

THE PARTY OF PROGRESS.

A Prominent Michigan Republican decides to Vote with the Party Which Fights for the Interests of To-day.

[From the Detroit Free Press.]

Hon. Free Estee, of Mt. Pleasant, who served with marked ability in the last Legislature as Representative from the district composed of the counties of Isabella and Clare, being elected on the Republican ticket, announces that he is through with the Republican party, whose issues are all of the past, and gives his reasons for voting for Hon. George L. Yapple and the fusion ticket in the following strong letter:

To the Editor of the Detroit Free Press:

I was born a Republican. I was early taught to believe in the wisdom, the purity and the patriotism of the Republican party. I still believe in the grand principle (human liberty) upon which that party was founded, and from which it received its first inspiration. And I admire the lofty and noble motives of its early leaders—such men as Lincoln, Sumner, and Greeley, and the grand work they accomplished. And I believe that the success of the Republican party in 1860 was a splendid achievement for this nation, for it destroyed the power of a wealthy aristocracy which was determined to control the destinies of this nation for the special benefit of itself, and the disregard of the interest of the masses of the people.

I believe that government exists for the benefit of all the governed. That what is best for the great masses of the people—what will secure the most peace, prosperity and happiness to the greatest number—is the true policy of a good government, wisely administered.

The special wants of a people are constantly changing—are usually not the same at any given time they were one, five, or ten years prior. That the *present living issues* are of present concern to the people, and not the issues which were settled five, ten, or twenty years ago. Matters of present moment are of present concern, and demand our present attention. A high tariff may have been necessary to enable the government to meet the expenses of a costly war, but twenty years after that war has closed, and the nation is at peace with the whole world, there is no sense in retaining the same high duties. I am convinced that a high tariff at the present time injures solely to the benefit of the capitalists and owners and controls the protected industries of the nation, and that the result is the centralization of a vast and constantly increasing wealth in the hands of a few persons, to the great detriment of the many—the establishment of a moneyed aristocracy, which now controls the Republican party, and is determined in its efforts to control the affairs of government. Even if a high protective tariff were once necessary or beneficial, it is not needed to-day, and but serves to enhance the profits of those already worth millions, and makes the rich richer—and by increasing the cost of the necessities of life, makes the poor poorer. All the industries which this nation needs are dependent, supporting themselves by legitimate business upon a living basis, and without the aid of any high protective tariff. Why is it that capital in its importance is protected, while labor is allowed to come to this country in vast hordes duty free? Are not the interests of labor—the wants and needs of the great masses of the people—as much importance as the investments of capital? I contend that the true interests of the masses of the people—their welfare and prosperity—demand a thorough revision and reform of the present outrageous tariff, and a reduction of general taxation to the lowest possible limit consistent with the maintenance of those institutions of government necessary to the peace, the prosperity and happiness of all the people. We want no more class legislation. We are bound up in huge monopolies possessed with unlimited power to threaten the liberties of the people and endanger the existence of the Republic. I believe that the Republican party of to-day is not the party of freedom, of progress and progressive ideas that it was at its birth. Gradually since the war closed the aristocracy of the country has flocked to its support, until to-day it is chiefly controlled by rich corporations, gigantic monopolies, and selfish bosses, who care more for personal ends than the public good. By rehashing the buried past, an appeal to prejudice and a dodging of present issues, they expect to deceive the people, and retain power. I believe that the Republican party to-day is at the rear, and not in the van of present progress. All the concessions in favor of labor are reluctantly made, because money, aristocracy, and bigotry control its policy and wield its destinies for selfish ends. Long exercise of power by selfish men makes them self-constituted bosses, and in their greed "the greatest good to the greatest number" is forgotten. This is largely the trouble with the Republican party to-day. I had hoped that in the present campaign it would take an advanced stand upon living issues, and actuated by lofty and patriotic motives assert honest convictions with the best interests of the people. But not! In its policy it straddles the temperance, tariff, convict labor, and other issues, with an evident desire to impress voters by assuming to please everybody and yet pleasing nobody who loves principles honestly maintained. I admire the party or the man that believes in principles, has the courage of conviction, and comes out honestly and squarely and maintains them. I admire George L. Yapple for his frank and eloquent assertion of his honest convictions. Would there be more like him?

