THURSDAY, OCT. 8

THE MORNING ASTORIAN, ASTORIA, OREGON.



Churchmen Who Know Judge Taft Render Him This Sincere Tribute.

The Attitude of the Republican Candidate Towards Religion and a Life Which Shows Adherence to the Best Ethics and Morals.

"Because he is the highest type of the Christian gentleman. This is the way in which I heard the pastor of a Methodist church in southern Illinois end an argument with a layman on the train coming to Cincinmati from St. Louis, writes a staff correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The layman, paying due respect to the cloth of his opponent, was trying to convince him that he should not support Mr. Taft for the presidency, and instead should vote for his Democratic opponent. The churchman defended the principles of the Republican party, and, as indicated, defended the man for whom he said he expected to vote, from his personal standpoint of a churchman. "because he is the highest type of a

Christian gentleman." Bishop J. C. Hartzell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, discussing the religious beliefs of Bryan and Taft, after calling on the latter, said :

"Which of these men I shall vote for will not be decided by their religious beliefs, but what they are as men, and by the principles and policies they stand for in the administration of the government. I believe that in acting upon this view, as an American citizen, I am in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the founders of our republic, who put into the constitution that there should be 'no religious test as to qualifications to any office or public trust under the United States.' My conviction is that the future safety of the nation depends very largely upon our people heeding that constitutional prohibition. Our nation owes much in moral character, statesmanship, literature, art and religion to those who have not been in strict harmony with some of the dogmas of the church. The days of the inquisition are past."

Remembering that Mrs. Taft is a Presbyterian, but that Miss Helen Taft ters religious. I know that, when in was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in Washington last winter at the same time that Miss Ethel Roosevelt, daughter of the President, was confirmed, I ily are communicants, and of which I wondered as to Mr. Taft's church association. When I made the inquiry here I was answered through the columns appealed to him without receiving a of the Northwestern Christian Advo-

color, be tranted fairly before the courts." Bishop Fallows' Tribute. In introducing Mr. Taft at Toledo, Dhio, Bishop Samuel Fallows indorsed him unreservedly, and in the course of his remarks said :

"I can aver, without fear of successful contradiction, that no man ever came before the American people for the highest honor in their gift so thoroughly prepared to meet its weighty responsibilities as Mr. Taft. He is ripe in the knowledge of jurisprudence and clear and firm in judicial decisions. He has won, as an executive officer in our Oriental possessions, 'the plaudits of his countrymen and of admiring nations. He has satisfactorily settled in those islands of the sea some of the most delicate and difficult subjects, involving deep-seated racial and religious questions, ever brought up for adjudication. . . . He is deeply religious without a trace of bigotry, fearing God and working righteousness, as did the two Adamses and Abraham Lincoln."

Tati's Idea of Character. In my effort to discover the qualities which led one to describe Mr. Taft as "the highest type of Christian gentleman" I learn that the candidate bimself, within a month, has defined just what importance he attached to Christian character in the building of a successful career. The question had been put to him to develop his personal views, and writing in response the Republican candidate said:

"Your question suggests two others which must be answered in answering this; First, what is a Christian character, and, second, what is a successful career? First, I consider a Christian character that of one who holds as his ideal a compliance with the two commandments given by Jesus Christ, and who earnestly strives to live up to that ideal. Second, I should define a successful career to be that career which brings more real happiness to those who happen to be within the operation of the influence of the person whose character is in question.

"Coming now to answer your inquiry, I should say that a Christian character in the building of a successful career is its most important part. The longer one lives the more convinced he must become that every other incident and element of a career loses importance in comparison, and that when a man's life work is done this is what stands out, and whether the career is one of profession, business or politics, the same thing is true."

What an Old Friend Says. Mr. Aaron A. Ferris, a prominent Cincinnati lawyer, who has known Judge Taft for thirty years, said :

