and dishonesty, for license and disaster at home, and cowardly shrinking from duty abroad," it has made St. Paul the storm center of the Burghardism of the present campaign, and shows more plainly than anything else to what desperate straits the Republican party of Minnesota feels itself reduced.

This speech of Gregg's harmonizes with Roosevelt's famous or rather infamous speech here in the Auditorium, and the passage in Roosevelt's book "Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail," (Century Co. 1899) in which he accuses the cowboys of drunkenness and rioting, yet declares that they are much better fellows and pleasanter companions than farmers and farm hands, and tells the world that the mechanics and laboring men of a great city are so far beneath those same cowboys whom he charges with drunkenness and rioting, that they are not even to be mentioned in the same breath. The passage reads literally as follows:

"WHEN DRUNK ON THE VIL-LAINOUS WHISKY OF THE FRONTIER TOWNS THEY CUT MAD ANTICS, RIDING THEIR HORSES INTO THE SALOONS, FIRING THEIR PISTOLS RIGHT AND LEFT, from boisterous light heartedness rather than from any vicious and indulging too often in deadly shooting affrays brought on either by the accidental contact of the moment or on account of some long standing grudge, or perhaps because of bad blood between two ranches or localities; but, except on these special days, they are quiet, self-contained men, perfectly frank and simple, and on their own ground treat a stranger with the most whole souled hospitality, doing all in their power for him, and scoring to take any reward in return. Although prompt to resent an injury, they are not at all apt to be rude to outsiders, treating them with what can almost be called a grave courtesy. THEY ARE MUCH BETTER FELLOWS AND PLEASANTER"

COMPANIONS THAN SMALL FARMERS OR AGRICULTURAL LABORERS; NOR ARE THE MECHANICS AND WORKMEN OF A GREAT CITY TO BE MENTIONED IN THE SAME BREATH.

Yet this same Roosevelt, after offering such gratuitous insult to the laboring man and farmer, poses as their special friend and would-be idol. To the same category belong Beveridge's fulminations telling the people that we are making a great mistake in setting Cuba free, as well as Mark Hanna's bluntness, as before. There are no trusts."

These utterances furnish a glaring commentary on the character of their leaders, the facility of their logic, the utter hopelessness of their cause in a fair and open campaign. They can not win out on fair means, so they take to foul, and right here they show the worst kind of judgment in making their selections, and the mistakes they have made in this respect will prove their ruin.

Of those who had signed the call for this meeting, some of the most prominent were interviewed by a representative of the Press Bureau, and while they disclaimed any responsibility for the speeches made there, they endorsed the call and the resolutions adopted. However, when any society allows such utterances to be made and to pass without rebuke or protest, the public can not do otherwise than to see in such utterances an expression of the sentiments of that society and to hold the society and its individual members responsible for them.

The insolent arrogance of such a course can not be condemned in the strongest and most emphatic terms. Is it any wonder that the blood of liberty loving American citizens should boil with indignation at such brutal methods of coercion and intimidation! If the money powers dare to come out with such shameful, barefaced brutality, to force men to vote against their convictions, it certainly forbids ill for the middle man and the middle classes, and everyone realizes that if such an affront can be offered and pass unheeded, our boasted American liberty will soon be a thing of the past and will be swallowed up by the money power in a rule so rapacious in its greed, so absolute in its disregard of human rights, that the rule of the Russian czar will seem a paternal blessing in comparison.

The Republicans at this meeting decided to wear as their emblem a yellow bow. This is the national color of Spain and China, and therefore awakens memories of rapacious greed, cruel injustice, bigotry and oppression. The Democrats have chosen for their emblem a miniature United States flag. The yellow bow fittingly stands for dictation, coercion and intimidation. The flag stands for the sentiment, "A free man and a free vote." Let us all wear and display the badge of freedom.

