

DEMOCRACY ABLY LED

Party Chieftains Are Men of High Attainments.

WORTHY OF HIGHEST OFFICE

Secretary Taft's Defense of Government by Injunction—The Blacklist Defended and Boycott Denounced. Use of Money in Elections—Judge Parker's Charges Proved—Cortelyou Still Silent.

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.

One of the best features of the Democratic situation today is that among the leaders of that party there are many men well qualified to fill the office of president or to become candidates for that office. A party with only one man to lead it is not a party; it is merely a mob with a leader.

Today the Democratic party has as its possible candidates for the presidency not merely Mr. Bryan, whose popularity among the voters exceeds that of any other aspirant, but it has Senator Culberson of Texas, Hoke Smith of Georgia, Judge Gray of Delaware, Judson Harmon of Ohio, Senator Daniel of Virginia, Governor Folk of Missouri, Governor Johnson of Minnesota, Lieutenant Governor Chanler of New York and perhaps some others whose names do not at the moment occur. It is true that of these potential candidates Governor Folk has declared that he would not be a candidate if Mr. Bryan sought the nomination, and Governor Johnson has emphatically announced that he will not be a candidate under any circumstances whatsoever. Senator Daniel in personal conversation with me has said that he did not regard the mention of his name seriously. Senator Culberson, who, like Daniel, is one of the loyal, hard fighting Democrats, has expressed a like opinion. Today, in my judgment, the only candidacy likely to be pressed seriously against that of Bryan is the Chanler candidacy. Lieutenant Governor Chanler's Candidacy.

Let us make no mistake about Chanler. He is a fine fellow. Born to great wealth, he has nevertheless worked hard in the service of the people. He is the American prototype of the English member of parliament—a man who, having means which he inherited and was not obliged to earn, uses the leisure which these means give to him in aiding to legislate for the advantage of less fortunate people. If Mr. Chanler lived in England, he would be a member of parliament. As a matter of fact, he did not come very far from living in England. He is a graduate of Oxford and was a notable member of the debating society in that great university, which apex the manners of parliament and discusses the issues which parliament is at the moment considering. Mr. Chanler was so much interested in the affairs of Great Britain that, while an American citizen, he made speeches in Ireland in behalf of the Land League, something very much to his credit. Since his return to this country he has been a force for good in local politics in New York city and in Dutchess county, where his estate is located. In state politics he appeared first as a candidate upon Mr. Hearst's Independence League ticket. He was elected, though the head of his ticket, Mr. Hearst, was defeated by more than 57,000 votes.

Mr. Chanler's Friends.

Really every one who knows Mr. Chanler admires him. His political career has been as straightforward and as clean as that of any man in public life, but today he is in danger of suffering from the methods of some of his fool friends. Of course he is not alone in this. Every man in public life must have a multitude of so called friends and is apt to suffer from their indiscretions. There never was a man more applicable to political life today or wiser when properly studied than that of the arch politician of France, Talleyrand, "Above all, no zeal." Some zealous friends are likely now to make difficulty for Mr. Chanler.

Not long ago I received some circulars sent out by a concern calling itself the Cosmographic. The office of this organization is at 1 Broadway, New York, which is known to New Yorkers as the Washington building and one of the most expensive office buildings in the whole city.

The letters of the Cosmographic are sent to newspapers gratis. Somebody pays the man who writes them, somebody pays the postage necessary to forward them, some one must put up the money for stationery and clerical help, but any newspaper desiring them can have them free.

The letter that I received was cleverly written. It talked somewhat about Hughes and much about Roosevelt, but in the end it showed its true purpose. I learned with interest that "Democratic politicians in the Empire State are greatly pleased with the favorable comment made throughout the country on the candidacy of Lieutenant Governor Chanler for the presidency." I further learned from this same letter that sentiment in behalf of Mr. Chanler has taken a firm hold on "the practical field of politics." This is a pity, because he is one of the ablest and most promising young men in the Democratic party. If he allows himself to become the tool of the reactionaries or the corruptionists, his

disappearance will be as prompt as his appearance was.