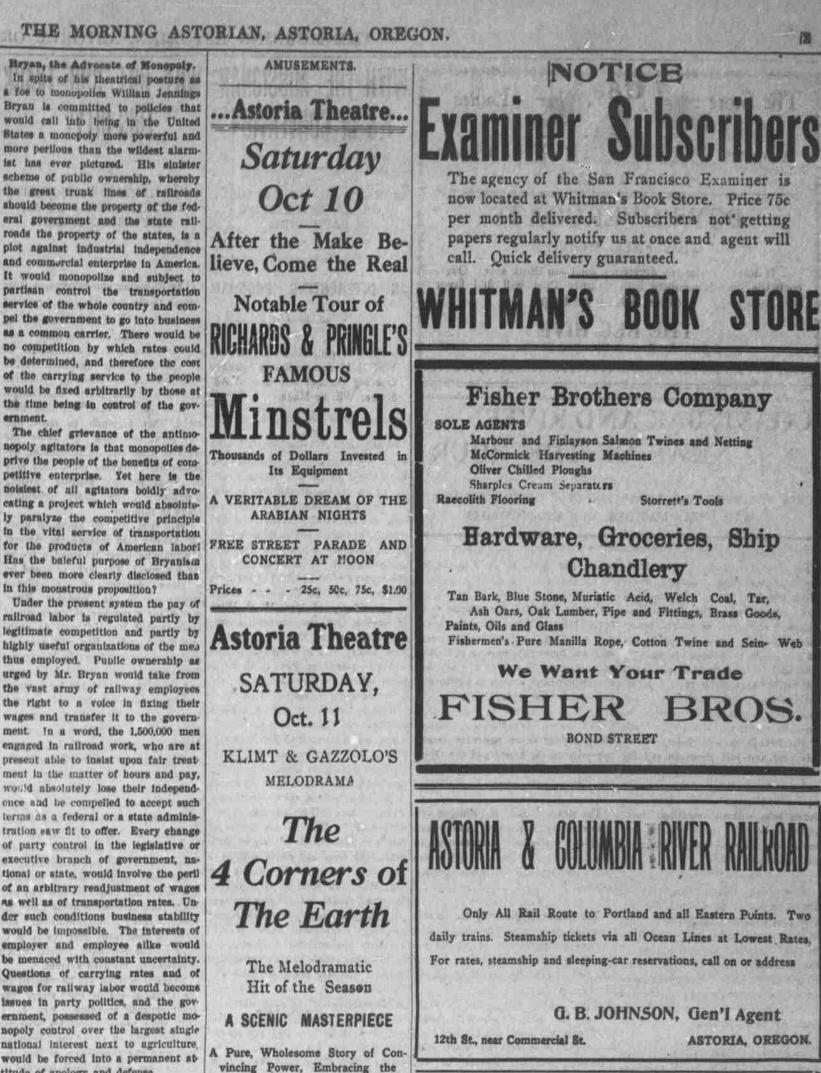
"I have never had occasion to ask Judge Taft what his creed was in mat-Cincinnati, he has been quite regular in attendance at Christ Episcopal church, of which members of his famam a vestryman. I know very well that no one in trouble or distress ever patient hearing and prompt and material aid, when in his power to give it. If a man's character is to be gauged by what he does, and not by mere profession; if leading a clean and upright life is to be a guide, and doing righteous deeds is to be counted, then I am confident that his neighbors and fellow-citizens who have lived with him and know him well, without regard to creed, color or party association, would say that Taft has lived and acted in every station as a Christian gentleman."

Bryan, the Advocate of Monopoly. In spite of his theatrical posture as a foe to monopolies William Jennings Bryan is committed to policies that would call into being in the United States a monopoly more powerful and more perilous than the wildest alarmist has ever pictured. His sinister scheme of public ownership, whereby the great trunk lines of rafiroads should become the property of the federal government and the state railroads the property of the states, is a plot against industrial independence and commercial enterprise in America. It would monopolize and subject to partisan control the transportation service of the whole country and compel the government to go into business as a common carrier. There would be no competition by which rates could be determined, and therefore the cost of the carrying service to the people would be fixed arbitrarily by those at the time being in control of the government. The chief grievance of the antinio-

nopoly agitators is that monopolies deprive the people of the benefits of competitive enterprise. Yet here is the noisiest of all agitators boldly advocating a project which would absolutely paralyze the competitive principle in the vital service of transportation for the products of American labor! Has the baleful purpose of Bryanism ever been more clearly disclosed than in this monstrous proposition?

Under the present system the pay of railroad labor is regulated partly by legitimate competition and partly by highly useful organizations of the mea thus employed. Public ownership as urged by Mr. Bryan would take from the vast army of railway employees the right to a voice in fixing their wages and transfer it to the government. In a word, the 1,500,000 men engaged in railroad work, who are at present able to insist upon fair treatment in the matter of hours and pay, would absolutely lose their independonce and be compelled to accept such terms as a federal or a state administration saw fit to offer. Every change of party control in the legislative or executive branch of government, national or state, would involve the peril of an arbitrary readjustment of wages as well as of transportation rates. Under such conditions business stability would be impossible. The interests of employer and employee alike would be menaced with constant uncertainty. Questions of carrying rates and of wages for railway labor would become issues in party politics, and the government, possessed of a despotic monopoly control over the largest single national interest next to agriculture.

titude of apology and defense. The American wage earner naturally and justly resents any attempt to rerict his independence or regulate his



cate, the great Methodist publication, just as it had given answer to hundreds of inquiries from its Mehodist subscribers. It said :

Man of Broad Sympathies.