As a sample of the work done in the Democratic campaign, and the enthusiasm aroused, we give the following extract from a letter received at the Democratic headquarters from St. Cloud:

"Beginning Monday, we put up the greatest campaign that the Democratic party has ever had in this country. Trevelyan and Calhoun will speak all week, making three or four speeches a day. All the candidates on our county ticket will accompany the speakers.

"We have organized clubs in all the towns, and the meetings have been advertised thoroughly for the past two weeks. This is on old line Democratic country, and the fact that there is more interest here than ever before, argues well for the Democratic cause in general."

The Republicans of St. Paul decided to hold a grand mass meeting for the benefit of the German voters, and so they imported a speaker by the name of Donald from Iowa, who was to address them in German and do the Democrat out of brown. And lo and behold! After all the blowing of horns and beating of drums, there were of all the 50,000 Germans in St. Paul just 197 that felt enough interest in a German Republican mass meeting, to take the trouble to be present.

It is a great thing to talk with sanonimous action about the Filipino and tell of all the blessings we are going to bestow upon him, but first get yourself in his place and consider how you would like it to have the constitution with its guarantee of rights and privileges withdrawn from the state of Minnesota, and the government of the state put into the hands of a military governor sent out here from Washington who would be responsible to no one but the president and have such laws proclaimed as his military governor with a big army at his back might see fit to have them carried out by force of arms.

With all the confidence in the government at Washington, and with all due respect for McKinley, there is yet not a single Democrat or Populist in the state of Minnesota who would submit to such a proposition, but would fight to the last ditch and to the last kopke, and there are mighty few Republicans in the state that wouldn't do the same.

Will the Republican papers kindly explain why the Republican legislature prevented the passage of the bill to raise the gross earnings tax of the railroads from 2 per cent to 4 per cent. Governor Lind and the Fusion members of the legislature did their utmost to secure the passage of this bill, but the Republicans, being in the majority, opposed and defeated it, and by taking such a stand they deprived the state of upwards of \$2,000,000, even if a new legislature can be elected to act on this measure as soon as possible.

If the railroads had been obliged to pay these \$2,000,000, the people of the state would have had so much less to pay. Now if the Republicans are really such great friends of the people, why did they vote against this measure?

AN INFAMOUS SYSTEM.

Crucifixes of Republican Monopolists Perpetrated Upon Cruel-Labor.

The strike of miners in the Pennsylvania coal fields is causing much concern to the republican bosses. They have not forgotten the Home-Street troubles in 1892, nor their effects on the national campaign of that year. Soldiers and Pinkerton detectives, obeying the mandates of heartless capitalists, made poor capitalists among the common people. A needy miner shot down while asserting his manhood speaks louder to the hearts of the American masses than all their artillery.

Hanna recognizes these facts. After reaching New York the other day from Chicago, one of his first acts was to call on J. Pierpont Morgan, and a report of the interview says he told the big financier that unless the coal strike was stopped at once, the election of McKinley was in peril. "This strike will ruin us," Hanna is reported to have said, "and you with your great command of an army stop it." Mr. Morgan was told that the republican committee had all the funds it wanted; its pressing desire was that the strike should be ended until at least after the election, for every day of its continuance was winning thousands of votes for Bryan. Cornelius N. Bliss, former secretary of the interior; Senator Scott of West Virginia, and the president of the National City bank were with Hanna, and they joined their voices in an earnest appeal that for the sake of party success, the strike should be settled at once.

It is too late. The harm has been done. The pitiful wail of the miners that they might as well starve idle as starve working has been heard throughout the land, and the infamous industrial system that enriches the few and pauperizes the many must go. It would be incredible, were not the facts adduced, that men with families of young children were com-

of laborers get for doing the work.

Every \$100 got from mining and marketing the coal is distributed as follows:

To the coal miners.....	\$10 95
To the railroads.....	41 87
Total.....	\$52 82

Leaving the railroads out of account, every \$100 got for mining the coal is distributed as follows:

To the miners.....	\$23 57
To the monopolists.....	71 43

The railroads get 2 1/2 times as much for carrying the coal to market as the miners get for digging it out of the ground.