Let us elevate the condition of the poor and do the just. Let us elevate labor and do all that lie in our power to better the condition of the wage-workers—the toiling masses. Let us legislate for arbiter in their interests and give the so-called "business interests" (which is a favorite expression, referring to wealthy magnates, gigantic monopolies, and rich corporations) a rest. A change in the administration of the affairs of the State will emphasize the necessity of political parties regarding the demands of the people—that others besides wealthy, aristocratic and selfish bosses have interests that must not be ignored, and that the love of liberty is stronger than party fealty. It will be a victory in favor of the progressive idea of a state, a victory of the people over bosses and honest convictions over deception, hypocrisy, bigotry, and abuse.

I expect to receive much vilification and abuse at the hands of some of those whose party I now bid adieu because of this statement of my honest convictions. But vilification and abuse can not destroy principles. That which is true will live and prosper when those who malign the truth are forgotten. A grand march forward has commenced. Men will think, express their thoughts, and stand by their convictions, independent of prior party affiliation. That which is right must and shall triumph. A poor record is not sufficient—good, present record is not sufficient—to believe that the success of the opposition to the Republican party in the present State campaign will be best for the true interests of the State and the majority of its people. I have always affiliated with the Republican party in the past, but now I propose (and for the reasons above stated) to vote the ticket headed by the brave, honest, and eloquent "Boy from Mendon."

FREE ESTEE.

THE OLD ROMAN.

Ohio's Venerable Statesman Declares His Public Life Is Ended.

[Cincinnati special.]

The Thurman Club, 200 strong, tendered a rousing serenade at the Gibson House to ex-Senator Thurman. In response to repeated cheers, the old statesman said:

"MY FRIENDS: I thank you for the honor, first, of naming your organization for the old man. When I learned that you intended visiting me my heart was moved. I fully recognize that in honoring me, both by naming your organization for me and by your greeting this evening, that you have

done so from no other motive than pure and simply to honor me. You are worshiping no rising sun. I know that, and you know it. Rather you are doing homage to a setting sun. [Cries of 'No! no!'] Ah, but it is a fact. I am out of politics, and it is for that reason that I appreciate your actions all the more. I am fast traveling down the shady side, and will soon be numbered with the past; but when I am dead and gone, my friends, when I am laid away in my last resting-place, if any of you should stumble over my grave, I hope that you may stop and think that there lies a man who was always a Democrat, and whose earnest desire and hope were for Democratic success. My public record, I think, will bear me out in that, and I know this: that when my last sun sets I shall see it through Democratic eyes."

Following this, an informal reception was held, the Judge was presented with a rich bandana handkerchief, and a snuff box filled with the genuine article.

A HEARTLESS KEYNOTE.

A Woman's Cruel Criticism of a Republican Senator's Demagogical Harangue.

[From the Indianapolis Sentinel.]

The following are the criticisms of Mrs. Gougar, of Lafayette, after hearing Senator Harrison's recent effort in the Star City:

I listened to the eloquent address of General Ben Harrison last evening with great interest, not more for the high reputation of the man and politician than from the fact that the speech was to be the "key-note" from which all politicians are hereafter to sound their bugle blast during our campaign. There was much in that address that I would like to ask honest information about, but I will confine myself to only those parts that struck me as being most worthy of attention.

First, Mr. Editor, allow me to ask if our war is not over? I look over our country and see it so peaceful and prosperous that I have been hugging the delusion (?) that the pruning hook was occupying the place of the sword. Am I deaf to the beat of the drum, the tread of the soldier, and alive to the arts of peace?

