

THE 'MCKINLEY' BRYAN CONTEST, '96

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

(Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.) Washington, Sept. 18.—The hardest fought political battle of American history was the campaign of 1896 in which William McKinley of Ohio vanquished William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska. The fact that McKinley was reelected with ease in his second campaign against Bryan, and that the Republican majorities of 1896 look so great on paper, has caused many men of short memory to believe that McKinley won his first election without great difficulty.

In that year the Democratic nominee, Mr. Bryan, made the most remarkable speaking campaign ever undertaken by any man. In the same year, the Republican campaign manager, Mr. Hanna, spent more money than was ever before spent in any electoral contest and five times as much as had ever been spent before in a presidential race. The Republican campaign was conducted with such consummate skill that the names of Mark Hanna and William McKinley are forever associated with the country's political general election.

The year 1896 was a year of political revolution. Both of the leading parties underwent great changes, and the number of independent voters was increased a thousand fold. The present administration began with the country on the verge of a financial crash. The blow descended on the panic of 1893 was on. The money question, which both parties had so carefully side-stepped for so many years was presented in such a way that the administration could not avoid taking a position. Mr. Cleveland and his cabinet decided to stand on the gold standard and to disregard the petty soph which had been thrown to silver. The treasury secretary was appointed before the McKinley administration came in.

For the first time since the first part of Buchanan's administration the government was in the control of the Democrats, that party having secured a majority in both houses of congress. Mr. Cleveland called congress together and urged the repeal of the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman act, which would finally "demonetize" silver. His party did not agree with him on that subject, and it was with the greatest difficulty that his purpose was accomplished.

Civil Service Reform. President Cleveland had been an exemplar of civil service reform and was opposed to "pernicious activity" in politics, but he went to the extremes of the use of patronage as a means to the repeal of the Wilson bill. Even then, it was done only by the help of eastern Republican votes. It left his party hopeless in the Democratic landslide which re-elected Cleveland was the result of popular disapproval of the McKinley administration of 1896. After the terrific fight on the silver purchasing clause repeal, the Democratic congress endeavored to enact a Democratic tariff. The party was already torn asunder and could act with no unanimity. The result was the passage of the Wilson bill, which Mr. Cleveland permitted to become a law without his signature.

As the people had condemned the McKinley bill after it was passed and before its effect could possibly have been felt, by the election of the Democratic party in 1896, the Wilson bill, charged with responsibility for a panic which was on before the bill was written, resulted in the overwhelming Republican congressional victory of 1894. Since that time the Democrats have never had a majority of the representatives, nor have they even approached success in any sort of a national election.

Constant Strife. All through the three years of the Cleveland administration leading up to the campaign of 1896 there was constant strife in both parties. For a time it seemed that the Republicans would declare for free silver and that the Democrats would follow their president in advocacy of the gold standard. Then it seemed that both parties would declare for the gold standard and the silver hosts would enroll under the banner of Populism. The Republicans felt certain that they could win on the prosperity issue, and by denouncing the Cleveland administration for its issue of \$262,000,000 of bonds in "time of profound peace." But they didn't want to split their own forces, by taking sides in the money fight.

Mr. McKinley and Speaker Thomas B. Reed were the leading candidates for the Republican nomination for president. Mr. McKinley had the good fortune to have Mark Hanna for his political captain. Hanna organized the states and took even New England away from Reed long before the convention met. Mr. Hanna was afraid of the money question and Mr. McKinley was committed by his record to "bimetallism." So the Ohio leaders attempted to "straddle" the issue once more. The Ohio state platform contained a delphic utterance on the money question which said nothing.

Warships Sail for Philippines
But when the national convention met at St. Louis Mr. Hanna found that the question was one which was too big to be straddled. Senator Thomas G. Platt of New York forced Hanna to accept a gold standard platform. It was later modified by a pronouncement in favor of international bimetallism, which permitted Republicans who had been shouting for silver to come down gracefully. Senator Platt may not be regarded as a great statesman, but in 1896 and 1900

he did things that left a great mark on the history of the country.

When the gold plank was adopted, 34 western Republican delegates, headed by Senator Fisher of Colorado, Senator Cannon of Utah and Senator Dubois of Idaho, walked out of the convention and into the Democratic party. All over the country they were Republicans who loudly proclaimed the fact that they had bolted the nomination of McKinley. A national silver Republican convention was called. Mr. Hanna, chosen chairman of the national committee, knew that he had a great job ahead of him and he set to work.