"Private monopolies are indefensible and intolerable," says the democratic platform; and these private coal monopolies are an apt illustration of that declaration.

SOME TRUST TRUTHS.

Outrageous Treatment of American Consumers by the Monopolistic Combines.

"There's not a trust in the entire United States,"—Mark Hanna. The American Steel & Wire Company, of New Jersey, was formed January 13, 1899. It includes all the wire, wire rod and wire nail mills in the country. Its capital is \$90,000,000, at least \$50,000,000 of which is water. It is practically a monopoly. This trust, it will be observed, manufactures fencing for farmers, and nails, commodities in daily use. Its predecessor, which was an Illinois trust, bore the same name. It was formed in April, 1898. At that time nails were selling at \$1.47 per keg. In December, 1899, the price had risen to \$3.53. In the same period the price of barbed wire rose from \$1.87 to \$4.13 per hundred pounds. The duty is specific, and on these prices ranges from about 10 to 60 per cent. ad valorem.

This increase of price was so great that consumption was checked. The price was forced down, several plants were closed, and hundreds of workmen were thrown out of employment.

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON

What is Going On in the National Struggle for Political Supremacy.

ADMINISTRATION AIDS THE TRUSTS.

Prosperity of the Trusts Is an Undisputed Fact—Labor Oppressed by the Combine—Republican Indifference to the Workmen's Troubles.

[Special Correspondence.] Hanna occasionally tells an unconvincing truth. In one of his recent unconvincing speeches in New York city he said: "In this political struggle, where the issue is the prosperity of the country, we must brush everything else aside."

Now, what Hanna really meant was that the republicans consider the prosperity of the trusts the chief issue. To insure that everything else must be brushed aside.

But he literally and unintentionally increases the democratic position in saying that the prosperity of the whole country is the issue. The democrats contend that we have had trust prosperity and not that of the whole people. In fact, the masses have been heavily assessed in order to pile up trust millions.

There isn't any doubt about the reality of trust prosperity. When the wire trust makes \$15,000,000 in six months it is prosperous. But in order to do that it doubles the price of barbed wire to the farmers and closes five factories, throwing thousands of men out of work.

The republicans believe in encouraging this sort of trust prosperity. It does not matter to them that the workman and the farmer have less than before the trust was organized.

Trust Prosperity.

The coal combine is prosperous. It has a monopoly of the anthracite coal of the world. By working its men long hours and at low wages it secured the largest output of coal this year that has ever known in the anthracite field. Recently it has advanced the price of coal two dollars a ton to the consumer. The advance alone nets the coal trust \$2,000,000 a week.

How about the miners who dig the coal out of the earth? They are not prosperous. In fact, they have been so near starvation that they recently went on strike. Then public attention was called to the awful conditions under which the coal combine forced its men to work. An average wage of 90 cents a day. Only 180 days of work last year. The miner furnishes his own blasting powder at \$2.50 a keg. He could buy it for 90 cents from anybody but "the company."

The miner never sees a dollar of cash from one end of the year to the other. He is forced to trade at the "company store." There he pays from 40 to 60 per cent. more than even the trust prices on necessities in the open market.

If his family is ill the miner must patronize the company doctor. He even lives the company hut, by courtesy called a house, and he must send the man back to work until after election.

The miners' strike caused the whole country to draw the contrast between the prosperity of the coal combine and the starvation of its employes.

The republican party has made it clear that it favors trusts. In four years President McKinley has not acquired courage enough to interfere with any trust, no matter how illegal or unjust its transactions.

Hanna's Fears.

Now Hanna fears that the miners' strike will defeat the republican party next month. He is trying to patch up a compromise which will send the men back to work until after election.

Unfortunately for Mr. Hanna's plans, the miners want their union recognized if any concessions are to be made. They know that if the operators deal with them as individuals all concessions are likely to be revoked immediately after election. If an advanced wage scale were signed there might be some hope of permanency.

