JOS. CHAMBERLAIN IS THE MAN

(From the New York World.)

Joseph Chamberlain, the British "man of the hour," presents sharp contrasts to the average type of British politician. In this he is like Disraeli; it may be an element of his strength; at least it gives him a notable personality.

In a land of "flannelled fools at the wickets" Mr. Chamberlain never takes exercise. In a land of hereditary fealth and power he derives neither from his family. He was born in London, the son of a shoe manufacturer who dealt in a shop which had been in the family nearly 150 years.

Gladstone and other statesmen were famous scho[illegible] Chamberlain was a poor student [illegible] dead languages; his uselessness [illegible] playground made him a mediocrity [illegible] niversity College School. He has quoted Prof. Cook as saying of his class: "To attempt to get into our heads the mysteries of algebra was like firing a cannon ball into a mountain of mud."

Chamberlain was precocious. He went to work at sixteen. He was then quite an actor, wrote a one-act farce and acted in it as an amateur, according to Mr. S. H. Jeyes in his thick volume upon "M. Chamberlain: His Life and Public Career," which has just appeared. But Chamberlain also studied, read, improved his mind.

When he was eighteen Chamberlain was sent to Birmingham, where John Nettlefold, related by marriage to his family, wanted help in using some new American machinery for the making of wood screws. While still extremely young for such responsibilities, Mr. Chamberlain improved the position of the firm by forming a trust, buying out and combining several small firms.

So the man who now plans a retributive tariff war upon America, and uses the trusts as an argument, made much of his own great fortune by American machinery and as a trust-maker. He was once sharply criticised in Parliament for the latter activity, but came off in the controversy with flying colors.

Chamberlain is really a Yankee. He gained political power as a Radical by introducing the American caucus system in Birmingham. Sent by the Radicals to Parliament he was for years hated and ridiculed by members who had never done a stroke of work.

A typical gentleman of leisure Chamberlain was not then, is not now; yet a gentleman he is. He is always scrupulously dressed; the orchid in his buttonhole, the monocle, are not more characteristic than his perfect correctness of attire and manner.

Chamberlain earned his first great reputation as Mayor of Birmingham with powers such as no American mayor ever enjoyed. "Fifty years ago," he is quoted in Mr. Jeyes"s book as saying, "the gas and the water belonged to private corporations. The water was supplied on three days in the week; on other days you must either go without, or you must take advantage of the perambulating carts which supplied water from polluted wells at 10s. ($2.50) the thousand gallons. The annual mortality in Birmingham in 1848 was 30 in the thousand; it is now 20 in the thousand. The only wonder is that it was not much greater. Scarcely anything had been done either for the instruction, or for the health, or for the recreation, or for the comfort, or four the convenience of the artisan population."

Chamberlain took over the gas and water franchises, tore down the worst slum and built the beautiful Corporation street in its stead, and led the way in that policy of municipal activity which has had such momentous results.

Very real was Chamberlain's youthful Radicalism. On the fall of Napoleon the Little he congratulated France upon having got rid of a system "founded on murder and continued in fraud" which had "perished in corruption."

When Chamberlain went into the Board of Trade his practical mind was struck by the fact that over 3,000 British seamen perished at sea yearly. One in every sixty died in the ships each year. Chamberlain worked with Plimsoll to stop overloading and overinsuring.

Chamberlain makes frequent sensations in diplomacy by saying what he means. The late Lord Salisbury's "amazing indiscretions" indicated a similar peculiarity; but aristocracy forgave Salisbury for what in Chamberlain it condemns. Salisbury was "one of them." Aristocracy, when it dares, still repeats Disraeli's famous remark when the young Radical made his first speech in the House. "From Brummagem, is he?" drawled the veteran of many fights. "Well, he looksVBrummagem!"

Chamberlain is thought of by those who have not seen him as a middle-aged man. He is in his seventieth year. He married an American as his second wife. She was Miss Endicott, daughter of Mr. Cleveland's Secretary of War.