Chicago Convention. The Democratic convention met in Chicago. The Cleveland wing of the party controlled the national committee, but the recommendations of that body were swept aside on the first vote and it was clear that the silver men controlled the convention. A resolution commending the Cleveland wing of the party was voted down with wonderful speed. No one man was ever hated more than the Democratic national convention of 1896. The Cleveland wing of the party, the Democratic president of the United States.

Leading free silver advocates like Richard P. Blinn of Missouri and John R. McLean of Ohio were contesting for the nomination. The story of their defeat is a most familiar bit of political history. William Jennings Bryan, who had reported the St. Louis convention which nominated McKinley, for a Nebraska newspaper, came to Chicago at the head of a contesting delegation. He was given a seat. Then came the great debate on the platform, the eastern Democrats fighting hard to retain the majority. In that debate Mr. Bryan, then only 28 years old, slim of figure and full of man, leaped into world-wide fame in a moment. The "crown of thorns and cross of gold" speech, whether the figure was borrowed from Representative McCall of Massachusetts or not, set the convention wild. Bryan was nominated.

The Boy Orator. A little later the Populists and the silver Republicans also nominated "the boy orator of the Platte." The Cleveland Democrats called a convention at Indianapolis and organized the "National Democracy." General John M. Palmer of Illinois, a soldier in the Civil War, was nominated for president, with Simon Bolivar Buckner of Kentucky, a soldier of the Confederacy, for vice-president. They polled but few votes, the majority of the gold Democrats voting straight for McKinley.

Bryan soon began his unprecedented and unqualified campaign tour. He did not then possess the suavity of his later years, but he was mightily in earnest. No man ever aroused the enthusiasm which he created in that campaign. He spoke to over 5,000,000 people, making over a thousand separate speeches. In the first part of the campaign he traveled in ordinary day coaches, the railroads making it as hard for him as possible. Toward the end of the campaign the railroads refused to let him travel in a private car. He was without money and in his great canvass was sometimes forced to borrow the price of a ticket to the next stopping place.

Against this terrific campaign, which seemed to be sweeping the country for the Democrats, Mr. Hanna planned the great "campaign of education." The farmers of the agricultural states east of the Mississippi were induced to believe that the election of Bryan would mean bankruptcy for them. All of the wealth of the country was back of Hanna, and he had \$3,000,000 to spend and he knew how to do it.

Careful Canvasses. Careful canvasses taken two months before the election showed that such states as Ohio and Indiana were for Bryan. The work that was done to turn that defeat into the overwhelming victory of November was due to the political sagacity of Marcus A. Hanna. Bryan's appeals to the people of every section, the enormous popular interest in his campaign, and the picturesqueness of his campaign, on the one side, and the efforts of the Republicans to reach every voter with campaign literature and personal argument on the other side, resulted in a widespread popular interest in politics such as had never been known.

While the campaign was delivred, and while it practically settled the money question for all time, it did not diminish the popularity of the Democratic standard-bearer, who has ever since stood at the head of his party. McKinley was chosen president and his administration witnessed the return of prosperity, the greatest the country has ever known. Over all, the result among the Republican assets of 1896 was the fact that the panic of 1893 did not occur during a Democratic administration.

Warships Sail for Philippines
Battleship Fleet Officers Are Much Pleased With Treatment by Australians.

By H. Lee Clotworthy, United Press Correspondent on Board U. S. S. Georgia.
(United Press Leased Wire.) Albany, West Australia, Sept. 18.—The Atlantic fleet left here at 5 o'clock this morning for the Philippines, one day later than scheduled time. Despite the early hour, a large crowd of people lined the shores of King George's sound to witness the departure of the American ships from Australia.

The big ships were saluted as they left the harbor and from thousands of throats came cheers from the Americans, who had won their way into the hearts of the Australian people.

Admiral Sperry wired his thanks to Premier Alfred Deakin today for the kind message that he received yesterday. The last of the coal was stowed away late last night and the jacksies on several of the ship were up late cleaning the decks and polishing the big guns and the brasswork.

Everything was ready for the departure at 4 o'clock and it was just barely daybreak when the ships hoisted their anchors and steamed away.

