

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1908.

"THE PARTY, IT IS I."

Mr. Bryan, "in full retreat" from free silver coinage and government ownership of the railroads, will make the junction with the platform issue this year. It will be an appeal to "a class," for "a class vote." But even as an attempt to "capture the vote of the labor unions" it is not likely to meet with entire success. It certainly indeed, will not take the entire union labor vote; while the assiduous effort to get this vote will very probably turn another sort of large number away. It is regrettable, however, as the beginning of "class war" in politics; and instead of being fed by passion, or urged on by supposed interest, it ought to be repressed as far as possible on both sides.

Many, perhaps, most, of the labor union men are averse to the policy that would make appeal to the labor union as a political agency, or head the appeal when made. Nor do they like the assumption that politicians sometimes make, that it can be bid for as "a class vote." Organized labor can accomplish a great deal, but nothing of value by direct action in politics on the side of one party or another. Besides, organized labor, which enforces its hours and its scale of wages, is relatively but a small part of the labor of the country. The reasonable and right thing ought to be done, and must be done, in the matter of the junction with the platform of the fortunes of one political party or another. There are rights and interests all round. It can work no injustice or hardship to require men to keep the peace; but punishment for contempt of court cannot be substituted for punishment of criminal acts, either in expectation or in fact.

Bryan is absolute master of his party now. It will make a platform at Denver absolutely from his dictation. His position and authority could not be better stated than in a comment which compares his former positions with his present one. "At the Chicago Convention of 1896, although Bryan was the nominee, he had small part in running things—Alged, Jones, Tillman, Stone, et al. were on the job. At the Kansas City convention of 1900 Bryan confronted a dangerous insurrection—to get the platform adopted that he wanted he had to threaten the resolutions committee that he would appeal against it to the convention, and that if it turned down his advice he would withdraw his name as a candidate and become the candidate of the Populists, thus causing a split that would mean the end of the Democratic party. In 1904, at St. Louis, he was elected. But at last he is the White Chief, the Little Father, whose whims are laws. The convention is to play the role that Nicholas asked of the Duma—is to do exactly as it is directed, and that without kicking or back talk. He is the sole proprietor—the only source of honor and authority—as the whole of it. Relieved of the need of entering on tedious persuasion and by a mere lift of an eyebrow directing the dance of his marionettes, no party boss in American politics has ever had so much reason for full contentment." Roosevelt never was boss of the Republican party to the extent that Bryan is now boss of the Democratic party. His party has no will whatever but his own. He has taken up the issue on the sixteen-to-one ratio with free coinage, in 1896. This issue is overstrained, as that was. Will his appeal on it be more successful?

THE UNREGULATED OCEAN RAFFIC

Demoralization of the trans-Pacific route by reason of the diversion to the Suez Canal is practically all of the business that formerly found its way to the Orient by the rail route across the continent and thence by steamer across the Pacific has been frequently commented on. Vigorous protests have been made at the Interstate Commerce Commission and at the state level, but this trade diversion, but up to date no remedy has been suggested. The Suez Canal is a long distance away from the Columbia River, and the actual working of this handicap on our rail and steamer business is not so well understood as it would be if the example were immediately before us. The impossibility of a railroad competing with a water line under present conditions is shown, however, in the case of the steamship Nebraska, which has been loading a small consignment of salmon at Astoria for New York.

The salmon business, of course, originates at Astoria, and whether it goes forward by rail or by sea with the greater portion of the pack or is shipped by steamer, Astoria is the port of departure. The American-Hawaiian Steamship Company, owners of the Nebraska, and by reason of their immunity from all laws governing the making of tariffs better known as the "American Highway" line, having more space than was needed for most freight engagements on the Nebraska, are taking this salmon from Astoria to New York at a rate said to be about 50 per cent less than the established rates by rail. Had this figure fallen a still lower rate could have been made and the steamship men would have been answerable to no one for the cut in rates.

