

HON. S. M. RALSTON'S SPEECH

Hoosier Democracy's Standard Bearer Reviews the Issues--Party Loyalty Means the Defeat of Landis--Democracy and the War. State and National Questions.

[Delivered at the Ninth Congressional District Convention, July 30, 1898.]

feasts. The poet and the essayist are yet to be born whose pens can adequately portray the unselfish patriotism, the love of man for man, and the dauntless heroism they have displayed in their effort to free their oppressed fellow man. But while we rejoice in the parts Democrats are taking in this war, we do not wish to detract from the honor and glory due the president and every man under him, down to the humblest in the ranks of the army. To them all we concede a genuine patriotism and cheerfully acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe them.

Democracy's Record in Indiana.

There are other things, however, for which the Democratic party is to be commended aside from its position on the Spanish war. Whenever an Indiana Democrat consults the record of his party in this state or in the nation he finds cause for congratulation. With pride he points to the common school system of Indiana and her magnificent benevolent institutions as an evidence of Democratic philanthropy and statesmanship. The law that overthrew the notorious school book trust and reduced fully one-half the cost of a child's education, was passed by a Democratic legislature. Pinkertonism was driven from the state and the power to rob the wage-earner was denied the proprietors of the "pluck-me" stores by the Democratic party. The tax law that incurred the special enmity of Republican leaders, while it was in process of enactment, and that since has been condemned by the Republican press and Republican speakers, was also passed by a Democratic legislature and upheld by Democratic officers until the courts sustained it. Under this law the corporate wealth of the state has been forced to bear its fair share of the expenses of our state government and the state debt has been set in process of liquidation.

And in this connection it is especially pleasing to a Democrat, who is always a stronger patriot than a partisan, to be able to recall that his party gave this state the law having for its object the preservation and perpetuity of our free institutions through the purity of the ballot. The suppression of corruption at the polls, however, has never met the approval of the Republican party, and consequently it has never lost an opportunity to decry the election law and to change and weaken its most salutary provisions.

Unlimited and Independent Bimetallism.

But, gentlemen, while in the campaign we are preparing to enter, we shall consider state issues, and the records the two great parties have made touching state affairs, we propose to go further and resubmit to the voters of Indiana the financial question.

I am not indifferent to the charge frequently heard that the silver question is dead, but I remind those who talk thus that no question is ever settled in this country until it has been settled right.

Gold triumphed in 1866, but a victory achieved through slander, vilification, coercion and wholesale corruption, can never be permanent. The methods of Colonel W. W. Dudley, the notorious refugee from justice, in his blocks-of-five soundreform in 1886, were the methods of the Sunday school teacher when compared with the means resorted to in 1866 to pinion this nation to the accursed gold standard.

We will enter the contest then in support of the doctrine of free, unlimited and independent bimetallism. In demanding the unlimited coinage of both gold and silver into standard money at a fixed ratio by law, we are not departing from the traditions of our party, nor are we seeking to engraft a new or novel scheme of finance upon the country. We are but pleading for the restoration of the monetary system of our fathers, whose virtuous operation can be cited by its supporters in the absence of famine, starvation and the application of the gambler's art on the board of trade.

Our position, we know, is impregnable. We insist that gold and silver at rates fixed by congress constitute the only standard of value allowable under our constitution, and that the people have the right to the use of both metals in the monetary form, in the discharge of all debts, both private and public. We submit that, if the constitution has made the standard of value to consist of the two metals, congress has no authority to increase the value of the measuring standard in the interest of the money-changer and against the wealth-producer by demonetizing silver, and thereby shifting the monetary demand responded to by the two metals onto gold alone.

Democrats First For Cuban Independence.

It is to be regretted that the suggestion is occasionally made that Indiana should go Republican at the next election because the present administration has the war on its hands. My friends, it is true that the president, who is the commander-in-chief of our armies and navy, is a Republican, yet the Democratic party stands ready to strengthen the president's hands in every way possible, and through its representatives in congress it will gladly join in voting every man and every dollar necessary to aid in prosecuting the war to a speedy and successful conclusion.

