AMERICAN SENTINEL.

WESTMINSTER MARYLAND

The Republican Paper of Carroll County

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SOUNDING THE KEYNOTE

The speeches of Ex-Governor Hadley, of Missouri, and Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, at the dinner given by the Middlesex Club of Boston, to celebrate the anniversary of General Grant's birthday, on Saturday last, sounded the keynote for the rehabilitation of the Republican party. About 300 prominent Republicans were present and the speeches of Governor Hadley and Mr. Butler excited so much enthusiasm that a boom for their nomination as candidates, respectively, for President and Vice-President in 1916 was started. Some of the telling points of their speeches were as follows:

By Ex-Governor Hadley

When those who compare the Republican and Progressive parties come to realize that by continuing divided they are defeating the principles and policies in which they both believe, their resentment over controversies of the past will be unable to longer keep them apart.

The party that has stood for a broad and liberal interpretation of the Constitution and has contended for the exercise of the powers of the government when necessary to promote the general welfare has been the party of progress.

The difference between Republicans and Progressives is a difference as to methods and not results, a difference as to means and not ends.

It would be a real misfortune if our political parties should be broken up into groups with none of sufficient strength to conduct and control the government

By Mr. Butler

The Republican party never had a greater obligation resting upon it than at this moment, and it never had a greater opportunity.

The party and its leaders have new lessons to learn, new tactics to pursue and new methods to adopt.

It will not do for the Republican party, or the party of opposition, simply to sit still and to wait for the Democratic party to make mistakes and to profit thereby.

It is for the Republican party to offer constructive leadership and guidance to a perplexed people.

The great task of nation-building, in which the Republican party has engaged during its long career, is being undone.

The Republican party must reassert and establish the power of the nation to deal with nation-wide problems.

It must reassert and establish the moral responsibility of the people and of the government of the United States for their international obligations duly entered into, no matter what may be the temptation to avoid them.

THE SENTINEL AND MR. ANDERSON AGAIN.

The last number of the American Issue publishes the editorial of the Sentinel in which the methods of Mr. Anderson, superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, were criticized at some length, and comments upon it as follows.

"We appreciate the real interest in the temperance cause felt by the editor of the Sentinel and the mildness and courtesy of the rebuke which he administers, but are compelled to decline to accept it. Having personal knowledge of sufficient facts to make clear that the President was guilty of a gross breach of faith in vetoing the Webb bill, we felt outraged and exposed it in temperate language. The facts suggested were unpleasant facts, but we insist that our language was as temperate as the facts would permit. And the statement of General Superintendent Baker went far beyond anything that the editor of the American Issue said in the way of interviews in the public press.

"The Sentinel forgets there is a national editor. The truth is that the Maryland editor is not responsible at all for what the Sentinel especially objects to."

If that were all of Mr. Anderson's connection with the vituperative attacks upon Mr. Taft which appeared in the American Issue he might fairly claim exemption from the Sentinel's criticism, but he followed it immediately by the quotation of an article from the Midland Journal, a local paper published in Cecil county, in which the same sort of abusive language of the president as has appeared in the American Issue is used, and says that nobody accuses the editor of the Journal of being fanatical or unreasonable upon the temperance question.

But the animus of the Journal's article may have had a different source from that of temperance. That might appear if its previous attitude towards the president were shown. It was probably prejudiced, as undoubtedly Mr. Anderson is, toward Mr. Taft. This prejudice of the latter was exhibited in a letter to the Baltimore Sun, referring in jubilant terms to the act of Congress which reduces the number of saloons in Washington 50 per cent and prevents any one of them from being located within 600 feet of a school or 500 feet of a church. Mr. Taft's last official act was to sign that bill. But in his letter Mr. Anderson gives him no credit for signing the measure. On the contrary he rather broadly intimates that the president did not know the character of the act to which he was placing his signature.

Mr. Anderson is entitled to entertain whatever opinion of Mr. Taft he pleases, prejudiced though it be, but he mistakes the purpose of the Sentinel if he supposes it is to defend the ex-president. It is of an entirely different character. While the design and effort of the Anti-Saloon League in Maryland is to ultimately destroy the liquor traffic its primary and present effort is to obtain for the voters of the State the opportunity of saying by their ballots whether they wish to carry that design into effect; in other words whether they are for or against licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors. The Sentinel is in thorough accord with that effort. The people have a right to vote upon the subject and the legislature should be unsparingly condemned for refusing to grant it. But it is by no means certain that the lugging in of what may fairly be termed side issues have not operated to defeat the very object for which the Anti-Saloon League is contending. Attacking Taft, Senator Smith and others not directly or indirectly responsible for the action of the legislature in the premises can have served no good purpose in promoting the sucess of local option legislation. These men all have friends and adherents, many of whom no doubt are indifferent about the license question and naturally become antagonistic to the local option project when men whom they admire are the subjects of caustic criticism, whether fair or unfair. These men might easily be won to support the efforts of the Anti-Saloon League to get the question legally up to the people if that only were kept constantly before them as an inalienable right that no legislature should withhold. Abusing public men who have no more to do with the matter in Maryland than the man in the moon—Taft for instance—only harms, not helps the cause. And that is all there is in the Sentinel's objection to the course of Mr. Anderson and the American Issue.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST UGLINESS