We were told of the terrible sufferings of the Union soldier because of his niggardly pensions; and all this was laid at the door of the Democratic administration. If the Union soldier is in this condition, will you be good enough to tell me what the Republican party was about for twenty years of its power, just preceding the two years of the Civil War? The Union soldier did not die more justly with him? Great fault was found that Union soldiers were not holding the post-offices under the present administration. Will you tell me how many editors held the post-offices in this country who never smelled gunpowder, while Union soldiers hobbled about on crutches, eking out precarious livings, during the last few years of Republican rule? Could not a Democratic orator put another side to the eloquent gentleman's tear-drawing period on this point? Mr. Editor, our Government has dealt most generously with the soldiers, and needs be let us have established, as was advocated last night, for those disabled in the service, but, sir, I protest against the kind of campaign that tends to keep up sectional strife in our country, and to stir up the animosities of the war. Such political claptrap should be spurned by the ex-soldier more earnestly, if possible, than by any other man, for he is the one who has done the most to preserve the oneness of our people.

Mr. Harrison was arraigned most severely for appointing ex-Rebel soldiers to public office; but, Mr. Editor, who made this possible? I answer, the Republican party in power that granted a general amnesty to these men. From that moment a Rebel soldier stood in the eyes of the law on a par with a Union soldier. Mr. Cleve-land's availed himself of this fact only, and by the same method of the "divide and conquer" he carried out the spirit and the letter of the act of the Republican party; also by these appointments he has headed up much of the bitterness of the past, and bridged the bloody chasm that will enable our people to march together, in a solid phalanx of patriots, to thwart new enemies that threaten us, not in sections, but the Union over.

Mr. Harrison's speech struck me as a heartless "key-note" that was sounded to deaden the conscious thrubbings of the pulse of the people. It is not the issues of the late war that our people are thinking about; it is the issue of the war that is upon us with the saloon, the liquor traffic, not one word did Mr. Harrison utter on this momentous question. In his attempt to draw tears about the "sorrows" one could see, not faintly, the pale, tear-stained faces of wives of drunken, debauched men, half-starved children, and a long line of misery that calls loudly for redress at the hands of our law-makers; but for these poor souls Mr. Harrison had not so much as a thought. Mr. Harrison tried to stir up a feeling of indignation in behalf of the Mississippi politician who had been threatened if he persisted in running for office, but he had not one word of condemnation for that element in politics right here at home. By rehashing the buried past, an appeal to prejudice and a dodging of present issues to expect to deceive the people, and retain power. I believe that the Republican party to-day is at the rear, and not in the van of present progress. All the concessions in favor of labor are reluctantly made, because money, aristocracy, and bigotry control its policy and wield its destinies for selfish ends. Long exercise of power by selfish men makes them self-constituted bosses, and in their greed "the greatest good to the greatest number" is forgotten. This is largely the trouble with the Republican party to-day. I had hoped that in the present campaign it would take an advanced stand upon living issues, and actuated by lofty and patriotic motives assert honest convictions with the best interests of the people. But not! In its policy it straddles the temperance, tariff, convict labor, and other issues, with an evident desire to impress voters by assuming to please everybody and yet pleasing nobody who loves principles honestly maintained. I admire the party or the man that believes in principles, has the courage of conviction, and comes out honestly and squarely and maintains them. I admire George L. Yapple for his frank and eloquent assertion of his honest convictions. Would there be more like him?

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ORGANIZED LABOR.

Annual Address of General Master Workman Powderly, of the Knights of Labor.

Recent Strikes Touched Upon, and the Blame for Deeds of Violence Located.

To the members of the General Assembly:

If we are guided by the experience of the past, and act accordingly, we can place the order upon a footing so safe and sure that no one from its enemies can injure it. If we are not guided by that experience, if we fail to read aright the signs of the times, and we close this General Assembly without having improved on the past, we will fail to properly represent those who sent us here.