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And I now warn our Republican friends that if they insist that the voters of Indiana should support the Republican ticket next fall because of the war, we shall not hesitate to remind them that Marcus Hanna and his administration were against the war until the exorcism of public opinion lashed them into it. The Democratic party was demanding the independence of Cuba when the Republican party was in a state of lethargy on the subject. Wall street had sat down so heavy on Mr. McKinley and his advisers in opposition to the war and in favor of the holders of Cuban bonds, that the presence of leading Republicans of Indiana was rendered necessary in Washington to point out to the executive the disintegrating influences at work in their party ranks and to impress upon him that all chances of Republican success at the coming election would be lost unless war was declared.

Democrats Win the Victories.

We shall not stop here. If it becomes necessary we will not allow the voters to forget that the man who on that memorable morning of May plowed his way at the head of the American fleet through the engines of death and destruction in Manila harbor, and who, after a battle that amazed and startled the civilized world, planted the stars and stripes on Philippine soil, was a Commodore, now Rear Admiral Dewey, who is a Democrat.

We will not forget to tell them that Hobson, who destroyed and sunk in the Santiago channel the vessel that bore him above the waves while hell was belching her fury on him from the Spanish forts on all the hills around, and who lingered his time in a Spanish prison, is a Democrat. We will tell them, too, with becoming pride that the man under whose direction and command Cervera's fleet was swept from the seas and the arm of Spain paralyzed in war was the daring, dashing Schley, a Democrat.

I cannot tell you of the bravery of these men. My words are too few and too

services on the supreme bench of the United States cover a period exceeding that of any other man in the history of the court, supplements the opinion of Justice Clifford thus:

"The inhibition upon the states to coin money and yet to make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts must be read in connection with the grant of the coinage power to congress. The two provisions taken together indicate beyond question that the coin which the national government was to fabricate, and the foreign coins, the valuation of which was to regulate the value, to consist principally in the intrinsic value of the coin only, but both of gold and silver."

"Money being a standard, its coin or pieces are necessarily a legal tender."

The provisions in the different coinage acts that the coins to be struck shall be such legal tender are merely declaratory of their effect, when offered in payment, and are not essential to give them their character."

Thus it is seen that the views of the bimetallist today are in harmony with the opinion of these eminent statesmen and jurists and when he insists upon the right of the people to the use of both gold and silver, not as currency, but as money, he demands for them only their constitutional right. So my friends, if the opinion a man entertains on the financial question may render him a dangerous member of society, as we were told in 1896, it would not be difficult, taking as a criterion the utterances of the gentlemen I have quoted, to point out and designate the real anarchists of this country.

It is not enough for the single standard advocate to say he is opposed to bimetallism because of the ratio proposed. If Webster and Blaine, Clifford and Fields have correctly interpreted the constitution, and the present ratio is an erroneous one, which we deny, bimetallism should be supported at a correct ratio, and he who is not willing to do this, but on the contrary favors the destruction of one of the metals as money, brands himself as an infraction of the organic law of the nation.

We hear it frequently observed that the Democratic party is an unsafe guide on the money question, and yet I am practically within the truth when I remind you that the monetary system prevailing in this country from its organization until 1873, and under which this nation fought its wars, contributed its share to the swelling tide of civilization and made its most giant-like strides in material progress was the outgrowth of Democratic statesmanship.

Republican Party Not Entitled to Leadership On Financial Questions.

When was it the Republican party became the embodiment of the financial wisdom of this country? It was not born until 1859 and its platform of that year contained no reference to money. In 1860 it conducted a national campaign without saying in its platform what it thought about the financial question. In 1864 it favored "promoting the use of national currency," but by the time 1868 came around it had forgotten what it had thought on the subject four years prior thereto, and so it omitted to incorporate a money plank in its platform. Its memory was still not better in 1872, nor had its stock of information been added to, and the result was it adopted another platform without a money plank. In 1876, however, 20 years after it was born, it gave its first but very slight premonition of having a financial idea, as was evidenced by its platform declaration in favor of "a steady progress to specie payment."