In any case, the operators will make the consuming public pay the bills. If the miners go back to work this week at a ten per cent. advance in wages the public will still be charged with the 25 per cent. advance which went into effect immediately after the strike was declared.

Bryan has called attention to the deplorable conditions under which the miners work. The democratic press has so successfully put before the public the justice of the miners' demands, that Hanna is forced to assume a sympathy for the men which he does not feel.

Even if the strike is settled before election, the public will not forget that the coal combine is still doing business at the old stand. The people want to replace McKinley by a president who will look out for the welfare of the masses.

Republican Indifference.

The Workingmen's Political League, of New York, has just passed resolutions calling attention to the indifference of Hanna and other republican leaders to labor troubles in the past four years. They declare that his interest in settling the miners' strike at this time is a purely political one.

They are entirely right. Hanna has always been the enemy of organized labor. He wrecked the Lake Seaman's union, of Cleveland, by his arbitrary and unreasonable attitude toward men who were only asking living wages and fair conditions of labor. It is too late for Hanna to pose as a friend of the laboring man. His record is too well known.

Judge W. A. Day, auditor of the treasury under President Cleveland, has written a letter to Chairman Richardson, of the democratic congressional committee, in which he accuses Hanna for asking the country to "Trust McKinley" to deal with the trusts.

Judge Day declares that McKinley's attorney general deliberately refused to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law, even after the supreme court had in the Missouri case declared that the Trans-Missouri Freight association and similar combines were criminal associations.

In the Trans-Missouri case the supreme court decision was filed 18 days after McKinley was elected. It only remained for the attorney general to



pelled to work in the mines at an average of less than \$250 a year. Some of them, as was recently stated, at a meeting of the miners never had in their possession even one dollar in cash of their earnings. It is all traded out of the fast or faster than it was earned, in the "plunk-me" stores owned by the coal barons, where the unfortunate underground delver were forced to purchase their indispensable necessities of life and the materials used by them in their occupation. They were compelled to produce, too, for a ton of coal as high as 3,600 pounds, which the coal baron sold for nearly the equivalent of two tons. These facts and conditions are now known to all voters throughout the land, and even were the few moderate demands of the miners granted, it would not, in the minds of an outraged people, be regarded as a complete donation of the crimes and cruelties against robbed and crucified and too patient labor.

PARAGRAPHIC POINTERS.

A Nebraska man who had one-third of his brain removed some time ago has dropped from Bryan to McKinley. And yet the surgeons assured him that the operation would not in the least impair his intelligence.—Denver Post.

Now, as there are really no trusts in this country, as Boss Hanna says, how is Mr. McKinley going to explain what he had in mind when he wrote that part of his letter of acceptance speaking of "conspiracies against trade, commonly called trusts"?—Fort Worth Journal.

In his Chicago speech Senator Hanna wiped out the trusts. In New York he removed imperialism from the campaign. There are no trusts and there is no imperialism. Only one real and substantial issue remains, therefore, and that is the full dinner pail.—Chicago Chronicle.

President McKinley loudly declares that "prosperity abounds everywhere throughout the republic," but that declaration is not likely to be particularly popular in Newtown or in any of the other towns which find themselves wrecked by the legitimate operations of the trust program.—Rockford Star.

In the event of other complications, which cannot be unexpected if the program of imperialism is not summarily restrained, a still greater army would have to be provided—and once authorized perhaps never could be reduced. The people will say in November what they think of this proposed creation of a big and enormous costly military establishment.—Buffalo Courier.

It is estimated that some 315,000 or 120,000 workers will lose \$3,000,000 in wages while a few monopolies will lose \$20,000,000. In other words, these few monopolies get 2 1/2 times as much for mere ownership as the great army

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

"Here, waiter, you have charged for three soups instead of two." "Yes, sir; there is the one I spilled on madame's dress."—Journal Amant.