Every officer expressed his regret at leaving the Australian coast, and will remember the good times that their English cousins had made for them while they were here.



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PROPERTY IN OREGON CITIES FINDS READY BUYERS AMONG PORTLANDERS

Excursionists to Klamath Falls Pursue Garden Land and City Lots — New Residences to Go Up.

F. E. King Buys Quarter Block at Waldport—Extensive Building Under Way at Seaside City.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Klamath Falls, Or., Sept. 18.—Property is changing hands at Klamath Falls and vicinity. After a period of little activity in real estate, following the financial difficulties, the past few weeks has seen considerable movement in both farming lands and city property.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Waldport, Or., Sept. 18.—Among the improvements Waldport is planning for the coming year is a water system. The reservoir will be located on the Ruble hill east of the town, which will be supplied with an abundance of pure mountain water at a very moderate cost.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS SHOWS UP MORNING WISEACRE'S DISCREPANCY

Portland, Sept. 16.—To the Public.—The following letter, which was submitted to the Oregonian on the date which it bears, explains itself. This letter was refused publication by the Oregonian. Now, through the courtesy of The Journal I wish to call the attention of all fair-minded people to the misrepresentation by the Oregonian of Mr. Bryan's position on the tariff.

The following plank verbatim from the Republican national platform of this year, but very attributed the language to Mr. Bryan: "In all tariff legislation the true principle is best maintained by the imposition of such duty as will equal the difference between the cost of production at home and abroad, together with reasonable profit to American industries."

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Common Sense And A Tablet

Do Away With Dyspepsia, Stomach Trouble and Make Meals a Pleasure. When your stomach goes on a strike and mass meetings of indignation are held all over your body, then it is that you should sit up and take notice. It is clearly and only a question of common sense—is this thing called Dyspepsia. Take away by abuse, over eating, excess and high living the things which the stomach needs and you have dyspepsia and indigestion; then other maladies follow these—this is common sense. The stomach is willing enough but you won't let it do its work. You take away the materials which are necessary for it to use. Give back these materials and dyspepsia and indigestion flee and the whole machinery of man begins slowly to move and do its work. What the stomach needs is nerve force, fluids for its digestive glands, nourishment and power. All these necessities it takes from the blood. If dyspepsia gives nothing to the blood, the blood gives nothing to the stomach. This is common sense also, pure, simple and unalloyed. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are common sense pressed by high power into tablets. In these tablets are powerful essences which go into the stomach, digesting food, stop gas making, prevent decay of food, enrich the gastric juices, by absorbed by the blood and thus give it strength to furnish a better fluid for digesting the next meal. Every physician knows what comprises these tablets, every druggist has the same knowledge also. They are natural common sense digesters which do the work for the stomach, quickly and well. Every drug store carries them, 50c per box. Send us your name and address and we will send you a package of tablets by mail free. Address: F. J. Stuart, Co., 149 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

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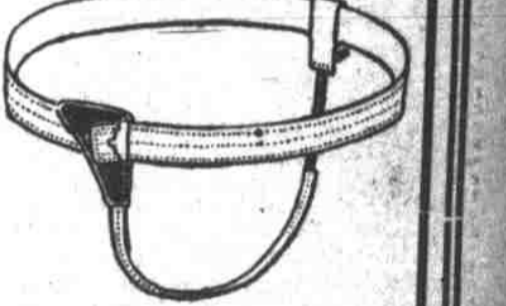
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responsible therefore, Mr. Taft substituted where you have wrongly used the name of Mr. Bryan. You should tell the people that the Republican platform contains the "loose statement" which you have denounced to perfection, but that Mr. Taft defends it, and you should tell them that Mr. Bryan is doing everything that mortal man can do honestly to defeat what you have termed such "vague notions of protection." G. H. THOMAS.

WINSTON CHURCHILL LOSES HIS FIGHT

(United Press Leased Wire.) Concord, N. H., Sept. 18.—The most vigorous Republican anti-convention campaign which this state has seen in 20 years culminated in the nomination yesterday of Henry B. Quinby of Louisiana for governor by a margin of only five votes after two ballots. The campaign has been participated in by such leaders as William E. Chandler and Winston Churchill, who two years ago ran for the nomination for governor on the reform platform and came near being nominated.

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