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DEMOCRACY'S OPPORTUNITY

It now looks as if McKinley will be the republican candidate for the presidency, and it also looks as if he will be nominated on a timid, hypocritical, double-faced platform on the money question, and the Portland Telegram. Those state conventions which have selected solid McKinley delegations to the national convention have likewise indulged in financial declarations which are almost exact copies of the meaningless shams of the four years ago at Minneapolis. It is reasonable to presume that these equivocal planks—these demands for true "bimetallism," with such restriction or under such provision, to be determined by legislation, as will secure the maintenance of the party of values of the two metals, etc.—have been framed and adopted with McKinley's sanction and represent his attitude on the money issue. If they do—if the St. Louis convention indorses them and nominates him—the democratic national convention, assembled three weeks later at Chicago, will have a chance to set up a standard that tens of thousands of republican voters will flock to. A bold, outspoken and frank declaration for the present money standard and the retirement of the greenbacks is absolutely essential to success at the polls next November, and the party that is most emphatic in enunciating such a policy is the party that will appeal most strongly to popular sentiment.

President Cleveland is reported to have said to a member of his cabinet a few days ago: "The republican party can win this year if it will declare unequivocally for sound money—no straddle, no compromise. On a straight platform with a candidate to match we can carry the country." If Mr. Cleveland said this he probably took his cue from the tendency of the state republican conventions this year to dodge the money issue just as the party's national convention did in its four years ago. One thing is certain—the republican party will commit the stellar blunder of its career by failing to make an explicit announcement in favor of sound money and making the currency question the chief issue of the campaign. The tariff may be set up as the main issue, but it will not be accepted as such. Nine-tenths of the people are convinced that the tariff is the question on which the country is relieved of the more imminent and destructive menace of a revolution of money standards—that that is the first and most important thing to be settled. These people will vote to commit the government first of all to the hands of the party which will pledge itself distinctly to make the final settlement of the money question its first duty.

There is a strong likelihood that McKinley will be the nominee and that the tariff will be set aside of all other issues in the effort to elect him. If the democratic party is to win, it is by the situation they will not be deceiving victory.

INCOME TAXES.

A practical illustration of the workings of an income tax is being brought under the observation of the people of Oregon at the present time, and so far it is found to be satisfactory at least to those who are able to pay it. There is, therefore, and is not resulting in any hardship to those who bear the burden. Speaking of the law imposing a tax on the incomes of insurance companies, the Capital Journal says: "Some life and fire insurance companies are paying as high as \$500 to \$1000 a year in taxes on the interest of last year, when the law went into effect that was enacted by the last legislature. It is a just law. Although hired newspapers said the law would compel the insurance companies to raise the rate of insurance, and that the people would be the losers, it is not so. The rate of insurance in Oregon are lower than before the passage of the law. This insurance tax will put \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year into the state treasury, and hurt no one. These insurance companies are foreign corporations. They have little real property in the state. It is fair that they shall pay \$2 on each \$100 they take from the people. A similar tax should be levied on all such corporations, including railroads, express companies, telegraph lines, and any corporation sleeping car lines, and any corporation rendering a public service under a franchise, and in the nature of a monopoly."

AN INCOME TAX IS FOUND TO BE THIS

beneficial in a state, it would be none the less beneficial to the state and to the general government. It possesses the commendable features of throwing the burden of the government upon those who are best able to support it and causes the property which receives the greatest benefit from government protection to pay the expenses of keeping up that protection. The great corporations operating transportation lines, manufacturing industries and large mining properties have the greatest need of governmental protection; they receive the greatest benefit from the improvements that develop the latent resources of the country; they have the greatest need of foreign consulates, standing armies and efficient navies, therefore a portion of their gross incomes should go toward paying government expenses in every branch.

AN INDUSTRY THREATENED

Two years ago the fishermen on the lower Columbia got a hearing before the different state conventions, and were selected a plank into the platform of each of the three political parties, demanding the passage of a law by the legislature prohibiting the use of traps or wheels for taking salmon from the different streams in the state. The object was to prevent the destruction of salmon, and to give them freer opportunity to propagate, but practically it was a move on the part of the fishermen at the mouth of the river to prevent the taking of fish above the Cascades, thus reducing the output and increasing the demand for their product, the only successful method for taking fish from the upper river by traps and wheels.

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In another column we publish letters from Senators Mitchell and McClellan, addressed to a committee of The Dalles Commercial Club, pleading immediate action to secure an appropriation for the completion of the canal and locks at the Cascades. This assurance on the part of the republican senators is encouraging, and leads us to believe that they will exert proper energy to secure the needed legislation, which we must confess has been lacking, despite the statement of Senator Mitchell to the committee that "you may be assured that the Oregon delegation has not been asleep in reference to the importance of doing every thing necessary to be done, and which it is possible to do in order that the canal and locks at the Cascades may be open to traffic at the very earliest possible moment."