He—"Well, there's one thing; you never hear of a man wishing he was a woman." She—"Of course not. It might be his fate to marry some horrid man."—Boston Transcript.

GRAIN DEALERS' TRUST.

A Gigantic Conspiracy to Rob the Farmers of the United States.

P. E. Dowie, member of the executive committee of the National Democratic Traveling Men's association, and of the Commercial Travelers' Anti-Trust League, arrived in Chicago a few days ago. He has just completed an extensive tour of Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa.

"I have recently discovered," said Mr. Dowie, "a gigantic conspiracy to rob the farmers of the country. This latest product of monopoly includes in its membership about 600 big grain dealers and elevator men in the territory extending from St. Paul on the north to Kansas City on the south, including the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

"All of the 600 and more members of this newest thing in trusts, are pledged to buy grain at one and one-half cents low, that is below the cash price, and to store for not less than one and one-half cents profit. The association engineering the scheme is to fix the selling price, forty per cent. of the profits are to go to the association, the balance going to the dealers who are parties to the swindle.

"Grain dealers in the sections where the trust is at work have been induced to sign contracts and a regular system of inspection guarantees against cutting prices. Grain stations are established here and there, and at each station the trust has an agent who has authority to inspect the books of any member of the association. A membership fee of \$50 is charged. A fine of \$100 is imposed if the agreement is broken, and \$50 is charged for reinstating a member who has violated any of the terms of the pact.

"On its part, the association guarantees the grain dealers who enter into the agreement protection from changes in ownership of elevators where they may have their grain stored. If an elevator attempts to break away or to run independent, they guarantee to have its supply of cars shut off, so that it cannot ship grain to market in opposition to the trust.

"Since I have discovered the conspiracy, a few days since, I have been collecting information concerning it. I ascertained to-day that the promoter and organizer of the trust is an ardent republican and superintendent of one of the largest elevators in the country.

"The practical workings of this combination to rob the farmer are not difficult to see. By getting all the grain dealers of a community enrolled as members, it is impossible for the farmers of that section to sell to anyone outside the trust or to ship their grain away. They must stand the loss of a cent and a half a bushel on the price of their grain in order to find a market. I am not ready to give the names, but will do so soon."

It is said that the new movement to compel the farmers in the states mentioned to accept less than the market price to realize on their crops had its inception in Chicago, and that several of the big elevator men and grain dealers are interested in it.

DESERTED BY RELATIVES.

Members of the McKinley Family Who Will Vote for Bryan This Year.

President McKinley appears to have been deserted by his own kindred. So far the returns indicate that only "Brother Abner" remains loyal to the political fortunes of the republican imperator.

Mr. McKinley has relatives of near and remote degree in many parts of the country, and these, almost without exception, will vote this year for Mr. Bryan, although most of them supported "Cousin William" in 1896.

Several weeks ago there appeared a list of McKinley's relatives who had repudiated their kinsman. An additional list has been furnished by William W. McKinley, of Kosciusko county, Ind., who vouches for its accuracy. The list follows:

Preston H. McKinley, of Harper county, Kan.
Dr. L. D. McKinley, of Topeka, Kan.
William W. McKinley, of Kosciusko county, Ind.
B. H. McKinley, Delaware county, Ind.
W. J. McKinley, Delaware county, Ind.
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These are all relatives of President McKinley. William W. and B. H. are first cousins; W. J. and Samuel are second cousins, while the others are third cousins of the Canton man. One of them is postmaster in his Indiana town, while all are prominent and reputable citizens. They declare they cannot vote for their relative and will cast their ballots in November for Bryan and Stevenson.

While Mark Hanna is engaged in what he calls "tearing the mask from the face of that hypocrite, William J. Bryan," he might take a snatch at the mask on the face of the hypocrite who declares that "there is not a trust in the entire United States" and then holds up the trusts for \$30,000,000.—St. Louis Republic.

—So long as the trusts can command a sufficient number of troops, industrial slavery will continue to exist for emancipation.—Houston Post.

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