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THE PASSING OF MR. BRYAN.

William J. Bryan is, if developments at St. Louis can be taken for it, no longer the important factor in democratic circles that he formerly was. It is to be presumed that the delegates to the national convention are representative men, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that their sentiment is the sentiment of the great mass of democratic voters. These delegates are largely opposed to any recognition of the famous Nebraskan, and at the opening session declined to accord even decent greeting to the standard-bearer of two campaigns.

Mr. Bryan has not been discreet. He has all along attributed his defeats for president to the action of the conservative wing of the party in supporting the lamented McKinley, and in this he is correct at least so far as the campaign of 1896 is concerned. He has ever derided those democrats who refused to follow his leadership, and for the past four years has continually belabored them through the columns of his Commoner and from the platform. He has advised the rank and file against the reorganizers and done everything else within his power to widen the breach in his party, with the evident purpose of retaining for himself a leadership which resulted in defeat.

The conservatives, now apparently in full control of the party, are paying back the Nebraskan in his own medium of exchange. Bryan's suggestions are not kindly received, nor is there any marked determination to permit him to figure in the affairs of the party. He is being "turned down" in manner most forcible, and before the convention adjourns will be made, no doubt, to keenly realize his isolation.

Democrats have evidently come to the conclusion that eight years of Bryanism is sufficient. Under his leadership they have twice gone down to inglorious defeat, and if they are ever to win again they must select some other guiding head. Indeed, they must eliminate him from their affairs. That the disposition to force him to the background is due to this feeling seems quite evident, and there is every reason to believe that the adjournment of the convention will mark the passing of the brilliant but obnoxious Nebraskan statesman.

CHILDREN AS PROMOTERS.

San Francisco Call: The Commercial Club of Portland, in an attempt to give a great advertisement to Oregon, has devised a scheme of cash prizes and medals to be awarded for the best article or story written by any resident of Oregon, to be published in any newspaper outside of Oregon prior to October 1, 1904. While this competition is open to all persons the school children have been notified that they are eligible to win prizes under the conditions provided. In other words, the children may be utilized as promoters for the benefit of their native state.

There is enough of novelty in this idea to attract attention. It has a chance to work out well. There are in every community precocious young people who have some knack or other in a degree that is potent to surprise their elders. Children as competitive boomers of Oregon will be assisted by all their competent relatives to give good account of themselves. Every one remembers the wonderful boy, Thomas Chatterton, as a literary landmark and more than nine days' wonder. Mendelssohn wrote fine music when he was a mere lad; so did Mozart; and at a tender age Zerah Colburn, mathematically inclined, performed wonderful mental feats. History is full of mention of youngsters whose fame has outlived that of the grave and accomplished adults of their time. Possibly Oregon may possess a boy or girl whose capacity to write something attractive about the state approaches a true genius.

In any event the outcome will be watched with curiosity outside as well as within Oregon. There is this to be said in favor of the boys and girls of any state. Under the present school system, facts that are dimmed in the minds of adults by lapse of years and altered somewhat by intervening conditions are familiar topics in class rooms. The school pupils know or have the facilities to find out directly from copious encyclopedias or elsewhere

much about their topic. In addition to this there are youth, enthusiasm and the spirit of emulation keen within them. These are the factors to be counted on in any line of mental endeavor that does not call for the exercise of technical knowledge requiring years to garner.

Viewed from another point the idea of having school children interested in helping their own state is good. Their researches will compel them to learn. They will read and discuss and will be the better citizens for what they so gain.

How the articles that are written by the Oregonians are to obtain publication in papers outside of the state is not told. Possibly the Commercial Club has not figured that out. Announcement is made that the success of any competitor will not depend upon the class of publication in which it shall appear. It is intimated that the competitors should write for some eastern paper, the selection to be in towns in which present Oregonians formerly resided. There are numerous small papers in the United States that might use the matter so contributed, in lieu of miscellany, when a semi-local trend is supplied by the announcement that the writer is the son or daughter of a former resident.

Probably the best communications will be published in the local papers in Oregon and subsequently given circulation in the east in some shape. Next year the Lewis and Clark Exposition will take place at Portland. It is to the interest of Oregon to have its name and fame extended as much as possible not later than October of the present year.

CANADIAN POLICIES.

In view of the current discussion of trade reciprocity with Canada—or "closer and more intimate commercial relations," as some publicists elect to call it, between the Dominion and the United States—two recent incidents "over the border" are not wholly lacking in business and political interest just at this time, says the New York Commercial.

It is announced from Ottawa that in the matter of guaranty bonds the Dominion government will hereafter accept only the bonds of British or Canadian companies. It so happens that several American guaranty companies have branch offices or agencies in Canada, and in some instances the bonds of officials holding office under the Dominion government have American sureties behind them. It will be recalled that not long ago congress passed a law providing that all United States officials who are required to give bonds shall be guaranteed by American companies only. The action of the Dominion government may therefore be regarded as purely retaliatory, designed to punish the United States for the passage of its bonding law and aimed directly at those American bonding companies which are now doing business in Canada. Hereafter they can furnish bonds only for persons or firms or companies outside the government service. Except as it discloses the spirit in which the Dominion officials approach all such questions, this incident does not call for criticism.

