

THE DEMOCRAT

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STATE FINANCES PROVING EMBARRASSING

People are wondering what Governor Hanly will say about the state's finances when he reads his last message to the assembled legislators next week. In his inaugural address four years ago Governor Hanly severely criticised the administration of his predecessor, Governor Durbin, for anticipating the state's revenues. He declared that the revenues for the then current (1905) fiscal year had already been anticipated to the extent of \$529,659, and he said that such a condition would so embarrass the treasury that money would have to be borrowed or the revenues of the next fiscal year be drawn on in advance. From all this it was thought that Governor Hanly intended his administration to be economical. But what happened? Why, the Republican state officials just kept on anticipating the revenues until at the end of the fiscal year 1905 the counties had been compelled to advance \$94,449. During the next fiscal year (1906) these advances had risen to \$1,245,500. And during the fiscal year 1908 these advances had grown, according to the state treasurer's report, to \$1,772,823. Just how Governor Hanly is going to explain this serious "embarrassment" of the treasury during the last year of his administration is a matter that is claiming attention. There is no denying the fact that the state is desperately hard up and that the financial problem confronting Governor Marshall and the general assembly will be a difficult one to solve. If the treasury was embarrassed by the anticipation of the revenues that Governor Hanly found when he entered office, how much more serious must be the embarrassment now when the anticipation of the state's funds is almost double what it was then! In order to tide over the trouble four years ago without borrowing money on the state's bonds, the Republican legislature, on Governor Hanly's advice, diverted the 3-cent sinking fund levy into the general fund. In this year's tax collections, however, the sinking fund levy must be credited to that fund where it was before. With a largely increased general expense account and with large building projects on hand, it can be seen that it is going to take hard thinking to make ends meet. One does not like to say it, but the truth is that from a practical point of view the state government is in a condition of bankruptcy. There is no question about its credit, for in all this land there is none better, but it has been living beyond its means to such an extent that it has been able to pay its bills only by drawing on the future the amount so drawn in advance during the year 1908 being nearly \$2,000,000, as shown above. And who is responsible for this condition? Certainly not the Democrats, because they have not been in power for twelve years. It would have been a splendid thing for the taxpayers of Indiana if they had succeeded in their desire to give the Democratic party full control. That can be done at the next election, but until then the Democrats will be seriously handicapped. Governor Marshall and a Democratic house can do much, but it will not be possible for them to do all that should be done. The draining of the state treasury has been terrific for years. Some of this draining has been open and some more or less subterranean. Doubtless many leaks can be stopped, but it will take time and careful engineering to reconstruct some of the channels through which the state's money has raced from the treasury. So far as their power goes, the Democrats will give a good account of their stewardship. On that point the people may rest easy.

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG

There is evidently something

radically wrong down in Adams county. Word comes from there that a petition is being circulated for an election under the existing county option law and that it is being very generally signed. Scores of unwavering democrats are affixing their names thereto and it is declared that when the election is held the county will go dry by a rousing majority. It is hard to reconcile this alleged condition with Adams county's vote at the recent election. This vote gave a tremendous majority in favor of the party pledged to the repeal of the county option law and endorsed the candidacy of Stephen B. Fleming, the brewer candidate for the state senate, by a very substantial lead. In short, Adams county contributed very materially to the democratic victory in Indiana, the size of her plurality being eclipsed only by that of Allen county. Her voice in the election was clearly, emphatically and unmistakably against the county local option law and those who stood before the people as its champions. It is on the strength of the vote cast by Adams county as well as that cast by Allen county that the democratic majority in the legislature feels that it is warranted in repealing the law in question.

Yet here we have the spectacle of Adams county preparing to go ahead with an election under the county option law and declaring that a victory under it is assured. We have more. We have the spectacle of the democratic organ of that county, which bore Mr. Fleming a vigorous support and which refused to accept even as paid advertisements appeals in behalf of Judge Veseys, now declaring against the repeal of the option statute and insisting that it be given a fair trial.

Just what will the people of Indiana think of this remarkable contradictory conduct? The News does not know, but it nevertheless has a little theory of its own. It is this: The good people of Adams county have been voting the democratic ticket for so long a time that they simply cannot break the habit. Like Ephraim they are joined to their idols.—Fort Wayne News.