What the Democrats Can Do.

(From the Constitution.)

The Democrats in Congress have thus far shown more of wise restraint and good strategy than in many years, especially those years immediately preceding a Presidential election.

The situation politically is one that is continually brightening at the Democratic end, and if the Democrats of Congress will only caucus closely and decide carefully upon their policy between now and next June, they can do magnificent work in bringing the party upon the national field in winning form.

So far as the nomination of President Roosevelt by the Republicans is concerned, the Democrats need not worry. Let him be nominated. If the Democracy cannot beat him they could hardly hope to beat any Republican. He has saddled and bridled the party and is riding it rough and hard. He is making independent voters Republican every day. So long as he is doing that the Democrats can afford to let him caper and curvet as he will.

That the great conservative business interests of the country are afraid of a second trial of Roosevelt is too plain to bear contradiction. He may go mildy enough now, while the question of his nomination and election are pending, but with these assured and the ides of March, 1905, passed, only the Omniscient can tell what Roosevelt would then do. He is out to be elected President on his own personal account. He means, if elected, to make a Roosevelt record that will stand out in Presidential annals as one altogether unique and individual to the end of the Republic.

It is no wonder that a man with his nerve, ambitions and headiness should be feared by those who see the interests of the country standing in jeopardy every day with such a man in the White House. As to Roosevelt, the Democrats need only to find a wise, stable and constitutional Democrat of clean record and unquestioned patriotism. Betwen the two the choice will not be hard for any Democrat, nor for hundreds of thousands of conservative Republicans.

Another thing the Democrats can and should do is to press home upon the Republicans the manifold frauds that have been developed in the various departments of the government. As to them the case today is worse than in the days of the Grant regime of graft and loot. It is the duty of the Democracy to keep these things before the people and not to be deterred by the plea that discussion of them will hampre their prosecution in the courts of law. They are crimes political as well as crimes prohibited by law, and the party that has produced them should be indicted and arraigned before the American people. The common folk want honest government. They do not believe in leaden-footed prosecutions or in statutes of limitation loopholes for the escape of public plunderers. Under no circumstances should the Democrats in Congress fail to call in every possible form for the exposure of the crimes of Republican officials made possible by the methods of Republican administration.

The Democrats can pursue the Republicans upon the issues of tariff reform. The stand-pat policy of the Hanna Republican crowd does not please many thousands of Republican voters either in eastern or western States. The refusal to promise them a revision of schedules that rob the people for the profit of the trusts is making them restless. It is possible enough of them many vote with the Democrats for tariff revision to cause the Republicans the loss of the Presidency and the House of Representatives in 1904.

The currency cowardice of the Republicans is another thing the Democrats can properly assail. All the people want sound money and elastic currency and the Democrats can promise these without stullification and with great gain to the party ranks.

Other loose joints in the Republican harness are plentiful and it will not be hard for the united Democracy to make strong and deep wounds in that party if tact and wise judgement are used in making the campaign.

The Constitution believes the Republican party was never so vulnerable as it is today. Its sins are many. It is a growing offense to the wiser men of the nation. If held to its record and attacked by a solid Democratic party, fearless and pledged to the greatest good to the greatest number, its power should be broken in 1904 and its career of evil speedily brought to a long, if not perpetual, vacation.

PRESS COMMENTS.

Chattanooga News: David B. Hill has become so tame that he doesn't even wince when a newspaper at the head of the branch reflects to him as a suitable candidate for president.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The special session has not been wholly a failure, in spite of the fact that the work which it was called upon to do remains undone. Reciprocity has been brought measurably nearer, and the country has been given still another opportunity to ponder on the senate's arrogant assertion of its dignity and power.

Chattanooga Times: Some wonder has been expressed as to what has become of the Hon. David B. Hill during all these times of political excitement. It is given out that he is quietly attending to business and that although he still wears the feather bearing the legend 'I am a Democrat' in his headpiece, he has flung away ambition along with Mr. Bryan and Mr. Cleveland and will consent to allow the younger set to try their hands at the organization. Mr. Hill's day of usefulness as a leader has terminated.