The rapid increase in organization since the Hamilton session of the General Assembly was most marvelous. An examination of the reports of the General Secretary-Treasurer for the year ending July 1, 1886, will show that in one year 4,038 assemblies have been organized. The new members so suddenly brought together could not be properly assimilated. Thousands have been attracted toward the order through mere curiosity; others have come for purely selfish motives; while the great bulk of our new recruits have joined us for the good that they could do.

Quite a few have entered our order for the purpose of redressing their existing wrongs, and, before waiting to learn anything concerning the duty of the Knight to the order, have plunged into rash and ill-considered strikes. The troubles coming from this direction began while the last General Assembly was in session. The car-drivers of St. Louis were organized under promise from the Organized that they would receive aid, unstinted, in case of a strike. Even before the receipt of their charter they were on strike. Their proceedings were characterized by such utter disregard for our laws and teachings, that the paid and known agents of their employers, the detectives, had no difficulty in securing the passage of motions of a violent character. It is an established fact that men who were employed by detective agencies stood up on the floor of that assembly, made inflammatory speeches urging men to deeds of violence, and urged that the property of the street-car companies be destroyed. It was only the good sense of the men that prevented such outrages from being perpetrated, although these agents of a nefarious spy system induced some desperate men to blow up the cars upon the streets. For these outrages the order was in no way responsible. The St. Louis car troubles were but the beginning of the tidal wave of strikes and boycotts which swept over the country, and which strained the strength and resources of your general officers almost beyond the limit of endurance.

The Southwest strike began when the time and attention of the general officers were taken up with other matters of vital importance. No notice of the contemplated action was given to us, and we knew nothing whatever concerning it or the causes leading to it until it had been in progress several days. It has been asserted that I condemned the men while they were on strike. No such statement ever escaped my lips. The only statement of mine that could be made to appear in the light of a condemnation was that contained in my secret circular of the 13th of March, a copy of which is herewith submitted. I did not approve of that strike. I could not do so, since evidence enough was not reposed in the General Executive Board to give them a chance to examine in the grievances which the members of District Assembly had presented. It was only when the threat was made to stop every wheel in the United States and engage the whole order in the difficulty that I raised my voice in denial. I did that in defense of the order and the country. I am quite willing to assume all the responsibilities attached to the act, and would do the same thing again under similar circumstances.

That the men of the Southwest suffered wrongs is true; they were many and grievous; and it is my firm belief that the railway companies, with a full knowledge of what these grievances were, precipitated the fight themselves at the time when it would appear to the world that it would be an insignificant cause for the strike to be made. We did not drop out of the ranks of labor organizations disengaged and hopeless. To make the necessary progress we must begin with the child and see to that he has an education. If the principles of the Knights of Labor are right—and few men question them—they should teach them to the young. It should be a part of the duty of every assembly to ascertain the number of children who do not attend school in its vicinity, learn what the causes are, and take steps to have them attend school.

The sword may strike the shackles from the limbs of the slave, but it is education and organization that make him a free man. He is still a slave whose limbs alone have been freed from the shackles. The work of reform which the subversive is advancing in years—the new members he has in 18 years before we admit him. We are up to the mark, and instantly he was being thrown around with the fast-revolving pulley, the body flying at full length. After a half-dozen revolutions the arm was pulled from its socket, and the then lifeless man thrown to the floor. The body was badly mangled and the arm ground to pieces in the belt and pulley.

—Leonard Mills, an employee at Clift, Williams & Co.'s planing mill, at Terre Haute, was whirled around a pulley shaft and killed. He was trying to tie a loose belt to a nail when some of the slack caught in a pulley. It caught his arm, and instantly he was being thrown around with the fast-revolving pulley, the body flying at full length. After a half-dozen revolutions the arm was pulled from its socket, and the then lifeless man thrown to the floor. The body was badly mangled and the arm ground to pieces in the belt and pulley.