The Civic League of this city is proceeding in a practical way to carry its crusade against ugliness into effect It is about to have at least sixteen large tin receptacles placed at convenient points along the streets in which paper, fruit skins and refuse of that character can be put instead of being thrown into the gutters. The first of these receptacles is now at the opera house corner. It was presented to the league by Mr. Charles E. Stewart. Other citizens have promised three more and the league will purchase a dozen to begin with and more if necessary. In enforcing its purpose the league needs the active co-operation of the citizens of the town and this it will have generally. But it needs still more the determined purpose of the city authorities to enforce the ordinance prohibiting the throwing of refuse of any sort on the streets or alleys. Practically this ordinance has been a dead letter, but it is still in force and a new era has arisen, in which offenders against it must be made to pay the penalties it imposes. This is ordinance No. 177, section 4 of which applies. For its violation fines from $1 to $50 may be imposed and upon non-payment, imprisonment in the county jail

There are to be found in every community carelessly inclined persons who will not observe and obey law unless compelled to do so. Within fifty yards of the receptacle for refuse at the opera house small scraps of paper were scattered along the gutter for 30 feet or more on Tuesday morning, giving it an ugly and unsightly appearance. A little thoughtful attention on the part of the transgressor would have prevented the offensive act. There are some other abuses which deface the streets to which attention will be called in the future. Section 4 of Ordinance No. 177, referred to above is as follows:

"Section 4. And be it enacted and ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, that it shall not be lawful for any that it shall not be lawful for any person to expectorate or spit upon any sidewalk or foot path in the city of Westminster; nor shall any person or persons, whether corporate or individual, deposit, sweep, cast, or throw any hoops, wire, glass, board or boards with nails in them, or any kind of material dangerous to horses feet, or any dead animals, offal or garbage, ashes, fruit skins, dirt, filth, shavings, rubbish, noxious fluid or liquor, or refuse of any kind whatsoever, upon or in any gutter, street, sidewalk, lane or alley within the limits of this city: provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall apply when such substances have been taken from his, her or their premises for immediate removal from any such gutter, street, alley or land, nor shall it apply to the placing of garbage in boxes for immediate removal by the municipal authorities."

The penalty for the violation of these and other provisions of the ordinance are prescribed in Section 7 and is as follows: A fine of not less than $1 nor more than $50 and costs; commitment to the county jail for not more than fifteen days or until discharged by law, in default of payment; or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one nor more than fifteen days, or both fine and imprisonment.

THE INCOME TAX

What ever may be said of the propriety of imposing a direct tax on incomes at any time, levying such a tax for the purpose of lessening tariff duties and placing the country on what may be fairly termed a free trade basis is indefensible. It should be considered an emergency tax, to be imposed only in crises when the raising of extraordinary sums of money for the support of the government may be necessary It was resorted to during the Civil War, but was subsequently declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. It is now made legal by an amendment to the Constitution, but it is doubtful whether that amendment would have been ratified by three-fourths of the States if it could have been foreseen that a Democratic Congress would take advantage of it to carry out its its free-trade theories.

The imposition of such a tax is, of course, class legislation, but emergencies arise in which it is justifiable. The government has power to levy a direct tax, which would affect all property holders equally. A tax of that character was imposed upon the States during the Civil War, but is not be thought of in times of peace, though it would be about as reasonable as an income tax at such times.

There is, further, in the measure a thoroughly atrocious feature. It levies a tax of one per cent on the net incomes of mutual Life insurance companies which have no stockholders and declare no dividends except to their policy holders. It takes the increment received from premiums and lessens to the extent of the tax, the dividend making power of such companies, robbing those who may become widows and orphans. Why this feature is retained in the bill it is difficult to understand when it is seen that fraternal and beneficial societies, orders or associations under the lodge system and pdoviding for the payment of life, sick, accident and other benefits to members of such associations and dependents of such members; domestic, building and loan associations organized and operated exclusively for the mutual benefit of their members, and other institutions of a religious, educational or charitable character, no part of whose income inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, are exempt from its provisions. But that is about as consistent as anything else to be looked for from the present House of Representatives. An effort will be made to induce Congress to place the insurance companies on the same basis as other institutions to which the law does not apply. Such companies were not taxed in the law passed during the Civil War.

