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The Richmond Climax.

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DEMOCRACY'S DAY TO CROW

Democracy scored a notable victory and there was not only great rejoicing in the White House, but all over the land, when the finally-passed tariff bill reached the President to receive the finishing touch of his signature, Friday night. It was a happy group of legislators and others that gathered to see it done, and they will always remember the event as the greatest of their lives when they saw, as President Wilson expressed it, the business of the country freed from the conditions that monopoly has made possible.

"I have had the accomplishment of something like this at heart ever since I was a boy," said Mr. Wilson, "and I know men around me who can say the same thing; who have been waiting to see the things done which it was necessary to do in order that there might be justice in the United States." Mr. Wilson and the Democratic Congress have rendered the rank and file of the country a great service. They have had no consideration before. The interests have been able under Republican rule to buy privilege for political support and campaign contributions.

Congressman Underwood says that the bill provides for a lower taxation than any for seventy-five years. The average tax is 26 cents, or only six per cent, more than the tariff proposed by Henry Clay nearly a century ago. The present tariff bill is the only honest one framed since the war, and the only one passed in the interest of the whole people instead of by the lobbyist for special interests, and its passage marks a victory for them which they will appreciate.

Besides the economic value of the bill, its passage proves that the Democrats can keep party pledges and that they are worthy of the continued support of the people, which has been denied by the party long in power and believed by some, although the party making them rarely ever kept its pre-election promises. The Democrats have shown that they can do things and are entitled to all

praise. We are to have more competition and less monopoly; more efficiency and more intelligent striving for the world's trade.

Let Congress now finish the work so auspiciously begun and take the second step, which will be the final one, in setting the business of the country free, that of enacting a sensible currency law. The body has taken six months or more to pass the tariff bill, but it has been time well spent and will redound to the interests of the whole country.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S PARTING SHOT

The Progressive National Service gave Col. Roosevelt a banquet on the eve of his departure to the wilds of South America, where he will spend six months hunting the curious animals that there abound. In his speech he warned his opponents that the fight had just begun, that he will never abandon the principles to which Progressives have pledged themselves and that he would continue to fight even if he stood entirely alone. The dispatches say the wildest enthusiasm greeted these words, which were heard by 2,000 men and women. It is his firm determination, he said, to return in the spring to enter unopposed another national campaign, and that he would never rest content until every single principle enunciated by the Progressive party is put into practical operation.

There was a great deal more of this sort of talk, but the people remember that the Colonel has often before made as solemn assertions, to go back on them at the critical moment. So they take them as we old Romans do, cum grano salis.

It is still fresh in the minds of most of us that he said, with every sign of intense earnestness, on the night of his election to the Presidency, after serving the most of the term of the lamented McKinley, that under no circumstances would he be a candidate again, an assertion that he reiterated many times afterwards. How he kept his promise is known of all men. Four years after he not only fought for the Republican nomination and falling to get it, but started a little party of his own and made it nominate him.

It will be just the same way again. He will forget his high sounding warning and threats, if he can get the Republican nomination, which looks now very much like he can. His ambition to be President again will silence the small voice of reform within him, when he thinks there is a chance for him to gratify it.

By the way, as the Colonel stood upon the deck of the ship, soon to cut loose from its dock, his last recorded utter-

ance was "It is just one of Barnes' customary lies," said with reference to an assertion just told him that the chairman of the Republican committee of New York had made. It is so natural for him to talk that way that his departure would have been without interest if he had not called somebody a liar or a thief. When he shuffles off his mortal coil his last words will likely be an anathema pronounced on some one who has incurred his displeasure. He is a great man, but one of the worst balanced in the country.

Gov. Foss, of Massachusetts, told the officials of the New Haven railroad that if they called a strike he would convene the Legislature and have it pass a law prohibiting strikes. This seems rather a singular proposition, but as the Governor says, railroad employees should be as much subject to government regulations as the railroads. Certain it is that there should be some means of preventing strikes on railroads, which so greatly annoy the public and play havoc with business. What is fair for the goose should be fair for the gander, and if Gov. Foss can devise a way to stop the vexatious annoyances, he may be forgiven for changing his politics about every time he changes his shirt.

Mr. RYLAND C. MURPHY, who has made the Jackson Times hum, has retired on account of his health and professional engagements, but he promises that the paper will continue to support Democratic measures and nominees. His successor is not announced.

JUDGE BENTON'S strong and forcible charge to the grand jury, delivered this morning, is given in part in this issue. We want to print it all, but it was a physical impossibility even in an office well equipped as the Climax. It's development was not begun till 10:30 and it filled 20 pages of typewritten foolscap. Judge Benton is intensely earnest in his determination to stamp out election frauds and all good citizens commend him for it. We do with all our soul and the mild suggestion to which he refers, made in the last issue of the Climax, was in no wise in the sense of a carping criticism, but from a desire to see the letter of the law enforced, especially when it seems that the judge has no discretionary power.