Mr. Taft's Last Shot.

As Secretary Taft was passing out of Puget sound into the Pacific ocean on his way to Manila he reluctantly unbent long enough to give a correspondent an interview a column long on what he thinks about government by injunction. The interview was rather long, but if, as is entirely improbable, Mr. Taft should be the Republican nominee for the presidency he will have to say much more on that subject than he yet has, for as a federal judge he was one of the first to utilize what he calls the "right" of injunction to break down strikes and to aid employers whose workmen were struggling for a betterment of their conditions. Mr. Taft thinks that the attack on government by injunction should be an attack upon the abuse of the "right of injunction." Possibly so, but he, together with the somewhat notorious Judge Woods, laid foundations upon which this abuse has been built. As each court has gone a little beyond the earlier precedents there has been built up a volume of Judge made law that has made it almost impossible for working people to conduct their only form of campaign against unjust conditions of employment—namely, the strike. But Mr. Taft goes further. Applauding in carefully chosen phrase the injunction which aids the employer, he denounces the boycott, which is the last weapon left to the workman. He condemns the bill introduced at the request of Mr. Gompers of the Federation of Labor because it legalizes the boycott. "The boycott is an un-American weapon," he says, "and I do not think that the American people will sanction any measure that makes it legal."

Perhaps that is true. The easiest way for a slick politician to avoid real discussion of an issue before the people is just simply to say it is un-American. But it might have been un-American while for the gentleman who interviewed Mr. Taft to ask what he thought of another form of boycott—namely, the boycotting of manhood by offended employers, or, to be more explicit, what is known as the blacklist. Every student of labor conditions knows that this system of ruling men out of employment is becoming more and more common. Every workman knows and dreads it.

Mr. Taft's last message to the American workman before sailing in high state at public expense on a tour around the world was a defense of government by injunction, an attack upon the boycott and an implied approval of the blacklist.

The Money Issue in the Campaign.

In 1908 it is not going to be free coinage of silver. So far as money is going to be talked about it will be an endeavor to determine whether Theodore Roosevelt and George B. Cortelyou acted honorably in accepting more than a quarter of a million of dollars from men and corporations that had favors to seek from the government in the last week of the campaign of 1904. Probably most people are familiar with the story of this most disgraceful sale of the power of an administration. These are the facts briefly summarized:

Mr. Roosevelt was president by inheritance.

Mr. Cortelyou had been secretary of commerce and labor, entrusted with the duty of investigating the affairs of big corporations. Mr. Cortelyou was also chairman of the Republican national committee, entrusted with the duty of raising funds for Mr. Roosevelt's campaign.

E. H. Harriman was a Wall street manipulator of railway stocks and was invited to come to Washington and discuss political matters with Mr. Roosevelt as "one practical man with another."

Mr. Harriman returned to New York and with the aid of Senator Depew and Cornelius N. Bliss raised \$200,000, all from Wall street men who as the owners of railroads would have new contracts to make with the United States government or as bankers cast avid eyes upon the deposits which it is in the power of the secretary of the treasury to make in favored banks.

The \$200,000 was paid to Mr. Cortelyou as chairman of the national committee. Mr. Cortelyou kept \$60,000 for the use of the national committee and gave \$200,000 to Mr. Odell, chairman of the New York state committee.

This was one week before election, and what Odell could do then with \$200,000 any one who understands New York politics can imagine. It was not used for purposes of election.

Judge Parker accused Mr. Roosevelt of accepting money from the trusts and was met by a denial in the truly Rooseveltian style of abuse.

The truth of Judge Parker's allegation was proved first in the insurance investigation conducted by the present Republican governor of New York, Mr. Hughes, and is now admitted.

Mr. Roosevelt has not withdrawn his denunciation of Judge Parker as a wanton falsifier, but he did appoint Mr. Cortelyou, who took the money first, postmaster general, which was handy for some of the contributors, and later secretary of the treasury, which is very advantageous to them all.

