

# The Mount Airy News.

VOL. XXIX

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1908

NO. 21

## The Democratic Party

### Col. Henry Watterson Discourses Philosophically Upon The Suggestion of Reorganization

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The New York, Evening Post has issued to a limited number of persons the following "circular letter."

In view of the general belief that the crushing Democratic defeat calls for new leadership of the party, with new policies, or fresh application of old ones, the Evening Post desires to elicit the opinion of influential Democrats on the course to be pursued.

"First—Should an effort at once be made to put the organization of the party in abler hands?"

"Second—With the whole question of tariff revision certain to come up in Congress not later than March, should not special zeal be shown in uniting the Democratic minority for a vigorous fight in defence of the low tariff views of the party? Could there be a better way of preparing for the congressional elections of 1910."

"Third—In what way can the election of Democratic governors in Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota be utilized to infuse new spirit into the party and show it how to win popular support?"

"Fourth—What other suggestions can be made, as both true lessons of the defeat, and hints for a constructive plan that shall compel success?"

These are suggestive rather than pregnant inquiries. He who should attempt to answer them must needs be both a statesman and a philosopher. To achieve an adequate solution he must needs be also, and at one and the same time, a leader of men and a favorite of fortune.

They presuppose that parties are the offspring of organization when, as a matter of fact, organization is the offspring of party. They declare for "abler" leadership, quite forgetting that "ability", meaning intellectual training, mental breadth and vigor is but a portion of the required equipment for successful leadership. A man so "able" as Edmund Burke was a poor party leader. The old whig party in America went down under the leadership of Webster and Clay. The Republican party reached its fruition not under Seward and Chase, but under Lincoln.

History abounds with examples which show the futility of "ability" against the hazards of flood and field. In answer to Question No. 1, for example, who is to make the "effort" to "put" the organization of the party "in abler hands," who to choose the constituent assembly; who to name the time and place; who to determine the standards of "ability?"

Suppose the newly-elected Democratic governors of Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota should take the initiative—suppose they should be re-enforced by the Democratic governors of the Southern States—suppose these should in turn call about them the Democratic membership of the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington—wherein would such a body be more homogeneous and authoritative than the last national Democratic convention?

It was not "ability" that was lacking on the Democratic side in the last campaign, or was present on the Republican side. The trend of the popular thought thoroughly commercialized, reduced the contest to a man-to-man issue; it became a duel between Mr. Bryan's record and Mr. Taft's record; for all his vociferation the President dropped quite out of it; great masses of the voters believed that with Taft they took no risk, but, on the contrary, that they would get an improvement on Roosevelt, whilst with Bryan they knew not what; certainly continued agitation for something which went by the name of reform.

Decidedly, the bread-and-butter argument had the floor. It was doubtless helped along by money and machinery—fortified by threats and fears. But it was predominant and it prevailed.

Mr. Bryan had spoken too much. He had spoken too well. The very talents and virtues which had brought him closer to the hearts of the Democrats, especially to the West and South, and made him their leader, wrought his undoing in the election because they foreshadowed something and frightened the commercialism of the time; a commercialism which is deaf to eloquent pleading, which is blind to economic demonstration; which justifies its politics like its religion, in self-righteous canting and providing that they do not too much disturb the waters, leaves the rogues to paddle their own canoe, barring a victim here and there to tickle the conceit of the popular conscience, or to pay the penalty enacted by bad luck or bad play.

We are quite sure of no serious agitation under Taft. What we might have had under Bryan we may only conjecture; but certainly continued agitation on the line of reform. Unless the movement suggested by the Evening Post had this in view, to what purpose, any movement at all, but in case it has, how would it differ from other movements involving agitation and disturbance for which the people are not ready?

Suppose Bryan had been out of it. Suppose he had agreed betimes to play Warwick to Johnson of Minnesota? Can the Evening Post think that the result would have been different? All that was said against Bryan would have been said against Johnson. Bryan's candidate an offset would have been found to Taft, Roosevelt's candidate, Johnson might have got a larger foreign vote in the West. He might have got a larger independent vote in the East. But the final would have been the same. The bread-and-butter argument was decisive.

Under the new cartel, we are to hold the Philippines—eight, or ten millions of semi-savages to be educated and Christianized and converted into customers, to be fed and clothed under the blessing of a protective tariff. We are to hold the Philippines,

a vantage-ground in the Orient whence to meet the world in the quest for the trade of China—still under the blessing of a protective tariff, Cuba, and the rest of the West Indies that we may require, we shall hold in reserve. We owe these things to Christianity, to benevolent assimilation to the market-getting spirit of the age, to the principles of free and enlightened republican government; but, of course, we must have a great army and a great navy, and; happily these fall in with the maintenance of a high protective tariff. What shall the people care about billion dollar congresses whilst their trade expands in every direction? Why should they turn out a level-headed party with a wondrous turn for the almighty dollar and put in a party of rhetorical visionaries to experiment with rhapsodical theories of reform?