It appears from the above that the Fort Wayne News is still harboring a bad case of bellyache. This, too, in the face of the fact that it is now two months since the people registered their disapproval of the hypocrisy being preached and practiced by the Fort Wayne News and the political party it represents. They were "beaten to a frazzle" and yet have not the good grace to show even a slight inclination to like it. They have been fighting the civil war over every campaign for forty years and when not engaged in this noble enterprise they are preying upon prejudices of the people in other ways, in order that the Republican party may gain political advantage. But to the inaccuracies which the News editorial abounds:

First, there is no petition in circulation in Adams county, and it is not being signed by scores of unwavering Democrats.

Second, the Democracy of Adams county or the state are not pledged to the repeal of the county local option law. They could not be so pledged. When they met in state convention and adopted their platform there was no county local option law.

How could they pledge a repeal of something that did not then exist?

Third, the majority given the candidates on the Democratic ticket in Adams county was neither for or against county local option. It was, however, against the rank extravagance of our state government; it was against the wholesale graft of piling up taxes and turning over the money to a lot of office holding commissions whose principal duty is to help themselves and support the Republican party; it was against dishonesty, either by word or act. County local option had nothing whatever to do with the result in Adams county. Here we be-

lieve in and respect all laws, and are willing to give them a fair trial and judge them impartially. Hence we believe in giving county local option a "square deal." The fact, too, that the Fort Wayne News is so eager to repeal and repudiate its own party law, tends to strengthen us in our position.

Fourth, it may seem incredible to the News that the Democrat does not sell its columns to candidates for political office. Such a sale would not be made to members of its own party, much less to a candidate of an opposite party. We are not in the market, and the News can make all the capital it likes from this old fashioned notion of a duty all newspapers owe its readers and the public.

The Fort Wayne News is right in opposing further needless expense in the Dunn case. A conviction seems almost if not entirely impossible. With that fact known, why waste any more time or money?

The message comes sizzling to us from Dixie Land that on New Year's day over one-half of the sunny south will be dry territory. Who said the Democrats were the whiskey party? The fellows in Indiana who gag at county option can witness the spectacle in the south of the people swallowing state option down there and never once making a "rye" face in the process.—Columbia City Mail.

Beginning next Monday Indianapolis will begin to take on the appearance of a legislative season. The sessions begin on Thursday and on the following Monday the governor's inaugural will occur. After that the session will settle down to the real business for which they are assembled. No legislation has yet taken any tangible form, and likely will not until the members get their heads together.

It can at least be said that all the candidates for United States senator are making a dignified and gentlemanly effort, none of them indulging in the use of personal assaults upon any other candidate. This is not only wise, but it shows that peace and harmony reigns within the ranks of the Democratic party and its leaders. The place of United States senator is an exalted one, and above the usual methods which involve the seeking of political preferment.

It might be well for the Democrats of Indiana not to pay any attention to newspaper articles setting forth the attitude of Governor-elect Marshall on any question or matter of state interest. He has no time to deny rumors and is not giving out anything for publication. You cannot, therefore, rely on statements sent out from Indianapolis. Although he has not said so, judging him by the past, it is not likely that he will announce in advance what he intends to do in any respect. After the act is performed the people will know where he stands, and not till then.—Columbia City Post.

"Congressman Adair is the democratic representative from the Eighth district of Indiana. Although his district is overwhelmingly republican, he was re-elected at the last election and his constituents are proud of the record he is making in congress. Mr. Adair promises to be one of the big Indiana democratic leaders within the next few years. Already he has been mentioned as the democratic candidate for governor in 1912."—The Hoosier.

"Take away your protection; we are now men; we can beat the world in the production of steel," said Mr. Carnegie to the ways and means committee—and it was pretty nearly an epitome of the all-day grilling that he gave the committee. We hope the country will absorb the true significance of this scene. There is a consolation in the reflection that this is not the only "bad quarter of an hour" that the Paynes and Dalzell's of the ways and means committee and other standpatters are likely to have. With men like Carnegie and Gary telling the truth, and the association of manufacturers pressing for freedom with which to exercise their

business opportunities; with the incoming president standing firmly for an honest tariff revision or none, the friends and agents of high protection are likely to have many bitter moments. But the intelligent spirit of observation in the country should be fixed on the revelation that has been made that it may the better realize the determined attitude of standpatters. This is really an assault on the outer works of privilege and class legislation which now for nearly fifty years have practically known no let nor hindrance.—Indianapolis News.

