

FOOLING THE FARMERS.

The campaign which closed last November was properly called an educational campaign. It set people to thinking, to hunting up facts and figures to which they had given but little, if any, attention during the past quarter of a century, and turned the public mind toward the great problem of revenue as nothing had done since ante-bellum days. But it was precious little correct information that the republican orators gave, when, by any means, it was possible to avoid it. They resorted unscrupulously to the most glaring mis-statements whenever they thought the ignorance of the people made such procedure safe. William M. Blackstock, writing over his own name in the *American Grange Bulletin*, an agricultural and not a political paper, tells how the honest farmers of Indiana were fooled into voting the republican ticket. Everybody knows how the votes of the dishonest ones were secured. Here are a few incidents that fell under Mr. Blackstock's personal observation. He says:

"The real issue in the campaign was whether the annual surplus of about \$100,000,000 should be reduced by lowering the tax upon the common 'necessaries of life,' or by taking the internal revenue tax off spirits and tobacco. Advocates of the latter course feeling the unpopularity of the cheap tobacco, cheap liquor idea, about 30 days prior to the election, asserted from press and stump everywhere that there was no surplus in the treasury. I heard the wealthy Mr. Amidown of New York, president of the American Tariff league, unblushingly declare that there was not a dollar of national surplus, and every other speaker which I heard address the farmers upon that side of the question, reiterated the—no surplus. I have seen these teachers night after night, in the rural districts of this county of Tippecanoe, Indiana, write on the blackboard '\$12,000,000,' which they asserted was the exact and only surplus in the United States treasury, and in the face of the republican senate bill to reduce the surplus \$74,000,000, those same men kept on telling the backwoods farmer about the mere trifling balance of \$12,000,000, and to this day 99 per cent of our high tariff farmers firmly believe that there never was any surplus.

"Again, in an adjoining school district, I saw a school house full of tariff voting, ignoramuses uproariously applaud an orator, as he made them believe that they got 20 cents tariff from every bushel of their wheat, by simply telling them that wheat was that day selling for only 70 cents in free trade Liverpool, and he had the documents to prove (?) it, while the price was 95 cents in Lafayette, Ind. He said five cents more would place the same wheat in New York at 75 cents, and, said he, 'the difference between 75 cents in New York and 95 cents in your home market in Lafayette, is your 20 cents tariff.' The correct Liverpool price was \$1.15, instead of the fictitious 70 cents."

It was with such misstatements as these that the farmers, not of only Indiana, but the west in general were deceived, and Benjamin Harrison takes his seat as president of these United States by virtue of a whole-sale system of misrepresentation—to use no stronger term—which deceived thousands of western men into voting for him.

There are several thousand republican office seekers in Washington. The clamor for the spoils of office is even greater than in 1885, when the democrats again came into power, after twenty-four years exile in the wilderness. What will President Harrison do with his hungry followers? With a few notable exceptions, President Cleveland allowed all republicans holding term offices to serve their terms out. What he did in the way of removing department subordinates may be inferred from the fact that after serving four years he goes out of office leaving republicans occupying two-thirds of the subordinate positions in the departments at Washington. The figures are these: Treasury—1230 republicans, with \$1,885,000 annual pay, and 440 democratic appointments, with \$878,340 annual pay. Interior—1674 republicans, with \$2,000,000 annual pay, and 456 democratic appointments, with \$550,000 annual pay. Postoffices—448 republicans, with \$550,000 salary, and 143 democratic appointments, with \$175,000 pay. There are never enough offices to go around, but in the present instance the scarcity appears to be as great as the demand is unexampled. The broom that an enthusiastic Indianan sent Harrison seems to indicate a desire for a clean sweep. But can the President afford it? It is a matter of record that quite a number of department employees went back to Indiana in November to vote for Benjamin Harrison and protection. They don't want a clean sweep; they want protection.

Mr. Harrison's ideas about the surplus are not very clear and his expression of them is capable of almost any interpretation; but the most natural interpretation seems to be that the way to overcome the surplus is to adjust the expenditures to the revenue rather than the revenue to the necessary expenditures. Under this policy we may look out for liberal appropriations by the next Congress. Anybody not already on the pension list or any town not provided with a post office building should apply early.

A dispatch from Roanoke Virginia says: "Some what of a sensation has been created here by the address of Bishop Newman on 'Religious Education in the South.' He said that the purest blood in America was to be found in the South, and he did not know but that Southerners ought to thank God that they had been born south of the Potomac. 'The North,' he continued, 'would have to engage in a death grapple with the dangerous and antagonistic foreign element now crowded into her cities, and fast dominating the legislatures and municipalities. When the struggle comes it may be that the South will again have to march forth, loyal this time to the dear old flag of the republic, and preserve our dearest national institutions from foreign encroachment.'"

He said that he could speak by authority and assure the South that Harrison would know South, or North, East or West in conducting the affairs of the government, and that his appointments to office in the South would be from the very best people." The following dispatch from Buffalo under date of March 7th carries proof that reason is asserting he mild dominion in the mind of Bishop Newman: "Bishop J. P. Newman was tendered a reception to-day by the Methodist clergymen of this city at the Tiff House. To several of his friends he said, 'Grover Cleveland has been the hardest working man we ever had in the White House, and he has left everything cleaned up. His blunders have been blunders against him self. He must be set down as one of our best Presidents.' Our readers remember that Bishop Newman was Gen. Grant's parson and accompanied him on his tour around the world. He has been a very uncompromising republican heretofore.

John Scott Harrison, brother of the President, has been having a jolly time in Washington. He is smaller than the President and younger, and they have many points of resemblance. Brother John wears a full beard and the expression of his face is like Benjamin's. His home is in Kansas City, Mo. Heretofore he has been a democrat, but worked hard for his brother during the campaign. It is understood that he will be appointed United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri. J. S. is a genial man, popular at home and much less reserved than his brother.

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