Tariff revision? Why, the Democrats had their chance and what came of it? After 20 years of agitation the most practical and elucidated; led my men deeply learned in the schedules and their relation to business; able to expose the sophistry of protectionism on the hustings and to meet the falsehoods of the protectionist attorneys on the floor of the two houses of Congress; what happened? Why, the party ship fell upon a man who, as to this great issue, proved singularly unequal to its demands. The fruits of twenty years of patient, painstaking, courageous work, amounting to a glorious victory, were completely lost.

Wells is dead. Beck is dead. Frank Hurd is dead. The Old Parsee Merchant is dead. Who is to take the place of any one of them as teacher in the new lesson of the schedules which is to be learned and mastered and disseminated before we can have anything in Congress but a sham battle of no particular interest, or benefit, to anybody but the manufacturers who, no matter what Mr. Carnegie may say, do not intend to surrender a dollar of the subsidy they enjoy under the protective system.

To the Courier-Journal it looks as if there will be no change of parties in the national government until the Republican party of its own weight and rottenness—we do not mean to be offensive—goes to pieces on the high tariff as the old Democratic party—of its own weight and rottenness—went to pieces on the issue of African slavery.

The people are not rotten. They are merely prosperous and indifferent, impervious to moral influences that affect their business. They want trade balances and rising price lists, not lectures on political economy, or constitutional law. The shoe does not pinch them yet. It may not in a long, long time. The country is very fruitful. It is exceedingly rich. It can afford a deal of wastage. It does not lack for "able hand" to guide it in its lavish outlays, for able tongues to encourage it in its expensive and expansive ways, for able pens to flatter its self-glorifying beauty, and keep it in good humor with its conscience and its God.

Can the Democrats do nothing then? Why, yes, if they keep together they can achieve the ends of a wise, upright and intelligent opposition, prepared to take advantage of such opportunities as the future may offer them, meanwhile serving the country faithfully and well. That

is all they can do. Talk about new issues and new leaders is mainly idle talk. It is but to tamper with men and to tinker with affairs.

The people at large are for the present very well content with the Republican party. Neither the organization nor leadership of the Democratic party is sufficiently in contrast successfully to brag about, or bank upon. There are too many groups for any definite alignment. Nobody is in authority. Dissonance, not harmony, would follow all attempts at convocation and reorganization. "When in doubt do nothing" is a good saying; in the case of the Democrats supplemented by the circumstances that too often the "doubt" involves rancorous "difference."

Clean politics, honest politics, wise politics—the good of the country—would seem to demand that the Democratic party, much discouraged and depressed, and thoroughly beaten, should still hold together, seeking to preserve its morale, and as the saying hath it, keeping its powder dry. If it should go to pieces nothing would remain between our institutional system and the Deluge except a body of able and self-confident opportunists, calling themselves the Republican party, and quite equal to the commercial exigencies of the times, and that vast monster, the Mob, tame enough when fed and clothed, but very destructive when turned loose hungry upon whatsoever it may devour.

its compliment to the Evening Post and if it cares would converse with it on this general subject at its pleasure and leisure; not in a spirit of discussion, or arguification, at all; for discussion raises usually bars to Truth, and Truth is all that wise men should wish, or seek to know.

**A Hack Saw Found in Jail,**  
Wilkesboro Patriot.

A hack saw, an instrument capable of cutting the most hardened steel, was recently found in the big steel cage of the county jail here. The saw has been in the jail for more than three years and during that time strange to say, although its presence was known to almost every inmate of the cell, little effort was made to put it to the use of which it was capable. It was carried into the jail by a prisoner, who was afterwards convicted and sent for a term to the State penitentiary. When he left he gave to his fellow prisoners the precious instrument as a coveted heritage. They, in turn would tell each new arrival, and so, for three years, the secret, carefully guarded from the jailor was handed down. Last spring, for a short while, the jail was without an inmate, and afterwards, when new arrivals came they inherited the cell without knowledge of the saw. The former prisoner, who carried the saw into the cell, having served his term in the penitentiary, came back, and feeling that prison life was not to his liking and with the hope that he might never be called upon to occupy that cell again, told the officers of the law where the saw might be found. After it was found the jailor made diligent search for evidences of where it had been put to use and he was able to discover only some slight marks on the bars in one of the darkest corners of the cell.

Foley's Orino Laxative cures chronic constipation and stimulates the liver. Orino regulates the bowels so they will act naturally and you do not have to take purgatives continually. Sold by J. H. Gwyn.

**The Situation in the Fifth.**

Charlotte Observer.