The legislature will be asked to pass many new laws and change many others. One that needs attention relates to prosecuting attorneys. All fees should be eliminated and that official placed upon a salary large enough to command the services of able and conscientious attorneys. Much injustice is done under the fee system. The fee is often more in evidence than a desire to enforce the law.—Lebanon Pioneer.

The mid-winter meeting of the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association will be held at the Denison Hotel at Indianapolis on February 4th and 5th. On the evening of the 4th the annual dinner will be given. Upon this occasion the association will have as its honored guests Governor Marshall, Lieutenant-Governor Hall, Prof. R. P. Alley, superintendent of public instruction, the newly elected United States senator and other persons prominent in the party councils of the state. The regular business meeting of the association will be held at nine o'clock on the morning of February 5th. It is expected to make this the most notable meeting of the association in recent years.

To an interviewer at Philadelphia recently Colonel Bryan very frankly stated his position. He has no regrets over the recent campaign. He expects to be in politics for twenty years. His influence will be exerted in holding the Democratic party firmly to the principles of the Denver platform, which, he claims, were endorsed by the votes of six and a half millions of electors. He prefers to do his work as a private citizen, but will not refuse office or candidacy if duty calls. In the meantime he will "make it his duty to be present whenever any group of men shall attempt to Republicanize the Democratic party."—South Bend Times.

The discussion as to religious beliefs or denominational allegiance affecting a citizen's eligibility to office, or the support which might be given him by fellow-citizens of other church affiliations, has called out a statement of the Roman Catholic position on the relation of the church and state in his country. In a sermon preached by the Rev. Father Burke, of the Paulists, in the presence and with the approval of Archbishop Farley, the position is thus stated:

"The Catholic church has always taught that the state is, of itself, an independent and perfect society. In his encyclicals, and especially in those in which he spoke in the highest terms of American institutions, Leo XIII insisted clearly upon this point. There are two powers that govern mankind—the ecclesiastical and the civil. These have their distinct spheres and their distinct limits. No matter how much the church may advocate the union of church and state where ideal conditions prevail, no matter how much she has insisted upon such a union in other lands and in other times, she has never advocated a union of church and state in America. On the contrary, in her principles and in the writings of her supreme pontiffs she has ever told the Catholics of America that they should give their entire allegiance to the constitution of the country, and, if necessary, give their lives in her defense. With conscientious rectitude, therefore, every Catholic does, unequivocally, subscribe to the constitution.

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Frantic Boy Tries in Vain to Be Heard at Each Stop.
Wilkesbarre, Pa., Dec. 29.—After being locked in a Pennsylvania Rail-

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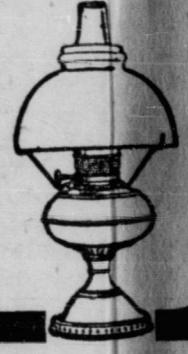
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road freight car for three days. Harry Jones of Sunbury, was released here weak from hunger, thirst and cold. He said that he climbed into the car at Sunbury, intending to sleep through the night and the following morning to find his parents, whom he had not seen for some time. When he awoke the car was moving and the door was locked. He tried in vain to get out, nor could he by shouting and kicking the door make himself heard. He tried this every time the car stopped, but not until this morning, when the car reached the yards in this city, did he manage to make a passing brakeman hear him. He was released and the police provided him with a good dinner.

DENY SALE OF BEN-HUR LINE.

Officials Say There is No Talk of Disposal to McGowan.

Crawfordsville, Ind., Dec. 29.—The officers and directors of the Ben-Hur

traction line today made public that the Ben-Hur line had not been sold to the McGowan syndicate as reported. A meeting of the board of directors was held at Indianapolis, and they say nothing was said in regard to the sale of the line. Mr. Hughes of the Chicago Electrical Installation company, which is understood owns, or has a lien on 51 per cent of the stock, is reported to have said nothing regarding the reported sale.

The Whitley county council has declined to make an appropriation for the county local option section until the board of commissioners shall decide that the election is to be held. It will be recalled that one of the grounds on which anti-temperance adherents contested the petition for a special election was the fact that the county council had made no appropriation for such election.

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