Sir William Mulock, the Dominion minister of labor, next draws our attention. He isn't a bit pleased over the fact that many skilled American engineers have been given positions by the railroad companies in Canada. The present statutes are measurably strict in the matter of the employment of alien labor, and since the government's recent entry into extensive railway construction and operation Sir William has been "putting the law" onto these Yankees right and left. He has already had the commissioner of alien labor deport 15 American engineers on warrants issued by the Dominion department of justice, and he announces in a manner more or less dramatic that he will ask parliament to pass a bill providing for the appointment of special officers to deport aliens who are unlawfully in the country. The employment of aliens on government works or works aided by the government will be prohibited, except under special conditions, he says; and the existing provisions aimed at the importation of contract labor will be strengthened.

These incidents betray no sign of the "reciprocity" spirit in and around Ottawa. Nor are they calculated to promote such a spirit on this side of the line. They fall, in fact, on top of a preferential tariff on British goods that operates against imports from the United States to the extent of 33 per cent on an average. But, as we have increased our exports to Canada in recent years to a vastly greater degree than the mother country has, even with this preferential against us, we can well afford perhaps to view such matters with pardonable equanimity. At any rate, our policy will no doubt be—as it generally has been—to hold our own home markets against all comers as often as the reciprocity proposition comprehends no distinct advantage to us in opening them.

Professor Loeb, in Berlin, is experimenting with rattlesnake venom as a cure for leprosy, and he thinks he has hit upon the specific for one of the most loathsome diseases that human flesh is heir to. Should he succeed in demonstrating that the snake poison will cure this plague, rattlesnakes would at once become commercially valuable. The market value of the poison is about \$15 a dram. Professor Loeb gets his rattlesnake venom from a man in Colorado, who keeps snakes as pets.

MARKETS ARE MORE ACTIVE

Improved Crop Prospects Have Beneficial Effect on General Trade Conditions.

MONETARY SITUATION GOOD

Bank Reserves Are up to Highest Point in Years and the Financial Leaders Are Now More Sanguine.

By Henry Clews.

New York, July 8.—Holiday inertia overhangs the stock market. With three days' cessation of business in prospect there was a natural indisposition to take up new commitments until the regular routine is resumed. Important events, it must be remembered, are likely to shortly occur at the seat of war in the east, which would exercise a far-reaching effect on the European bourses. Again, only three years ago business was resumed after the holidays to find the corn crop blasted by heat and drouth. This is not likely to happen again at the same date, but such remembrances induce caution.

The St. Louis convention is taking place and the opposition candidate being chosen. This event is not likely to go off so smoothly as its predecessor at Chicago, and the probability of more or less exciting discussion acts as a check upon stock market activity. Still another element, and the most important element of all, is the crop situation. So far crop prospects are quite satisfactory, the promise being above the average. This development is, of course, imparting a much more hopeful feeling in business circles, which has already been reflected in the stock market. In fact, it is a question whether or not this advantage has not been sufficiently discounted for the present. Unfavorable developments, from which escape cannot yet be assured, are quite possible, and it is unlikely that the season will go on without some setbacks, the chief advantage now being that wheat, corn, cotton and other crops have reached a state of maturity where they are better able to withstand injury. Crop prospects are certainly encouraging, yet there is danger in being too optimistic.

The monetary situation is conspicuously favorable to stocks, since the latter yield much better returns than money and are relatively in smaller supply. Bank reserves are now at the highest point in many years, and the crop demands which will soon begin are likely to drain this center less than usual, because interior centers are also well supplied with funds. The largest demands are likely to come from the south, where funds are less abundant than at the west; but cotton is much cheaper than a year ago, and in consequence the movement to market may be slower than last year's, suggesting a less active and somewhat backward flow of currency with the south, compared with last year. Corn, the most important of all crops, appears to be doing fairly well and recovering early backwardness. In the business world a more hopeful feeling prevails; clearing-house returns show smaller decreases, and the declines in railroad earnings are less marked than a few weeks ago. The single exception, perhaps, is the iron trade, which has not yet recovered from the reaction of 1903. Prices of raw iron and steel declined considerably, but finished products have not fallen correspondingly and buyers naturally hold off for lower figures. A good many iron and steel products are subject to pool control and it is the hold-up policy of the latter that is largely responsible for dullness in the iron trade, although demand, especially for building and railroad material, has greatly shrunken. Among financial leaders a confident undertone prevails. The first sign of real improvement is a good demand for securities from investors. This is still in evidence in regard to bonds, and as soon as doubts regarding the elections, the crops and the war are cleared up the stock market is likely to exhibit increasing activity and strength. Generally speaking, the summer is a period of quiet, owing to the absence of many operators on vacations, etc.; but the cable and the telegraph bring all in easy communication when conditions warrant. If circumstances favor July and August may witness a widening stock market, though New York is hardly likely to finance a vigorous bull campaign unless warranted by good crops.



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MINERS RUN OUT OF VICTOR

Mob Threatens Them With Death if They Ever Return.

CANYON CITY, Colo., July 7.—Six miners and union sympathizers were run out of Victor today by 25 masked men and ordered never to return to Teller county. They arrived at Canyon City and one boarded the train for Denver, where he will lodge formal complaint with Governor Peabody.

Deputies were escorting the men from Victor to Cripple Creek when they were intercepted by a masked mob and forced to surrender the prisoners. The capture of the prisoners caused many wild rumors to be circulated in the Cripple Creek district, one being that the men were hanged. All of the men previously deported by the militia have been warned not to return to the district.

Two of the men had passes from General Sherman M. Bell, permitting them to return to Cripple Creek. They aver they were horsewhipped by the mob and told that if they ever came back they would be hanged.

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