—A man, aged 75 years, living in the northern edge of Monroe County, committed suicide recently by hanging. Ten days prior to the hanging he made a contract for his future wants, by deeding his land, some eighty acres, to the man with whom he was living at the time he committed the act. Some time since, he had disposed of part of his land, taking in payment therefor notes to the amount of \$1,000, on which he could not realize anything, and which is supposed to have caused him to thus take his life.

—The farmers of Benton County are greatly disengaged because hog cholera of a most malignant type has made its appearance among their herds. Owing to the immense corn crop they expected to realize handsomely this year by feeding for the market, but the disease has made such inroads upon their droves that few will be left for shipment. In some instances herds of eighty to 100 have been attacked by it and every one died.

—A distressing and fatal accident occurred at Austin, Scott County, by which a teamster lost his life in descending a steep hill with a wagon heavily loaded with lumber. The horses became unmanageable, and he was thrown violently to the ground, the wheels of the wagon passing over his left shoulder and breast. They crushed him into a shapeless mass. He suffered in terrible agony for two hours, when death ended his sufferings.

—Near Columbus, on Thursday, four bridge carpenters were carrying a heavy timber on a trestle-work, which was under water, when one of their number stepped on a half-inch spike, which passed entirely through his foot. To loose his hold would have been death to all of them, and for fifteen minutes he stood with the spike penetrating his foot, at the same time lifting his share of the timber. His condition is precarious.

—As a passenger train was nearing Orleans recently, a farmer's team of two horses and a heavy wagon took flight and started across the track. The engineer managed to stop within ten feet of them, when they started straight up the track over cross-ties and over two cattle-guards, running a distance of two miles, receiving only a few scratches, and the driver was but slightly hurt.

—Some time ago the Cumberland Telephone Company brought suit against the Evansville City Council for maliciously destroying their wires and poles. The Council waived an examination, and thus threw the matter into the hands of the grand jury, and that body has ignored the charges, thus putting a stop to criminal proceedings.

—An old man who has a wife and five children was this week sent to the Montgomery County jail for ten days, and disengaged for two years for stealing half a bushel of corn and an arm-load of wood. The theft was committed on Monday night, and on Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock he received his sentence.

—Three burglars entered the church at Notre Dame and stole two gold and silver crowns, set with jewels, which they broke to pieces, with the intention of carrying them to a Chicago "fence." When they reached South Bend officers captured one of the burglars, and secured the booty.

—A productive vein of gas was struck on a farm, near Oxford, Benton County, by parties prospecting for a Chicago company. The company has since leased fifteen hundred acres of land surrounding the well, and are already preparing to make the discovery a source of profit.

—The Odd Fellows' Hall, at Mauckport, Harrison County, was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$3,000 on the building and the stock of goods owned by Mr. Rosenberg, who occupied the first floor. The insurance amounted to \$1,000, \$600 of which was on the building.

—Recently the body of an unknown man was found floating in the St. Mary's River, just west of Fort Wayne. There were no papers on the body by which it could be identified. Foul play is suspected.

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

—A short time since, Peter Seagle, James Turner, and George Parks, alias Ed McLaren, held at Warsaw for burglary and larceny, overpowered the Sheriff and escaped from jail. He had entered the large cell where the prisoners were confined for the purpose of replenishing the fire. In stooping to pick up the coal-scuttle, he was suddenly seized by Seagle and held until Turner and Parks secured the jail keys, unlocked the door and escaped, when Seagle threw the Sheriff to the floor and rushed out, knocking down the Sheriff's wife in his flight. The Sheriff recovered himself in time to draw his revolver and prevent the escape of the other prisoners confined in jail. No trace has been found, as yet, of the escaped thieves, although a vigorous search has been instituted, and a reward of \$300 offered for their capture and return. Seagle is a Chicago man, and was arrested about two months ago for complicity in the burglary of the store of S. L. Ketting, at Syracuse. Turner and Parks hail from Fort Wayne, and were held for burglary of the Pennsylvania depot at Elma Green.

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