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WASHINGTON LETTER.

WHAT WILL THEY DO AT ST. LOUIS.

The Man Who Influences Men. Republicans and Democrats Both Confident. Administration Gossip. Cleveland's Position.

JOURNAL BUREAU, WASHINGTON, D. C., July 20.

What will the St. Louis conventions do? That is the question now most asked by Democrats, Republicans and Populists. The majority of both Democrats and Populists believe that the Populist and silver conventions, both of which are to be held in St. Louis this week, will either endorse or nominate on a separate ticket, Bryan and Sewall. A majority of the Republicans also expect that outcome, although few of them will say as much publicly. Notwithstanding these opinions, it is known that if the Populist convention, in particular, can be controlled by money, it will not endorse Bryan and Sewall, but will put upon entirely separate ticket. A man who is a sort of a cross between a sport, a lobbyist, and a professional politician, and who is now at St. Louis, said in Washington, several days ago that anybody who could guarantee the nomination of a separate ticket by the Populist convention could pick up one million dollars. He wasn't talking for publication when he said that, and he isn't a delegate to either of the St. Louis conventions; neither is he there for as health. In fact, he is known as a man who never does anything unless there is money in it for him. People who know little of such things are apt to think that such men can influence nobody, but those who are familiar with conventions and Congress know a heap sight better. They can and do influence men, often to the extent of succeeding in putting through the scheme which employs them by the votes too, of honest men who believe that they are voting strictly in accordance with their conscientious opinions, and if they are not carefully watched at St. Louis their influence will be seen in the action of the Populist convention—they will not bother about the silver convention because that will not represent an organized party, and because it is already committed to Bryan and Sewall anyway.

Somebody is evidently expressing a confidence that they do not feel in the outcome of the coming Presidential campaign. It is to be presumed that prominent Republicans and Democrats possess equal facilities for ascertaining the drift of public sentiment throughout the country. Yet, the former are expressing absolute confidence in the election of McKinley and Hobart and the latter in the election of Bryan and Sewall. Senator Stewart, of Nevada, said just before leaving Washington for the St. Louis convention, that nothing on earth could prevent the triumph of silver this year. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who, by the way, will also be in St. Louis when the Populist and silver conventions meet—he says, he will merely stop there on his way home for a short rest—expresses confidence that both of those conventions will be for Bryan and Sewall, and that with the silver forces united they are bound to win. On the other hand, Chairman Babcock, of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, who has just returned from a visit to McKinley and Mark Hanna, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, says that silver has no chance to win, that the Republicans will elect a majority of the next House and McKinley and Hobart to a dead certainty. It may be that each of these gentlemen really feel the confidence they express, but if they do some of them are unquestionably the victims of misinformation. Only one party can elect a majority of the House and only one Presidential ticket can be elected.

Some very queer stories are floating around Washington as to the intentions of the administration. One of them goes so far as to say that President Cleveland has sent Mark Hanna word that McKinley and Hobart have nothing to fear from the administration, and that he hopes they will be elected. While this story doubtless comes very near to correctly representing the attitude of the administration towards the Democratic and Republican tickets, it is not probable that any message to that effect has been sent from Mr. Cleveland or any member of the administration. Mr. Cleveland has been accused of many things, but nobody, to my knowledge, has called him a fool. The few members of the administration—Secretary Lamont and Herbert—who have publicly announced that they would support Bryan did not say that they would support McKinley. It can be stated on high authority, that President Cleveland is putting forward with all his command and influence the nomination of a gold Democratic ticket, and the silver Democrats are hoping he will succeed. Such a ticket would help the silver men because it would catch Democratic votes which would otherwise go to McKinley, and it would help the chances of a single silver Democratic ticket, if desirable, however, that would be better than a straight one between [illegible] and McKinley. There may be other factors to be merely side shows, either Bryan or McKinley will be our next President.

The administration has spoken [illegible] not support Bryan and Sewall. What it will support is still a [illegible] be solved. President Cleveland and several members of his Cabinet are [illegible] favor of putting up a gold Democratic ticket, and, for once, the silver Democrats are all wishing that Mr. Cleveland may have his way. They believe that a gold Democratic ticket would add largely to their chance of winning in several [illegible]

THE VENEZUELAN QUESTION.

Fist Disclosures on Controversy Show this Country to be Fine Not Relinquishing any First Claims.

Special.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 17.—The efforts of the United States and Great Britain to agree upon a general arbitration treaty, for the settlement of all controversies through the establishment of a permanent tribunal, as well as the progress of diplomatic negotiations towards solving the Venezuelan problem, as set forth in the thirteen communications made public by the State Department, tonight, while they constitute the first authoritative disclosures upon these great questions, since President Cleveland's famous Christmastide Message to Congress, it will be found that previous reports of the negotiations have been fairly well outlined by previous dispatches, that little substantial progress towards a general arbitration treaty is disclosed by the documents.

An outline in part of the proposed proceedings is laid down and views of the two governments is so explicitly stated that future discussion may be confined towards narrowing with few divergencies of method.

The further fact is made apparent that the United States has not relaxed its vigilance in demanding just settlement of the Venezuelan boundary question and has rejected the British proposals for arbitrating that dispute, under terms involving a surrender of any part of Venezuela's claims.

AN AMIABLE SETTLEMENT.

So Says Lord Salisbury Regarding the Venezuelan Claims.

Special.

LONDON, July 17.—Lord Salisbury laid before the House of Lords, today, the papers on the subject of arbitration.

He said the negotiations between the United States and Great Britain were not complete but were amicably advancing.

Regarding Venezuela, he said, the first thing was to get at the real facts, and when this was done by the Commission, in whom all concerned had full confidence, he felt that the many diplomatic matters which would follow would not be very difficult of adjustment, but even if there was, those difficulties would be overcome by arbitration.

WHAT EDITORS SAY.

THE PRESS ON THE COMING CAMPAIGN.

Public Opinion Publishes a Symposium Showing the Editorial Policy On the Democratic Situation. What They Say.

NEW YORK.—The Weekly Public Opinion of New York, prints this week a symposium of carefully selected press comments from 120 leading newspapers in all parts of the country on the Democratic convention and the issue of the campaign.

[illegible] Democratic papers, [illegible] Democrats, two Republican and thirty-[illegible] Democratic papers, [illegible] Democrats to [illegible] party lines and vote [illegible] Democrats to [illegible] Republican papers [illegible] Democrats, two [illegible] Democrats, [illegible] Democrats, [illegible] Democrats,