These facts having been given wide publicity and called to the attention of Mr. Cortelyou, he answers thus: "The charges are false and mendacious, and when the proper occasion arrives I will give a full account of my stewardship, but meantime must adhere to my rule of not replying to charges of this sort."

Probably Mr. Cortelyou will answer the charges, which are the most serious ever brought against an American public man, about the time that Mr. Taft intends to have the tariff revised—that is, after the next election. Washington, D. C.

The Story of a Rifle Shot.

Perhaps no one knows, or ever will know, how much in the Spanish-American war a single rifle ball accomplished toward bringing the conflict to an early close. It was a sergeant of the Ninth Infantry who fired the shot, at a distance of more than 1,500 yards, that nearly severed the left arm of General Linares from his body and gave the supreme command at Santiago to General Toral. Sergeant McInerney was the most advanced soldier of the American forces, and took position in a tree. Beyond, within the breastworks, he noticed an officer upon a gray horse, apparently making an inspection of the entire line. Though the order had gone out that day that no firing should be indulged in, McInerney drew a bead upon the horseman and brought him down. Later it was learned that the sergeant's target was General Linares, regarded as the best of Spain's fighters in Cuba. Toral, a commander who was anxious for a speedy termination of hostilities, assumed command, and a few hours later Santiago capitulated to the Americans.—New York Tribune.

"All Hands Abandon Ship!"

A naval officer thus describes the realistic "All hands abandon ship" drill: "Two minutes after the word has been passed every ship's boat has swung from its davits into the water, and a minute later every boat is thoroughly provisioned and watered. Within four minutes and often in much quicker time every man of the ship's company, from the commanding officer down, is occupying the station in the boat called for by his ship's number, and then the command 'Sheer off' is given. The boats are hauled away a couple of hundred feet from the deserted vessel, and she rides without a human soul aboard her, often when the drill is gone through in midocean in a sea that the landsman would account terrific. Then the word 'Board' is passed, and within eight minutes at the most all hands are not only on board again, but every boat has been reloaded in the davits, all of the provisions, water, instruments and other gear have been removed, and the ship's company is in a fair way to get to sleep again."

Origin of "Hello, Bill!"

Why do the Elks yell "Hello, Bill?" It's this way: Back in 1894, when there was a schism in the organization, the two factions met in Atlantic City for a peace parley. At the time William G. Myers of this city, Philadelphia's only past grand exalted ruler, was the grand esteemed leading knight and one of the most popular men in the order. To get his advice and greet him hundreds of Elks congregated at the Atlantic City station to meet Mr. Myers. All the members were at high tension. When Bill Myers stepped off the car Delegate Stack of St. Paul, a big six footer, shouted, "Hello, Bill!" and the crowd took up the salutation with a hoarse laugh, and from that day to this "Hello, Bill!" is so universally used among Elks that it has virtually become official. To the good natured feeling which had its outward expression in Stack's greeting to Bill Myers is ascribed the reconciliation.—Philadelphia Press.

The Last Cigar in the Box.

"The last cigar in the box is the hardest to sell," was the remark of a front street dealer. "Not because it is not as good as any other cigar, but because of the superstition of the average man against taking the last of anything. As a result we often take one cigar, or even two cigars, of the last cigars in a box and put them on top of the cigars in a full or almost full box. On the other hand, I ought to mention that there are men who prefer the last cigars and who ask us to save the last cigars in the boxes for them every day, sometimes to the number of six or seven daily, for which they call every evening. We have thus no trouble in disposing of these last cigars, but the contrast in the conduct of the two styles of customers is curious."—Philadelphia Record.

My Symphony.

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never. In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony.—William Henry Channing.

Two More to Feed.

"You are a fraud. You said yesterday that you had seven starving children, and today you say you have nine."

"Both stories true, sir."

"How do you make that out?"

"Twins born last night."—Exchange.

Home Diplomacy.

Jack—Hello, Charlie! And how do you enjoy married life, eh? Ever had any differences of opinion with your wife? Charles—Yes, but I don't let her know about them.—Reynolds' Newspaper.

Encouragement.