Trotting Races.

The trots at Lexington, given by the K. T. H. B. Association, drew the largest first day crowd in its history yesterday and the sport was unusually fine. A good card will be offered every day till the 18th.



JUDGE BENTON'S COURT.

Forcible Charge On Election Frauds.

Judge Benton arrived Monday, but on account of court duty, did not begin his term till today at 9:15 a. m. with Commonwealth's Attorney B. A. Crutcher on hand to see after evil doers. After the usual preliminaries the following grand jury was sworn in: T. S. Burnam, foreman; R. O. Moberly, James Burnside, C. L. Searcy, L. H. Neal, G. W. Pickles, W. F. Parke, W. M. Norris, P. M. Pope, J. T. Coy, Jos. Hagan, E. Thomas.

Then Judge Benton from typewritten copy read the charge, which appears in part below, and which made those who may have sinned at the primary quake and fidget:

Gentlemen: I want now to redeem the pledge I made to the people of Madison county last February and last May when the grand juries for those courts were empaneled. I told those two grand juries, and through them all the people of the county, that I would urge this grand jury, as strongly as I could, to make a thorough investigation of all matters in connection with the primary election that was to be held in this county on the 2nd day of August, and indict all who violated the law. The members of those grand juries came, as you come, from all sections of your county, and represented the average citizenship of Madison county, and if I am any judge of human nature, and if I can tell what men feel by what their countenances express, there was not a man on either of those grand juries who did not approve what I said, and did not feel that I was doing right, and did not endorse the course that I then outlined, as the one that I would pursue with this grand jury. The obligation for that pledge to be kept ought to rest as heavily on each of you as it does on me. Your homes are here, your families are here, and this county is likely to be the home of your children and grand-children. That ought to be a strong incentive to you to uphold the law, but, in addition to that, your oath of office, and as grand jurors you are now sworn officers of your county, requires you to diligently inquire of and present all violations of the law which shall have been committed or

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RICHMOND DRUG STORE

quire the production of any books you want to see. When you have found where the money started from, and you can easily do this, trace it until you get it in the hands of the man you think ought to be indicted. Then, instead of sending for him, begin to investigate his conduct on the day of the election and a day or two and a night or two before and you will be pretty apt to find sufficient evidence on which to base an indictment. As I have suggested before, the man easiest to make a case against is the middle man, the one who receives the money and who handles the flosser. When you have traced the money into his hands to be used for buying votes, you have secured the testimony of one witness, and when you show his connection with the flossers and his conduct with and toward them, before and after they vote, you have the strong corroborating circumstance that will convict the middle man of bribery.

Call the election officers of the various precincts before you and learn from them everything that occurred on election day. What voters brought the cards or tickets, what voters voted openly, who came to the door or inside with them to watch how they voted. You can get all this information and more from the election officers and observant men of each precinct. Get from these witnesses the names of the men of each precinct who are known flossers. If necessary, you can get the ballot stubs of each precinct and check over the names of the voters and inquire about any of them that you want to ask about.

I have been asked whether the buyer or seller ought to be indicted, if it becomes necessary to give one or the other immunity. I think you ought to be able to secure ample evidence without using either as a witness, but if you find it necessary to make a witness of one, I will leave the question as to which you shall use to your discretion and judgment.

You may find it best to adopt different plans for the different precincts. If you need my advice at any time ask it. The law makes it my duty to advise you at any reasonable time if you ask me to do it. If you think it will serve any good and you have the legal right to make up and file with your report a list of the vote sellers of the county.

There is another thing you can do, which, in my judgment, will be a great public service and prove as effective for good as returning indictments, and that is to make up a statement showing just who contributed money to be used as a corruption fund; how much was contributed by each party and what the total was and into whose hands it went. Turn the light on all these things. The publicity is what hurts.

I think you gentlemen will know how to work out all these matters, and these suggestions that I have made as to the methods to be employed are not intended to bind you to those plans, if you can find better ones.

Gentlemen, I am sure you understand that your investigations should go to all candidates and to all races. Because a man lost a race is no reason why his conduct and that of his friends should not be investigated. Treat all alike.

I want to beg you to not begin this task with any misgivings as to your ability to succeed. I have abundant confidence that complete success will reward your efforts and that you will render the greatest service to your county that was ever rendered by a tribunal. May I ask each of you to make this your determination: "Let others continue in this sin if they wish; we will come out of it, for the sin rests upon each one of us."

this generation, if this corrupting practice is permitted to grow. Those old sinners who have been selling their votes for years will have to be reformed against their wills if we are to save their children and children's children from sinking to the same degradation. . . .