SAID TO ADMIT THE STATE'S RIGHT TO PASS AN ANTI-ALIEN OWNERSHIP LAW

At this writing the Governor and legislature of California are determined that an anti-alien ownership bill that will bar the Japaniese from acquiring title to real estate in that commonwealth shall become law. President wilson sent Secretary Bryan the long journey across the continent to Sacramento to endeavor to dissuade the lawmaking power of the State from taking this step; but Mr Bryan's mission has proved a failure, unless other counsels shall yet prevail, which is not anticipated. The Secretary was given a respectful hearing, but seemed to make no impression against the fixed determination of the Californians.

It developed one important feature of the situation, however, and that is that California will be within her constitutional rights in adopting the law, according to the opinion of the President. Mr. Wilson is naturally a States Right Democrat and does not see in the treaty-making power of the United States superior authority to that of the State in the matter at issue. But eminent lawyers, learned in contitutional law, hold otherwise, and if the pending law shall be enacted the question should be taken to the Supreme Court for final adjudication. It is undoubtedly a knotty problem and cannot be permanently decided by President Wilson, whose judgment might be reversed by his successor. The sooner it shall be settled the better, that in future the treating-making authority will know where it stands and what are its powers and limitations on the subject.

TRYING TO GET TOGETHER

Hon. Charles R. Schirm, representing the Progressives, and Mr. Wm Y. Perot the Republicans, Baltimoreans, went to Hagerstown on Monday to confer with the leaders of the two parties in Washington county in an endeavor to bring about their union in support of a ticket in opposition to the Democrats at the election next November. Both Republicans and Progressives must realize that with each of their parties supporting its own separate ticket the Democrats will have a walkover.

Mr. Schirm was formerly a Republican and was elected to Congress by the Republican party of the Fourth Congressional District. Last year he followed Col. Roosevelt into the Progressive camp, but he is evidently more antagonistic to the Democratic machine than he is to his old party. On the subject of protection he may be fairly classed as a Republican unless he has materially changed his views in relation to it. He is credited with an utterance at Hagerstown which, if he is correctly quoted, shows that he still believes the Republican party is the only organization that holds out a prospect of successful opposition to the common enemy. He is reported as saying:

"Every important reform in this State since 1895 has been secured through the Republican party, assisted by independent Democrats, and the State can be saved this time by the Progressives and Independents uniting with the Republicans The high-water mark of the Progressives was reached at the last election. The tide is fast receding and the Progressive ticket would at this time make a comparatively poor showing."

The opinion expressed in the latter part of the quotation may or may not be entirely correct, though it is well known that many of those who voted for Col. Roosevelt did so as Republicans and are now back in the fold of the Grand Old Party which has done so much for the country and, as Mr. Schirm states, is entitled to the credit of all the reforms which have been made in Maryland since 1895.

But it is equally clear that acting independently of each other the Republican and Progressive parties in this State will simply hand over its entire government to the Democrats. Neither is big enough alone to beat this common enemy.

WHERE DRAW THE LINE

Senator Works, of California, recently introduced a bill in the United States Senate to make it unlawful to publish details of crimes and accidents in the District of Columbia and in a speech in support of the measure made a plea for the purification of the press and its restriction in the publication of such details. His plea was in the interest of the public, he said—first, that part of the public to whom the kind of news printed in many newspapers was revolting and, second, to those great numbers of the people who have unknowingly developed a taste for the morbid and sensational by reading just that kind of news. After citing and classifying the various kinds of bad news, the senator told of the responsibilities of the press, offered a remedy and told of great good that might be accomplished by the newspapers if their efforts might be directed in the channels of clean journalism.

Senator Works said at the outset and repeated at the close of his remarks that he did not expect his bill would or could be enacted into law, because in the first place the cry would be raised that it was unconstitutional and transgressing the rights of freedom of speech and the press. He further said that not in this way could the desired end be attained, for clean and reliable journalism could be reached not by legislation and compulsion, but by education and the cooperation of newspaper publishers themselves. He merely embraced this opportunity, he said, of calling to the attention of the people of the nation, from his seat in the United States Senate, the gross evils of present day journalism and urging a nation-wide effort toward their correction.

NEWS DEFECTS

Two principal defects in news as it is usually presented were pointed out by Senator Works—first unfitness, and second unreliability. In the first class of news, which he urged should be prohibited from being published at all, were included the presentation of undue details of criminal and scandalous occurrences. A mere statement of the facts in such instances, he maintained, should be sufficient and would carry all the news value; but that it was the general rule that every side and angle of these occurrences would be portrayed in detail, with the worst side out, and the worse the occurrence the more vividly it was emphasized. Furthermore, great injustice is done, he said, to innocent persons in some way associated or related to the principals in an affair, by dragging into the recitals the names and actions of those people who had nothing to do with the occurrence on which the story centers. Privacy is ignored and confidences abused, all to add livid coloring to an item of inconsequential news.