Frances—Harry says he just wants to fall down and worship me all the time. Her Mama—Oh, well, don't mind that, dear. After you're married he won't let it interfere with his business.

Long Distance Waggery.

Knecker—Some jokes can be carried too far. Becker—Yes; for instance, Smith's cottage is seven miles from the station.—New York Sun.

GOOD HIGHWAY LAW.

Workings of a Statute Passed by Indiana Legislature.

TWO TAXES PROVIDED FOR.

One is For Road Repairs, the Other For Highway Improvement—Working Roads in Payment of Taxes Entirely Done Away With.

Few laws passed by the Indiana legislature are of more general importance than the new highway law, and the following detailed account of its workings will be of interest not alone to farmers, but to all who have occasion to travel the country roads, says the Motor News.

The law provides for two highway taxes—the road repair tax, assessed on all property in the township outside the incorporated villages, which tax shall not exceed 50 cents on each \$100 valuation; another tax of equal amount, known as the highway improvement tax, assessed on all property in the township, including that in villages.

The officers under the new law are as at present, also a highway commissioner, whose duties in addition to those he now performs, not inconsistent with the new law, are to supervise and direct the expenditure of the fund for repairs and improvements which shall directly benefit the property taxed not to exceed \$100 on one mile of highway. On complaint of ten taxpayers an appeal may be taken to the township board as to the place and manner of the expenditure of this fund. The commissioner will also have to supervise and direct the expenditure of the highway improvement fund under the direction of the township board for the construction, permanent improvement and repair of highways and bridges throughout the township.

A new officer provided for by this bill is a township overseer of highways who shall be elected at the April election and hold his office for one year. He shall work under the direction of the highway commissioner and in certain cases perform his duties, as in case of sickness, death, removal or disqualification.

The compensation of the highway commissioner is fixed by the township board, but must not be less than \$2 nor more than \$3 a day. The overseer of highways receives not less than \$1.50 nor more than \$2.50 a day.

The most important and beneficial change is that this law does away entirely with "working the roads" in payment of road taxes. All highway taxes must hereafter be paid in money. The highway commissioner can employ labor and will of course employ such farmers along the line of the road as can give their time to the work when it is needed, but the law very wisely provides that hereafter no work except a few repairs can be done after Sept. 1 of each year.

The amount of taxes to be raised in each township each year is voted by the electors at the annual meeting, but if they neglect or refuse to do this it then becomes the duty of the township board to fix the amount to be raised for repairs and permanent improvements.

Of course under this law there will be but one highway district in each township, and the multiplicity of districts heretofore will be done away with.

Sensible Roadmaking.

According to the new Kansas road law, all road work must be finished by July 15 each year. This is a good thing, but we imagine enforcing this law is going to be another proposition, says the Agricultural Southwest. It should be enforced, but it is going to take awhile to get into the way of working the roads earlier. The rut of doing the road work along in the fall has been traveled in so long that we doubt if many can get out of it without two or three years of trying. As well as doing the road work earlier, other sensible reforms are gaining headway. One is putting in more of the work repairing the road bad places of the roads, instead of stringing it out over a whole mile. There are many miles of road that are passably good except at a time when the best of roads are bad, but two or three sloughs and sumps that are not drained out make the whole road seem bad. And it is bad for heavy hauling. It's a good idea to fix the worst places first of all, letting long stretches of grading on fairly well drained ground come after.

Useful Association.

The Interstate Good Roads association has been formed in Pennsylvania to see that the provisions of the present general and local road laws are carried out, to encourage and compel officials to perform their duties as prescribed by law, to see that roads are kept free from loose stones, ruts and holes and that they are properly drained and general defects remedied as speedily as possible, says the Motor News. Branches are being formed in several eastern states.

Good Roads in Arkansas.

In the movement for good roads, which has aroused nearly every part of the southwest, Sebastian county, Ark., has kept a step ahead, says the Southwest Magazine. While other states are enacting laws and other communities are discussing plans for the improvement of their highways this wide awake county is enjoying the use of twenty miles of well macadamized rural streets and is constructing more of these luxuries at the rate of ten miles a year.

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