Freedom of this nature is denied the railroads, and had they desired to protect their interests by meeting the rate of the steamship, it would have required the posting of the new rate for thirty days before the business could

be handled. In this particular case of the Nebraska it is, of course, very much to our interest to have Oregon products taken to market at the low rate named by the steamer, but the incident also suggests the thought that it might be to the advantage of the shippers if the railroads were given a little more freedom in meeting this competition. A thirty-day notice of change in rates on business of this nature is, of course, prohibitive, and the case cited illustrates the tremendous advantage the ocean freighters bound from New York for the Orient have over the railroads which in the past have carried this traffic across the continent, incidentally increasing the available supply of cars for lumber shipment to the East and also admitting of a frequent steamship service on the Pacific which had greatly increased our local trade with the Far East.

We will not profit to the fullest extent by water competition unless we give the railroads some chance to meet this competition, and such a chance is impossible under the present ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLUTOCRACY.

Mr. Bryan is supreme. The plutocratic element of the Eastern Democracy surrenders to him. All the wraiths of members of the Democratic party is bound to the conqueror's chariot wheels. He is a victor over plutocracy. The hosts of Mammon from Manhattan bow before the one only man.

Now in fact every man is a plutocrat who has a little property more than another man, or the average man. And the average is low. It would seem that Mr. Bryan should not desire the support of any man who has accumulated a property of any considerable importance and value. It may be (comparatively) a large property, indeed, and may have been accumulated through laborious, honorable and painstaking methods, during many years. But it excites envy. The possessor of it is a plutocrat. He is one who has succeeded in placing the dollar above the man. For he has Dollars and The Man has nothing.

YAMHILL COUNTY AND THE STATE.

Yamhill County, unwilling to pay her proportion of the state tax on the same basis as the other counties, and by the other counties, "goes to law," and obtains a decree relieving her from payment, on the ground that the method is unconstitutional. The Oregonian will not criticize Judge Gallows' opinion; it will only say that the wisdom of the state is in such a condition that there need be, it would seem, small reason for any citizen or county to bother about what may be Constitutional, what not. The simple truth is that virtually the state possesses no Constitution. But a judge on the bench must still hold to the form.

It is well known that the present plan was adopted as a means of putting an end to the competition that had long continued between the counties in the matter of cutting their valuations in order to reduce their state tax. This made taxation very unequal and unjust, and caused a pitiful showing, moreover, in the property values of the state. Since the present law came into operation these evils, however, have been very greatly reduced. Yet it was always supposed that some county that didn't want to raise its valuations to the proper level would protest, soon or late, and, indeed, it is a wonder that it has not done so. Most of the counties were made of the old method, and have had some pride in the matter of making a proper showing. In old times Yamhill was deemed progressive. It certainly is not pleasant now to find it taking the lead—if the figure may be reversed—in holding back.

There ought to be state equalization of values, through a duly appointed State Board. We once had an equalization law, but it, too, was set aside as not in conformity with the Constitution. Whether, under the Constitution as it now stands, any equalization law would be held valid, might be matter of doubt; but the Constitution now may be so changed that there is no reason why immediate effect should not be made to get a method that will bring about equalization of county values, by direct authority of the state. The present method is a vast improvement on the former one; but this now is successfully attacked, and to go back to the old method will be simply intolerable. A new method, needs a constitutional convention; but the time is not yet fully ripe for it, since our projectors and sophists are not through with their experiments on the present system. But there will be a convention to recast the Constitution, and the very probable cause of the increasing inequality of valuation, and general disorders of the finances of the state, will be the means of compelling it. People will endure, practically forever, everything that is irrational and wrong, except the pressure of manifestly unequal taxation. To get rid of this they will throw over all time and the pretense of a constitution, and the rights of man, and notions of "the rights of man,"—of chief of all practical things, for right and justice, is approach to fairness and equity, in the distribution of public burdens.

TARIFF ON CHERRIES.