In the case of accidents, Senator Works said, much discomfort and injustice is done the public, and especially to those who have special interest in persons affected, by exagerated, misleading and frequently absolutely false and fabricated accounts published in the newspapers.

The instance of the Titanic disaster was referred to in this connection and a number of concrete examples cited.

Sensationalism in headlines was decried as having an unfortunate influence on the impressionable minds, an instance of 51 headings of a destructive tendency being cited as published in a single issue of one local paper, all leading impure and objectionable news items. The effect of this portrayal of the world's evil, with the magnifying of the imaginative news writer who is catering to the sensational, the senator said was far reaching—beyond conception. Its effect on the men who had to write that kind of copy he said was demoralizing, to begin with, not to mention the tremendous effect for evil on the readers. Respectable people, he said, do not want to see that kind of matter in print, while others ought not to have it, and that publishers should be prohibited from feeding such mental poison to the public just as they are forbidden to distribute other kinds of immoral literature now barred from the mails.

DEMAND FOR REFORM

That the people do not want that kind of news, he says, is evidenced by repeated demands for its suppression. Numerous instances of such protest were given.

Unreliability of the press was another branch of the subject discussed. Newspapers were criticized for printing exagerated reports of events falsifying and fabricating stories in the absence of correct information and distorting the fatcs when available, for the purpose of making the news more sensational or "interesting" than the facts. In addition to the ignorant misrepresentation, he said, was the wilful and malicious distortion for serving personal ends.

The camera and cartoon drew their share of criticism from Senator Works as agencies capable of the greatest good, but abused and misusel with dire results on the comfort and morals of readers and those portrayed. While photography in the newspaper field might be used to great advantage as an educator, he said, it is more often employed to emphasize the evil that men do that is written into the news columns. Cartoons that might be employed to amuse and elevate and point morals were too freequently drawn to attack and harm some person or institution.

The claim is made in support of this kind of journalism he says, that the newspapers are giving the people what they want and that they must give this kind of news to make the papers pay. In answer to this the senator said that in the first place he did not think that was generally true, and even if it were true the newspapers had no more right to give the people that kind of news just because they wanted it than they had the right to publish other forms of literature that are branded morally and legally unfit to print. The press has a high responsibility, he said, which cannot be resigned for commercial purposes.

That there is a movement of protest against the evils of journalism Senator Works aimed to show by numerous examples. He read editorials to show that the best newspapers object to it. Articles written by many people on the subject were read and the fact cited that Indiana, Missouri and Kansas have state laws similar to the federal law he proposed, designed to meet this growing evil. Three remedies were offered. The first was in th press itself, in assuming a higher standard, to fall below which would ostracize one of its number. The second remedy proposed was with the reader—a plea for readers to refuse to read papers that publish objectionable matter.

There is sound reason in what Senator Works says, but to eliminate such objectionable matter as he describes from the press, by law, is utterly impracticable even if such a law would not be unconstitutional. It would require a government censorship over every newspaper in the country, with a multitude of censors who might hold views on the subject not in accord with each other so that one journal would have the privilege of publishing news in a form that would be forbidden to another. This objection to such a law is insurmountable. Law cannot heal this deep-seated disease of the press, more's the pity, as there can be little hope that it will be overcome by popular opposition. There are many persons who never read details of horrible crimes, suicides, murders and the like, or of heart-rending accidents, but these persons are in a lamentable minority, and their influence next to nothing with publishers of the great daily newspapers. Most of the country journals are not amenable to the charge made by Senator Works against the press. Clean journalism is a characterstic of most of these papers.

If a sufficient number of people in all communities reached by newspapers containing such objectionable matter as is described could be induced to form associations committed to cease their patronage of such papers it might have a salutary effect in lessening the evil; but the organization of such associations is a practical impossibility. Parents may train their children to refrain from reading such stories as are objected to, and, after all, organizations to promote such family action would do more good than any law that could be passed on the subject. No law could be made to tell just where to draw the line between objectionable and nonobjectionable details.

A NON-RESIDENT

An English tourist was sightseeing in Ireland and the guide had pointed out the Devil's Gap, the Devil's Peak, and the Devil's Leap to him. "Pat," he said (all English tourists call Irish peasants "Pat," just as they call little boys "Tommy?"), "the devil seems to have a great deal of property in this district!"

"He has, sir," replied the guide, "but, sure, he's like all the landlords—he lives in England."—Manchester Guardian.

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