Do your full duty towards these men and your county will never again be troubled by this question.

I have been hearing from people from all over the country and I could read you scores of letters that would show you that people everywhere recognize that this is the most important question that confronts us. A prominent banker of Mt. Sterling writes me: "Our county has suffered much from the evil of traffic in votes, and the standard of our morals is lower today than it was previous to the late primary. It has been estimated that about \$25,000 was used in that primary debauching the voters." A leading lawyer of the State, living at Frankfort, writes: "That the greatest curse that can affect a free people—bribery in elections—is rapidly on the increase in this State, I have not the slightest doubt. I heard a bank officer say that he was in a position to know and that not less than \$30,000 was spent in the recent primary in our county of Franklin."

You and I very well know that if a man will sell his vote for five dollars, the man who bought his vote can persuade him to burn a house, swear a lie in court, or kill his neighbor from ambush. The trouble is, that in the arduous of a campaign, the average election worker does not stop to think of this, or he would shrink from thus aiding the friend."

A suggestion in the way of a criticism has appeared in one of our local papers that these election offenders should be given the full letter of the law. That is alright in theory, but I believe that better results will be secured in another way. My greatest concern is to put an end to corrupt elections and I intend to take the course that in my judgment will most certainly accomplish that purpose. I have announced, and I repeat it here, that for the first term of the court if these men who have violated the law will come with a contrite spirit confess their wrong, acknowledge the guilt, I think the law can afford to meet half way, and I will let them off, for this time, with the lowest fine, and not enforce that portion of the statute that deprives them of the right to vote and to hold office. There is an old man over in Clark county who says, as he sees it, there's two kinds of sense. One he calls mother wit, the other theorizing. What I propose to do is to apply the mother wit to the situation, and I believe we will get better results than we could possibly get by applying the theorizing kind of sense. But I don't want to mislead anybody or be misunderstood. This proposition only stands good for this term of the court, and for those who are found guilty. If the cases have to be brought out, those convicted will get just what the letter of the law gives them.

These men who have violated the law are just a few years behind the times in their way of thinking. They have not learned that many things are seen and recognized to be wrong now which only a few years ago were not considered wrong, but were practiced by conscientious men. The use of money in elections is one of those things. But the call is coming now from all counties and all sections that this practice of buying and selling votes is wrong, is unlawful and must cease. That call must be heeded. That practice must be stopped. You can stop it in Madison county. It is only necessary for you to show these men who have violated the election laws that a grand jury of Madison county can and will return indictments for election offenses, and when you have done that you will have put a stop to such practices. That is the duty I place on you now, and no more important duty was ever placed upon any grand jury. It means more for the moral up of the citizenship of your county than anything else you can possibly do.

The trouble with our grand juries heretofore has been that when they have been asked to investigate election offenses, they have sent for witnesses who did not know, and had no opportunity to know, who had violated the law, and when the witnesses who might know something, have come before them, the foreman of the grand jury has too frequently failed to ask the very questions that would elicit their knowledge of the facts. I hope you gentlemen will realize that this sort of an investigation will no longer satisfy the people. Over in Clark county every candidate was called before the grand jury and rigidly examined. The individual ledgers of every band in Winchester were examined, and the accounts of each candidate critically inspected, and each suspicious item thoroughly investigated. That grand jury got results and you gentlemen can do the same thing if you will set yourselves diligently and earnestly to the task, as I believe you will.

Now, gentlemen, I leave the matter in your hands, with the confident hope that you will meet the situation courageously and honestly, and take such action as will at once and forever rid your county of this pernicious and corrupting practice.

The petit jury selected is as follows: Isaac Davis, M. P. Timbrell, David Cobb, S. S. Minton, A. H. Wells, S. A. Phelps, J. W. Parrish, James Combs, Wm. Hendren, H. B. Duncan, M. Coy, C. H. Park, B. F. Reeves, Logan Alexander, H. N. Samuels, W. B. Hamilton, W. O. Burke, Bush Rice, John B. Norris, P. E. Elkin, Woodson Eades, L. O. Shearer, Q. Parks, A. Parrish.

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was a cripple walking with crutches. Such testimony should be convincing. 50 cents of B. L. Middleton and guaranteed.

MARRIED

Rev. W. L. Brock, of Lexington, on yesterday's train en route to London, where tomorrow afternoon he will join together with wedlock's holy chains, his niece, Miss Ethel Baker, step-daughter of Attorney George G. Brock, and Mr. William Fish, a Mt. Vernon merchant.

Lost Bracelet. Lady's gold bracelet. Return to B. L. Middleton for reward.

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