'Fairbrother's Everything, of Greensboro, has in its current issue a most interesting editorial—everything in Everything, we are reminded, is editorial and interesting—about the political affairs of the fifth congressional district and incidentally of the State and we are sure our readers will be interested in so much of it as we have space to quote as they would be in all'

"The political student has found much in the recent election that is gratifying much that was disappointing. The defeat of A. L. Brooks was not a personal misfortune—it was the death knell of every politician with congressional aspirations in the fifth district. It means more than many imagine at first blush—it means practically, and in a few words new deal all around. Brooks was ambitious to go to Congress and perhaps had other dreams. Those who developed as his personal enemies, many fighting in the open and others rejoicing over his defeat and over his narrow margin in securing the nomination, were themselves ambitious for political preference—and of course it goes without saying that in his political downfall they fell with him.

"It was a sorry day in the political life of his enemies when Brooks was defeated. It was a defeat no less to everyone of them. Had Brooks been elected by a majority of three or four hundred he would have been infinitely worse off than he is. Then his enemies could have pointed out that it would not do to nominate him again—any one of them with congressional aspirations, and there were several sitting in that boat, could have demanded the nomination, and received it—but when Brooks was wiped off the slate they also became indistinct.

"Therefore conservative Democrats are wondering. Many of them look at the figures and see that Taft carried the fifth congressional district by about five hundred majority, they see the hand-writing on the wall. If any man who has before been prominent in politics in the fifth district bobs up wanting the nomination he will be searched. If it is discovered that he was for Brooks he will be opposed by those who fought Brooks; if it is discovered that he was with those fighting Brooks he will be opposed by the Brooks faction—and don't forget Brooks still holds the balance of power.

"So anyway it can be figured out there must be a new deal. One politician tells us that when it comes time to take inventory every man ever before mentioned for Congress must step aside, that it will be a new name—either a manufacturer or a citizen who is neither a lawyer nor politician."

There is much more, but we omit so much as relates strictly to State affairs. In the recapitulation:

"So it appears, after summing up the situation after looking over the field and caring for the dead—that the wounded are in a

worse plight than those who fell carrying the colors. It means at least in the fifth district an absolutely new deal. It means that all the Heretofore becomes the Impossible. It means at least that those who expected some time to go to Congress are forever out of the race and some Undiscovered Man must be the one offering himself to succeed the Hon. John Motley Morehead.

"And also in the meantime a district which gave Taft five hundred majority over William J. Bryan, must in all candor, be considered, from this time on a very doubtful district—doubtful, indeed."

We produce the picture as best we may, drawn by Colonel Fairbrother, a friend and supporter of Mr. Brooks, for the entertainment or instruction, as the case may be, of our readers. It represents that an irrepressible conflict is on in the fifth district. We have learned as much from other sources. The Observer has no comment to submit upon the facts or alleged facts, being in the mental attitude of the nigger who was telling about having seen a ghost and asked why he didn't interpolate it, made answer; "It wasn't any er my business and I wasn't gwine ter meddle wid it."

**Trouble Over Teddy's Toddy.**

Among President Roosevelt's Christmas presents will be a gallon of fine old South Carolina whiskey from the State where his father-in-law married and he smokes his lips over the Christmas todny his mind will doubtless revert to the strenuous times of San Juan Hill, one of whose heroes, Major Micah Jenkins, is the sender of the liquor, the same Major Jenkins of courtly bearing and distinguished South Carolina lineage whom Roosevelt appointed collector of internal revenue and presented with a sword in Charleston and who now enjoys the honors and emoluments of the Columbia revenue office.

But there was much agitation for a time over the express company's hesitancy to accept the stuff for shipment. The Carey Cochran law forbids shipment of liquor from "wet" to a "dry" county and the agent feared this law might also apply to interstate shipments. When the Attorney General was asked about the matter he said he was not the legal adviser of the express company. The company's attorney finally advised shipping the stuff. Attorney General Lyon said to-day that there was nothing in the law to prevent such shipments.

**SHIPMENT HELD UP.**

However the shipment is still being held here pending a conference between Governor Ansel, the State legal department and the Southern Express Company's local attorneys. The Governor declined to give his permission for the whiskey to move.

You can cure dyspepsia, indigestion, sour or weak stomach, or in fact any form of stomach trouble if you will take Kodol occasionally—just at times when you need it. Kodol does not have to be taken all the time. Ordinarily you only take Kodol now and then, because it completely digests all the food you eat, and after a few days or a week or so, the stomach can digest the food without the aid of Kodol. Then you don't need Kodol any longer. Try it today on our guarantee. We know what it will do for you. Sold by J. H. Gwyn.

## 100 PIGS.

One hundred fine pigs on hand. Order before they are picked over.

JOHN A. YOUNG,  
Greensboro, N. C.