It would not be expected, of course, of a party to make very rapid progress in the development of a subject about which it required 20 years to get an idea, and so no particular surprise was manifested when this self-conceited guardian of national honor went before the country in 1880 on a platform containing no money plank. In 1884 it was in favor of an international agreement for the use of both gold and silver as standard money. In 1888 it loved silver and denounced the Democratic party for its unpatriotic attempt to demonetize it. In 1892 it still loved silver and here in Indiana it was very vociferous in its congratulations of the country that a long stride had been taken toward the free coinage of the white metal.

But, my friends, in 1895, to believe its story now, it began to see the error of its way in forming an attachment for silver, and consequently in its St. Louis platform it made, over the protest of H. H. Hanna, the good sense to "cut the cable," so that Washington yawned again, and took Alger with him.

It is claimed that the Dingley law is putting money in the pockets of the woolgrowers, but on the other hand the people who buy woolen goods, millions in number, are compelled to pay higher prices for them or suffer.

The campaign in the Philippines has been conducted in a way pre-eminently creditable to the American nation, because Dewey had the good sense to "cut the cable," so that Washington yawned again, and half-way confession of its sins.

And now, in this good year of 1898, this party of progressive ideas, of superior wisdom, of immaculate purity, is confessing by its course that in reality it never knew anything about the money question until recently, and since it has been placed under the command of its new leader, that distinguished statesman of finance, Hon. H. H. Hanna, doubtless a direct descendant of Marcus Aurelius!

I wish I had time to take up and discuss the financial measure recently introduced in congress, back of which this gentleman and Wall street's monetary commission are standing. But I can give you briefly an idea of this bill, as I get it from Mr. Hanna himself. A friend to whom he addressed a letter in support of his measure was kind enough to hand the same to me. He says: "The bill is politically the best measure that has been prepared." The word politically he has underscored, and I suppose he means thereby to suggest that it will call forth the sinews of corruption when the fight is on. Then he continues: "It meets the expectations of those who believe there can be no permanent business prosperity until the greenbacks are retired, and it does not oppose the prejudices of those who favor the greenbacks." Now, if you can conceive a measure embodying two theories of finance diametrically opposed and yet every part working harmoniously with the whole you will at least have a faint conception of what Mr. Hanna imagines he has in his bill. He is beyond question the right man to be at the head of the visionary commission which is pretending to believe it should supersede congress in determining the monetary policy of this government.

A candid investigation will fail to establish the right of the Republican party to teach us on financial questions. It has rendered complex and thrown into confusion our monetary system. Its statesmen have labored to unravel the web of idiocy running through its financial legislation, but to no purpose. In making this charge I do not overlook its financial policy during the rebellion, but the policy it then adopted for the salvation of the nation it now condemns. It asseverates with great pretensions to wisdom in favor of the single gold standard, and yet you may take any two Republics of your own selection and have them each evince a theory of finance bottomed on the single standard idea and you will find their conclusions to be as wide apart as the poles.

An Appeal For a Union of Forces.

I appeal, then, to those Democrats who do not fully endorse the financial theory

for which their party is standing, to give it their counsel and support. I beg them to remember that the party with which they have affiliated in the past the party of their choice and the party of their love, is greater by far than any one idea. I point them to its glorious past, and to that I predict for it a still more brilliant future. It has been fighting for a century the tyrannical and centralizing influences in our national life. Wherever the brazen features of monopoly have shown themselves the Democratic party has challenged their right to extort and fatten off the product of honest labor. And to its credit, the party of the sage of Monticello and of the hero of New Orleans has never in its great career joined hands with organized greed to assault the best interests of our country to pauperize the bone and sinew of our land and fasten about the throats of Americans the vice-like grip of plutocracy.