Now comes a cherry grower who demands that his cherries be protected against foreign fruit by a duty that will shut out French maraschinos, or at least stop their sale at 5 cents a pound in New York. For, says he, American growers must get 5 cents a pound for green fruit in order to make any money. How then, he asks, can American cherries compete with the French, when the latter are sold in this country at all maraschined and barreled, at a price which American growers cannot meet? As a matter of fact they do not meet it, and he tells us that, out of seven big maraschino firms in the United States, only one is buying cherries, and it is doing so because obligated by contract.

protective tariff so as to treat all American industries fairly and avoid mulcting one industry for the benefit of another. If cherry growing needs protection, it is entitled to it as much as any agricultural pursuit or manufacturing interest.

The cherry growers should elbow themselves to the front of those who are clamorous for tariff reform and see to it that in the reform their interests shall not be left out. If they shall be treated right, doubtless no complaint will be heard from their direction in the future. That is the way of others who are protected against cheap foreign prices.

WAS SHAKESPEARE EPHEMERAL?

Portland people who went to see Mr. Mantell and his company act Shakespeare's plays were delighted in many ways. What pleased them most, apart from the merit of the dramas, it would be difficult to say. Perhaps it was the good elocution of the actors. They all spoke their lines well. Every word was distinct. Nobody had to guess what the player was talking about. The women especially spoke with admirable accuracy. This is noteworthy because women on our stage as a rule gibber instead of enunciating. What pass for words with them are a series of indistinct gulps and inarticulate shrieks. This was painfully true of the women in Mr. Collier's "Caught in the Rain," which was played in Portland not long ago to crowded houses. Of all the pretty females who adorned his insignificant scenes, no one could be underlined without painful efforts of the attention. They did not speak; they gasped, sibilated and mouthed. Their words were run together in a stream of unintelligible noise. The men in that silly play, even Mr. Collier himself, spoke badly enough, but the women were infinitely worse.

The women who played with Mr. Mantell had evidently been trained to speak the English language. The Queen in Hamlet enunciated with keen intelligence. Her words were almost too clear cut, if that is possible. Ophelia, too, excessively weebegone as she was from the outset, nevertheless did not fumble. Even the heavenly lines of her part nothing was lost by slovenly speech. It should have only been able to smile a little before her tragedy began, as Mary Anderson used, she would have been an unalloyed delight. But then one did not need to look at her dolorous face, he could see in her eyes and hair, which was a treasure for eternity. If it was a wig, would to heaven all women would learn to patronize her wigmaker. Hot as the weather was, the sight of Ophelia's hair was worth a trip to the theater, not to mention Mr. Mantell's gracious art. He did not do things with a little with the classic traditions touching the melancholy Dane. His semi-swoon when the ghost came in looked a good deal like a sop to the groundlings. Hamlet is awed when he sees his father's spirit, but he is certainly not over-come.

After the first exclamation Hamlet's intellect immediately begins to work. He sets about asking speculative questions, which he would not do if emotion had overpowered him. The man who acts Hamlet to perfection will always give his intellect the first place; emotion will come a long way in the rear. Hamlet is the most intellectual of Shakespeare's plays. Not even Troilus and Cressida can match it in that respect, while Timon, for all its cynical philosophy, fairly blazes with passion. There are other passions besides love, and resentment against the world is one of them. We do not mean to say that Hamlet is not an emotional play, but the feeling of the protagonist smolders while his intellect broods over it and pokes among the ashes. It is a psychological drama, teeming everywhere with self-analysis. Under the activity of his mind Hamlet ages fast. He begins as a boy not yet out of college and although the plot is a mere disguise, the growth of the city, and an additional fifty miles of road, distributed through the various residence districts of the city, are urgently needed. Pending this improvement, a few more cars on the routes now covered would be a convenience that would be appreciated.

FACILITATING THE CAMPAIGN.