Springfield Republican: We are informed from the highest anthority that the adjective and noun for our new bantling of a republic are "Panaman" and "Panamans." The New York Tribune says it is settled. These are the best of the words proposed. Well, it matters little. "Americans," therefore "Panamans." Perhaps in the future it will be "Panamans," because "Americans." Yet "Panamino" has a pleasing sound, it chimes sweetly with "Fillipino," and both belong together in the idyllic harmony of the "Star-Spangled Banner," as it should presently be revised for present use.

New Orleans Picayune: There is another aspect of the case which may have more merit, and that is the fear that scarcity of cotton during the coming summer may make hard times for mill operatives. The high range of prices will not produce a scarcity of raw material any more than low prices would insure abundance. The mills will have to stop when they have spun the last bale, whether the price be high or low. There is a decided advantage in having ample warning of probable scarcity, as the mills as well as their operatives, can prepare for what may be inevitable. The mills will not close down as long as there is cotton to spin, of that operatives can feel assured, and no amount of manipulation even if it were so that such now exists in the market, can have any effect upon determining the size of the crop.

Print Cloths Advanced.

(By Associated Press.)

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 18.—Sales of print cloths at 2½ cents were made in this city. This is an advance of ⅛ cent over the last quotation. It is understood that the sales were for delivery up to March of next year. The sales were not great in amount, but taken in connection with other evidence of interest on the part of the Printers and Converters have lent a ray of hope to manufacturers in this city. Mill agents say they are not likely to be free sellers at the new prices while cotton rules at 12 cents a pound.

Why Closed Doors?

The hearing in the Wood case continues to develop damaging evidence against the president's chum. That is, if the press accounts are correct.

Secretary of War Root makes the assertion that the newspaper stories are being "colored" to injure General Wood's reputation. In a letter to Senator Proctor, acting chairman of the committee on military affairs, before which the hearing is being had, Secretary Root encloses a letter from Gen. Tasker H. Bliss declaring that the newspapers represented him as testifying before the committee to the exact contrary of that to which he did testify. "At the same time," says the secretary, "I wish to call the attention of the committee to the fact that some person seems to be persistently furnishing to the press false statements of the testimony taken before you, the perversion of the evidence being in every case to the prejudice of Gen. Wood. It cannot be doubted that the newspapers publishing these reports believe them to be true. It is evident that some person is undertaking to convey to the press representatives information of what goes on in the committee and is taking advantage of the fact that evidence is not published to state it falsely, for the purpose of injuring Gen. Wood in the public estimation." This is a most serious charge, coming as it does from one so high in authority as the secretary of war. If any one should be in a position to know the facts in the case of Gen. Wood it should be the secretary and he could not afford, even had he the desire, to make so sweeping an assertion unless it were true.

Secretary Root is certainly correct in saying that the reports of the Wood hearing—whether correct or incorrect—have been detrimental to Gen. Wood's reputation and there can be no doubt that they are "injuring General Wood in the public estimation." But for the Washington newspaper men or their informants to deliberately misrepresent the evidence in so important a case as this would be a bolder game than the protection of Jai Alai in Habana. Upon whom does Secretary Root charge this base jobbery? The chief prosecutor of Gen. Wood appears to be Senator Hanna—is it he who is misinforming the papers? Let us have the whole story, Mr. Secretary. You kindly absolve the newspapers but are not the Washington correspondents—some of them, at least—too old and experienced in the business to be duped in such a way as you intimate? The stories, it will be noted, all agree.

There is an easy enough way to get the truth published. It should have been adopted at the start but it is not yet too late. Let the investigation be held in public; admit the reporters. Why closed doors? The American people want to know the truth of this ugly looking business, they want the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and whether it hurts one or the other faction of the Republican party, whether it injures Roosevelt or Hanna, they are going to have the truth. Every newspaper in the land should join in the demand that the military affairs committee throw open the doors. —Ex.