On the other hand, however, it has always stood for that form of government and for those measures and laws that take into account the citizenship of the man at the forge, in the factory and in the shop; of the boy in the ditch and in the mine; of the woman at the spindle, by the loom and over the tub, and guarantees to each and all of them their fair share in life's achievements.

A party with such a past can be trusted in the future. And for the future of our country we have much concern. The four quarters of the earth are at this time anxiously watching American statesmanship, and on every hand the concession is made that the destiny of this republic is largely dependent upon the question of annexation.

It is well for us, therefore, to reflect in this hour of feverish excitement that territorial aggrandizement may lead to a national weakness and degradation. It is at least suggestive that the late secretary of state, Senator John Sherman, who was a fair representative of the ripest statesmanship of the Republican party, reserved the last paragraph of his "Forty Years in the House, Senate and Cabinet" in which to sound a note of warning to his countrymen on this question. In conclusion I quote his words:

"The events of the future are beyond the vision of mankind, but I hope that our people will be content with internal growth and avoid the complications of foreign acquisition. Our family of states is already large enough to create embarrassment in the senate, and a republic should not hold dependent provinces or possessions. Every new acquisition will create embarrassment. Canada and Mexico, as independent republics, will be more valuable to the United States than if carved into additional states. In the same way, new acquisitions elements enough without adding others. If my life is prolonged I will do all I can to add to the strength and prosperity of the United States, but nothing to extend its limits or to add new dangers by acquisitions of foreign territory."

Many newspapers, chiefly of the Republican persuasion, are criticizing the administration of Secretary of War Alger for numerous blunders and some other things worse than blunders. This is done to shield the president, who is responsible for the acts of his war secretary.

It is now suggested that some narrow-minded people will begrudge Major McKinley a vacation. This is improbable. The general feeling toward the major is one of kindness and the wish is that he had taken a vacation several months ago, and again, took Alger with him.

The request has been made in Tipton county for "all who voted for McKinley and are sorry for it" to hold up their hands. It is a train robber's request, and means danger to pocketbooks. Do not do it.

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AN OPEN LETTER To MOTHERS.

WE ARE ASSERTING IN THE COURTS OUR RIGHT TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE WORD "CASTORIA," AND "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," AS OUR TRADE MARK.

I, DR. SAMUEL PITCHER, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear *Chas. H. Fletcher* on every fac-simile signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* wrapper. This is the original "CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the Mothers of America for over thirty years.

LOOK CAREFULLY at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought and has the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* on the and has the signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company, of which Chas. H. Fletcher is President. March 24, 1898.

Samuel Pitcher M.D.

Do Not Be Deceived.

Do not endanger the life of your child by accepting a cheap substitute which some druggist may offer you (because he makes a few more pennies on it), the ingredients of which even he does not know.

"The Kind You Have Always Bought" BEARS THE SIGNATURE OF

Chas. H. Fletcher.

Insist on Having The Kind That Never Failed You

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

D. N. Morgan was in Chicago this week.

A peace jubilee!

Rah! for the street fair.

Circuit court began to grind Monday.

Ed Knight was up from Brazil this week.

C. M. Crawford is attending the Omaha exposition.

Secretary of State, Owen, will speak here on October 1.

Anne Southard and wife visited friends here this week.

Miss Valerie Wicker visited friends in Danville, Ill., this week.

Malachi Bill Scott is serving a jail sentence for intoxication.

A large number from here attended the races at Terre Haute this week.

Joy Joel, of Monmouth, Ill., was the guest of his brother, Jake, this week.

W. H. Evans has returned from Alaska and is the guest of A. W. Binford and family.

George Durham has retired from the National bank. He has been succeeded by Harry Evans.

A gang of government painters were here this week painting the mail boxes. The new color is aluminum.

Rev. Albert Ogle, of Indianapolis, occupied the pulpit of the Missionary Baptist church last Sunday.

Ollie Fry returned from Chickamauga Monday after being in the hospital there four weeks with typhoid fever.

All the railroads