The Philadelphia Record publishes a story about President Roosevelt and the steel trust which the Philadelphia News does not credit. The story runs that Mr. Roosevelt has forced the trust to set its mills going at Pittsburg by threatening to reduce the tariff if they remain idle. He wants the mills to be running during the campaign, since that would create a fictitious semblance of prosperity and this gain the support of the voters. It is well known that Mr. Roosevelt would practice this indecorous subterfuge if he could, but it doesn't think he can, and, like the politician in George Ade's play, it "tells us why." There are three reasons why, all of which we will quote:

"Now we have the utmost respect for the steel trust, but we do not think it is the duty of the President to use it for the accomplishment of a political purpose. But we do think it is the duty of the steel trust to be given thus to resume business before it was prepared to do so. There is no reason why it should be terrified by any threat of a tariff. The tariff, which the Republican party stands pledged by its recently made platform to give it enough protection to equalize the cost of production here with the cost of production abroad and also to give it 'a reasonable profit' in addition. Nothing more than this could be asked. Further than this Mr. Roosevelt has not been asked to do. He has not been asked to believe that Mr. Taft, the only other man in the cabinet, would be so stupid as to suppose to have been made, will be much less disposed than Mr. Roosevelt has been to influence the deliberations of Congress. It is not the duty of the Republican Congress to seriously interfere with the protection enjoyed by the steel trust, so that it may be the views of the President at the time."

The tariff plank in the Republican platform is more of a menace than a consolation to the trust. It promises protection enough to equalize the cost of production at home and abroad, and it promises to give the trust a great deal more could be asked, and what is better, it could be obtained. For most of the articles which the steel trust produces, the cost of production is less here than it is in competing foreign countries, because of the great efficiency of American labor and machinery. Hence a promise to impose a tariff which shall "equalize the cost of production" is in reality a threat to clip the revenues of the trust. With no duties whatever it could pro-

duce cheaper than its competitors can and still sell at "a reasonable profit." It sells goods today in Europe at a reasonable profit with no tariff to protect it; why could it not do the same thing at home? We see, then, that the Republican tariff plank, taken in connection with the facts of the case, might mean no protection for the steel trust.

If the trust shows a docile spirit during the campaign, it will tend to ameliorate the rigors of Congressional action, will it not? If it does as it is bidden, we imagine that "reasonable profits" will mean something very different from what it would if the protection afforded were naughty. If it is to retain the power to fatten upon the plunder of the community, we dare say it expects to pay for the privilege and would not refuse any reasonable request from Mr. Roosevelt touching campaign facilities. What would a few thousand dollars sunk in running every mill amount to compared with four years more of unlimited piracy? The News thinks also that Mr. Taft would be less disposed to punish the trust by influencing Congress than Mr. Roosevelt might in his place. Perhaps so; but Mr. Taft may not be elected, and whether he is elected or not, there will be an interval from December to March when Mr. Roosevelt in all his horror still occupying the White House and a pliable Congress in session. What would a recalcitrant steel trust have to expect from them? Would not the big stick fall upon the trust's backs upon its tariff protection and its profits? This frightful image becomes all the more vivid if we keep in mind that the Republican tariff plank admits of almost any meaning you choose to give it.

DISEASE AND CURE.

Mr. Luther P. Cudworth's position in the Christian Science communion warrants the supposition that his statement of their views in the Oregonian is authoritative. His letter is interesting and somewhat important, because, in spite of persistent efforts to enlighten the public on the part of their lecturers and publication committees, there is still a good deal of misunderstanding as to what the Christian Scientists really believe and do. Some of the misapprehensions of course, will not be some of it is sincere. Mr. Cudworth's letter ought to clear up much of the fog which seems to becloud the popular conception of his faith, though naturally he cannot expect that everybody who reads it will agree with him. One of his statements in particular will provoke dissent. "Physicians are coming of late years to admit one of the points emphasized by Christian Science, namely, that the human mind is the cause of disease." Much evidence could be produced to show that the trend of opinion among physicians is to the contrary, and that, however, the letter ought to clear up much of the fog which seems to becloud the popular conception of his faith, though naturally he cannot expect that everybody who reads it will agree with him. One of his statements in particular will provoke dissent. "Physicians are coming of late years to admit one of the points emphasized by Christian Science, namely, that the human mind is the cause of disease." Much evidence could be produced to show that the trend of opinion among physicians is to the contrary, and that, however, the letter ought to clear up much of the fog which seems to becloud the popular conception of his faith, though naturally he cannot expect that everybody who reads it will agree with him. One of his statements in particular will provoke dissent. 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