MURRAY CRANE FOR CAIRMAN.

The President Would Like to See Him Chairman if Hanna Will Not Serve.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Roosevelt entertained at luncheon yesterday former Governor Murray Crane and Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts and Secretaires Root and Cortelyou. The fact that Governor Crane was at the luncheon in addition to being an invited guest at the President's Cabinet dinner, induced considerable political comment. It has been known for many months that it is the desire of the President that Governor Crane should be indentified in some intimate capacity with the Presidential campaign next year. Indeed, it has been suggested that he might be chairman of the Republican National Committee, should he agree to accept the place, and in case Senator Hanna should retire.

Mr. Hanna has been requested by the President to retain the position of National chairman, and until he shall have determined definitely whether or not he will accept the chairmanship no move regarding the matter will be made. In any event, it is understood, Governor Crane will fill an important place in the campaign management next year.

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The Hon. Grover Cleveland distinguished himself when he was President of the United States by writing messages to Congress on the tariff question. By writing an account of his recent ducking trip to Virginia for the New York World Mr. Cleveland demonstrates his versatility and proves conclusively—if such proof were necessary—that he is a first-class sport and that he can write about duck shooting even better than he can write about tariffs. If he is open to an engagement as sporting editor he will doubtless hear from some of the newspapers. Mr. skill and is convinced that it requires skil lto cook a wild duck no less than to shoot one. To present a wild duck to a family where no idea prevails of the difference between properly cooking a wild duck and one brought up in a barnyard Mr. Cleveland believes to be of questionable advisability. For if these ducks are cooked, he says, after the fashion prescribed for the domestic duck they will be so thoroughly discredited in the eating that the recipient of the gift will come near suspecting a practical joke and the donor will be nearly guilty of waste. This is entirely true, and it is a truth that needs telling around New York and New Jersey, but not in Maryland.

Mr. Cleveland said that he was moved to write the newspaper article about his trip because, among other things, it gave him the opportunity to contradict two reports—one that he had violated the game laws of Virginia and had been threatened with arrest, and the other that his party had killed 500 ducks. He approves the Virginia game laws and did not violate them, and he has a sportsman's antipathy for a man who would slaughter game wholesale. The stringent game laws says this good old sportsman, should be supplemented and aided by an aggressive sentiment firmly held among decent ducking sportsmen, making it disgraceful to kill duck for the purpose of boasting of a big bag or for the mere sake of killing.

It is with regret that the admirers of the ex-President find that he is forced to admit that one day he had his eyes wiped. He does not specify the number of times, but owns up to once or twice, and adds that the sensation of having your eyes wiped is extremely unpleasant. He says it is "a provoking thing to miss a fair shot; but to have your companion, after you have had your chance, knock down the bird by a long, hard shot makes one feel somewhat distressed. This we call wiping the eye, but I have always thought the sensation caused by this operation justified calling it 'gouging the eye.'"

Although Mr. Cleveland does not mention fishing in his story, it is easy to tell by reading it that he is a fisherman. Fishermen while engaged in their favorite sport have ample time for thinking and speculating, and Mr. Cleveland discusses ducking somewhat after the manner of Izaak Walton, the fisherman philosopher. He asks why a man is willing to leave a warm bed morning after morning, long before light, and go shivering out into the cold and darkness for the sake of reaching his blind before daybreak—not to find there warmth and shelter, but to sit for hours, chilled to the bone, patiently waiting for the infrequent shot which reminds him that he is indulging in sport or healthful recreation. Mr. Cleveland answers his own question in the only possible way: "The duck hunter is born, not made." That is the way with the poet.

This hunting expedition confirmed an opinion that the statesman has long held, namely, that the decoys should be to the leeward, and not to the windward of the hunter.—Baltimore Sun.

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