"Mrs. Taft and children are Episcopallans, and the Secretary frequently accompanies them to St. John's Church, where, also, he has a pew. While Mr. Roosevelt goes to the German Reformed Church, his wife and family, who are Episcopalians, attend historic St. John's Church, where they sit only one or two pews removed from Mrs. Taft and her children. Secretary Taft spends his vacation at Murray Bay, Canada, where there is a Union Church, attended by the summer colonists of all denominations. The Secretary of War is one of the trustees of this summer colony church, where people of many faiths gather for worship."

This Methodist testimony indicated to me the broad and liberal view of Mr. Taft in religious matters. In looking through the file of this same publication-the Western Christian Advocate-I found a discussion of both nominees, in the course of which it was asserted :

"The sympathies of both Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan are very broad, and they worship easily and naturally with any Christian denomination. Whichever man is elected, the country will have, therefore, a President of clean life, lofty principles and Christian convictions.

Opinion of Negro Clergyman. On the same afternoon, when Bishop son, pastor of the Eaker Street African called at the headquarters in company are greatly exaggerated. with W. H. Jones, one of the leading colored lawyers of the same city. Mr. Jones was proud of the fact that he is president of the Colored Taft Club, the first one to be incorporated in the United States, and Rev. Mr. Robinson admitted that he is president of the Board of Directors of the same club. As he left Mr. Taft's office I asked him for his view of the candidate, both from his standpoint as a churchman and as a leader of his race.

"I believe," he said, "Judge Taft will be elected by a safe and comfortable majority, not simply because he is a Republican, nor am I speaking because I am a Republican. But Judge Taft represents all of the ideals of the true Christian statesman."

As to the attitude of his own race, Rev. Mr. Robinson said : "We can not afford to line up with the Democratic party, which has been antagonistic to our interests always, and against the party headed by such wise and Christian statesmen as is Judge Taft. He is a man whom we know in Ohio is desir- as superficial .-- Milwauke Evening Wisous that all men, without regard to consin.

SAYS WEALTH IS DISTRIBUTED.

Chief Statistician of Census Bureau Writes on "The Assets of the United States."

The nation's wealth is not in the hands of a few, according to L G. Powers, chief statistician of the census ureau at Washington.

Writing on "The Assets of the United States" in the September number of the American Journal of Sociology, issued recently from the University of Chicago press, Mr. Powers has the following to say of the concentration of wealth in America ;

"If we start with the value of farms and other homes which are known to be owned by men of small possessions, the savings bank deposits and other known possessions of those of moderate means, and then add the lowest popular estimates of the possessions of our millionaires, we have an aggregate far in excess of the census appraisal of national wealth, and the conclusion under such circumstances is irresistible Hartzell called, Rev. James G. Robin- either that the census estimates are ridiculously small or the popular esti-Methodist Church of Dayton, Ohio, mates of the wealth of our millionaires

> "The writer does not find any evidence that would justify either the statement that our national wealth is grossly understated or that our millionaires own so large a share of that wealth as to leave the great majority without property."

WHAT TAFT WILL DO.

Here is a positive decharation by William H. Taft which should reassure, the friends of President Roosevelt :

"If elected 1 propose to devote all the ability that is in me to the constructive work of ingresting to Congress the means by which the Ruosevelt policies shall be clinched."

Taft is making a good impression by uls thoughtful speeches. Brynn is as clever and as interesting as ever-and

conduct through the arbitrary exercise of official authority. Yet here in the Bryan scheme of public ownership is the deliberate proposal that 1,500,000 of the most intelligent, progressive and trustworthy of American employees shall be deprived of the right to be heard on questions relating to their wages and shall be obliged to accept such pay as may be prescribed by officials elected through partisan infinences. That proposal brands William Jennings Bryan as an advocate of the most atrocious monopoly ever dreamed of by a demagogue or suggested by a tyrant. It is a menace to American industrial independence and stamps its author as a hypocrite and a traitor to the very cause which he pretends to support.

Another of Mr. Bryan's complaints against the Republican party is that it increased the number of officeholders. But his public ownership scheme would transfer upward of 1,500,000 rallway employees to the payrolls of the government for whose wages the whole body of American taxpayers would be assessed in case the railroad business should prove unprofitable. The logical effect of the Bryan proposal would be to strip railway labor of its independence, vastly increase the number of officeholders and add enormously to the tax burdens of the people. The evil genius of an irresponsible political marplot never conceived a single project so traught with peril to the general welfare.

The cost to the people of Mr. Bryan's revolutionary programme is, of course, a matter of no consequence whatever to him. He never cares for expenses so long as somebody else pays them. But in view of the fact that the adoption of his scheme would saddle the taxpayers of the country with an additional interest bearing debt of more than \$1,000,000,000 the people probably will pause to inquire whether it is worth while to assume so heavy a burden merely to test the nostrums of a spectacular quack whose economic doctrines, like his political sincerity, have been completely impeached by events.

Business activity, work at fair wages and general prosperity all call for the election of Taft, and all three have mighty voices.

Mr. Bryan has discovered that political gold bricks pay better than free silver.

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