WARRING OVER HONORS.

It is rather amusing to note how the different candidates for the republican nomination for president are waging war against each other, and how they are battling for the honor of supposed creditable achievements acquired during the campaign. Senator Callum, in his letter against McKinley, recalls an episode in the framing of the tariff bill bearing the latter's name which many republicans appear to have forgotten. His supporters couple his name with the so-called reciprocity reciprocity. But, as Senator Callum says, "the truth is that McKinley fought reciprocity with all the force he had until forced to surrender." The surrender was occasioned by Secretary Blaine's dramatic smashing of his hat on the table of the conference room, emphasizing his declaration that the McKinley bill as framed "would not make a market for another bushel of American grain or another pound of American meat." In his extreme and narrow protectionism McKinley was opposed to foreign trade, and the stronger will of Blaine forced him to accept the reciprocity provision.

Our delegation in congress have made excellent promises regarding what they would do in reference to securing appropriations for completing the locks at the Cascades, but the dispatches fail to announce any activity shown by these gentlemen, except Senator Mitchell. Why don't they quit promising and begin to do something? Actual work is what their constituents in Eastern Oregon want. Promises will never give us an open river to the sea.

LET CONGRESS TAKE HEED

The Kentucky state legislature adjourned sine die Tuesday night, after having spent sixty days in a vain attempt to elect a United States senator. All legislation was made of secondary consideration during the session, and a real little needed legislation was enacted. The state finances are in a deplorable state, but a measure to save its financial reputation could not be passed. In fact so far as any benefits to the state are concerned, the legislature had as well never met. Blame for this inaction can hardly be laid to the door of any political party, since neither had a majority in both branches. The house was composed of fifty-two democrats, forty-six republicans and two populists, and the senate of sixteen democrats and sixteen republicans. But the members as individuals are accountable for having allowed partisan prejudice to prevail over duty, and cause them to be rank obstructionists instead of legislators.

THE LEGISLATURE OF KENTUCKY IS COMPOSED OF 118 MEMBERS.

They received a salary of \$100 a day, and their per diem has cost the state \$51,400, to say nothing of mileage, clerk hire and other expenses of the session, which probably do not fall short of \$100,000, making an aggregate of over \$150,000 that the attempt to elect a U. S. senator has cost the people of the state. To say nothing of what they are damaged by the failure to enact needed legislation. This farce in Kentucky taken in connection with the fiasco enacted at the capital of Oregon a little over a year ago, is an ample warning against the wholesome methods of electing senators, and a strong plea for the election of senators by direct vote, or the entire abolition of the upper house of congress.

No more dangerous or expensive system of electing officers could be adopted than their choice by a legislative body. It forces national issues into our state legislatures, and detracts the attention of members from matters of local import, and from duties they are elected to perform. The senatorial cost the Oregon legislature last year cost the state not less than \$75,000, in the failure to enact reform measures, and there is no assurance that the same thing will not occur next January, since the senatorial fight will be fully as bitter in '07 as it was in '06.

CONGRESSMEN WHO, IN THE FACE OF SUCH OCCURRENCES AS HAVE BEEN WITNESSED IN OREGON AND KENTUCKY, OPPOSE THE PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS BY DIRECT VOTE, WILL ACT DIRECTLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

Such will be unworthy of remaining in the halls of the national legislature. They can well take heed of the public sentiment on this subject. Especially can senators profit by heeding public sentiment on this question. The senate has been guilty of enough deviltry during the last few sessions of congress to cause many to conclude that it is not an absolute necessity, and if the people are much longer deprived of the privilege of choosing senators, they will clamor for abolishing that body entirely.

SOURCES OF REVENUE.

This government needs more revenue with which to pay current expenses, to meet national improvements, build up an efficient navy, and pay the salaries of our high-priced officials, which there is little hope of reducing, and how to get that revenue is a question that is puzzling the minds of a few statesmen, though it appears to be a matter of little concern to the average congressman. And those who are bothering their brains over the problem see but one way of raising money—to tax the people upon consumption of necessities of life, clothing, food, fuel, and building material. None of these seem to be a promising source of revenue, and the only way to place a revenue tax upon luxuries, which would furnish abundance of money with which to conduct the government. For instance there are about 250,000 liquor dealers in the United States. An addition of 25 cents to the internal revenue license of each would yield \$1,250,000 a year of additional revenue.

There are 21,293,124 gallons of wine and spirits consumed annually in the country. An addition of 10 cents a gallon to the tax would yield a revenue of \$21,293,124 a year.

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