

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1907.

E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor. E. J. HALE, Jr., Business Manager.

THE SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY.

The most important movement of the time is the spread of democracy. It has been growing for centuries in England, and, barring its unique outcome in Switzerland, has found its most complete expression in Britain.

The latest movement of the kind, and the most astonishing, is the granting of parliamentary rule, in some what crude form it is true, in Persia— that ancient monarchy whose ruler, grandfather of the present Shah, this writer talked with less than twenty years ago, when he had power of life and death over fifteen million human beings.

Persia's New Era.

The spectacle of the proceedings of the two parliaments at St. Petersburg and Teheran is interesting from its novelty and unexpectedness. At both capitals absolute monarchies are learning to give way to constitutional government, and democratic ideas are obtaining a strong hold upon the people.

It appears to be almost forgotten that there are such things as a Republican National Committee and a Democratic National Committee. In the past politics has revolved around these committees and their chairmen have to a great extent been the chief party spokesmen.

While the humanitarian looks with satisfaction upon all these extraordinary manifestations of melioration in the life of the peoples of the Old World, it is mortifying to our pride as Americans to feel that only in our country has there been reaction toward centralization of political power.

Here is the field for democratic effort now; and the attitude of Mr. Roosevelt, as expressed in the recent speech of his Secretary of State, supplies an issue for the Democratic party, under the lead of Mr. Bryan, which may well include and crown the movement for control of the predatory corporations.

DEMOCRATS WILL WIN, SAYS GOVERNOR MCCORKLE.

A telegram from Cincinnati says: "It is Taft to-day, so far as the Republican party is concerned," said former Governor William A. McCorkle, of West Virginia, at the Havlin last night.

The present administration which has been praised so highly, is, in fact, one of the worst and most injurious the country has ever had. And it will cause, I believe, a whirlwind campaign and the election of the Democratic national ticket next year.

We have often had occasion to quote from the letters of the Baltimore Sun's Washington correspondent "J. P. M." He is an uncommonly able and discriminating man.

Without doubt, "J. P. M." has correctly diagnosed the situation at the North, where the important negro vote, hostile to Mr. Roosevelt or his political heir, and the reactionary portion of the white Republicans, are lining up on one side, and the corporationists on the other.

Many of the old machine Democrats of the South are opposed to Bryan, as the reiterated efforts to tempt the South by suggestions of a Southern nominee make plain. But their efforts will not avail, and Bryan will be the nominee.

The most significant thing in connection with the discussion of the Presidential possibilities and politics generally is that nothing is heard of national party organizations.

It is pointed out, however, that reform has been under discussion in Persia for a long time. Mahomed Ali, the new Shah, is the grandson of a Vizier who was intent upon reform and was for this reason assassinated in 1852 by a reactionary.

Really the Republican committee has no chairman, only a vice-chairman acting, and the Democratic chairman is most conspicuous as the proprietor of French Lack Springs. The committee are scattered and there appears to be no inclination on the part of their several members to get together and cut a figure in politics.

Men Overshadow Committees. Roosevelt and Bryan overshadow the two national committees. It is what they say and do, not what the committees are about, that interests the public.

The inactivity of the national committees by neglect of the condition of party politics under present conditions. There is no such thing as party national organization, and the politicians of both parties are inclined to neglect the party.

Foraker For the Old Order. The fight that Foraker is making looks to the rehabilitation of the organization plan and a return to the old party things in the Republican party. In his effort to do this he is creating a situation which, in spite of what might later be his desire to stand by the party nominee, will almost certainly result in a very heavy loss of Republican votes should either Roosevelt or Taft be the Presidential candidate.

The negroes, already offended at Roosevelt, have been worked up to a state of bitter hostility toward both Roosevelt and his Secretary of War through the agitation of the Brownsville affair. It has become a race question within the Republican party, and the indications are that the negro vote could not be counted on to stand by the party of its activity, with either of these as a candidate.

The loss of the negro vote would be a serious thing for the Republican party. Yet if the party remains under the control of Roosevelt it will lose very heavily of that vote and of the capitalist vote, which has been its most powerful factor in the past.

As we pointed out at the time, Mr. Bryan's railroad pronouncement at Madison Square Garden, last summer, was eminently conservative and proper. The country is beginning to understand it, and those who paid attention to the matter at first are being confirmed in their estimate of it by the awakened intelligence of the people.

The Democratic party leaders would be much better satisfied to have Bryan name the candidate than they would to have him take the nomination himself. Among the Southern men especially, where the feeling of friendship for Bryan is particularly strong, there is a marked indisposition to give the nomination to the Bryan element of the South.

The letter was in response to one from Mr. Whitney in which he asked: "Whether in your judgment, there is any danger of regulation being carried to a point preventing a reasonable return on money invested in the railroads of the country, and whether, in case of adoption of Government ownership by the nation or by the several States, the stockholders could expect to receive a price equal to the value of the physical railroad properties?"

Mr. Bryan writes, in part, as follows: "I am in favor of both national and State regulations, and I also believe that public ownership is the ultimate solution of the railroad question.

Another letter to the same paper from Washington contains the following, bearing upon the same subject—the hostility of the Republican faction:

The statement which Charles P. Taft, brother of Secretary Taft, issued in Cincinnati last night, accepting the challenge issued a week ago by Senator Foraker for a contest of the Presidential aspirations of Ohio's two favorite sons at the primaries, is regarded here as a square joining of the issues between Taft and Foraker in Ohio and throughout the country.

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The United States Circuit Court to-day gave the first setback to the railroad rate and regulation laws just passed by the legislature by issuing an order restraining the application of any or all of them which tend to decrease the compensation of the carriers or to prevent their operating on their own restraint. The order is for thirty days, during which time the question of a permanent injunction will be considered.

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Advertisement for Sloan's Liniment, featuring an illustration of a man and a horse. Text: "For Emergencies at Home For the Stock on the Farm Sloan's Liniment Is a whole medicine chest Price 25c 50c & \$1.00 Send for Free Booklet on Horses, Cattle, Hogs & Poultry. Address Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass."

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCES and LIABILITIES. Lists various financial items and their amounts, including Loans, Overdrafts, Stocks and Bonds, etc.

Safety Deposit Boxes For Rent in our new vault \$2.00, \$3.50 and \$5.00 per year. We are now located in our new modern building and will appreciate your account.

SCHOOL BOOKS! We have both NEW and SECOND-HANDS school books. SLATES, CRAYON, PENCILS. EVERYTHING NEEDED IN THE SCHOOL ROOM. THE : NEW : BOOK : STORE.

Advertisement for The Keeley Cure, featuring an illustration of a man. Text: "Do You Know What It Does? It relieves a person of all desire for strong drink or drugs, restores his nervous system to its normal condition, and reinstates a man to his home and business. For Full Particulars, Address The Keeley Institute, Greenboro, N. C."