

educational development into American citizenship.

The responsibility for the success or failure of the schools rests wholly with the people, and therefore the public schools should be kept as near to the people as practicable. To this end we indorse the principle of popular local self-government in all school matters.

Since education is a matter of highest public concern, our public school system should be fully and adequately supported by taxation, and tax laws should be honestly and rigidly enforced, both as to assessment and collection.

We thank and congratulate the management of the Louisiana Purchase exposition in giving education first place in the scheme of classification, in location and in grandeur of building, and in extent and arrangement of educational exhibits. Such recognition of education is in harmony with the genius of democracy and will stimulate interest in popular education throughout the world.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN'S SPEECH ON THE ILLINOIS CONTEST.

Delivered at the Democratic convention in St. Louis, on the afternoon of Thursday, July 7. (See pp. 230-231.) As printed in the Chicago Record-Herald of July 8.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of this Convention: I came to this convention in the hope that we would be able to agree on platform and on candidates, and have nothing to stir the feelings or rouse contention. (Applause.) I still hope that we shall be able to agree upon a platform that will represent the sentiment of all of us, so that we can present it to the country as the platform of a united party. (Prolonged applause.) I will go further than that. I still hope that we shall be able to present to the country a ticket behind which can stand a united party. (Loud cheers and applause.) And I regret that I am compelled to come in at this time and present a subject upon which your votes will be asked. But, if there is one Democratic principle more fundamental than another it is the right of a majority to rule. (Applause.) If you destroy the binding force of that principle there is nothing that can hold a party together.

And, my friends, it is because I want the Democratic party to stand on that Jeffersonian principle of majority rule that I come and present the minority report in this case. (Loud applause.)

In the State of Illinois the majority was not allowed to rule. That convention was dominated by a clique of

men who deliberately, purposely, boldly trampled upon the rights of the people of Illinois. My friends, the evidence shows that no band of train robbers ever planned a robbery upon a train more deliberately or with less conscience than they did. (Applause.) And these men who planned it and who carried it out have the audacity, the impudence and the insolence to say that, because they certify that what they did was regular, you cannot go behind their certificates.

If that is good law in a Democratic convention, it ought to be good doctrine in a court, and if it is good doctrine in a court, then the only thing that train robbers have to do in the future is to make a report of their transactions over their own signatures. (Great laughter and applause.) I reply that after they have committed their crime, all that train robbers will have to do is certify over their own signatures that it was a voluntary collection taken up for religious purposes, and deny you the right to go behind the returns. (Laughter and applause.)

They tell you that the law of the party in Illinois permits the State committee to present the chairman, and they deny the right of the convention to override the wishes of the committee. Such a doctrine would permit a past committee to fasten itself upon a new convention and dominate a new set of delegates. (Applause.)

But, my friends, that is not all: John P. Hopkins two years ago (the same chairman of the same committee) presented the recommendation of the committee and asked a vote upon it and submitted it to the convention. Two years ago he recognized the right of the Democrats in the State convention to elect their temporary chairman. This time he did not dare to do it, for if he had done it he would have been repudiated by the convention there assembled.

The minority presented a minority report, or wanted to, but the chairman of the committee, Mr. Hopkins, brought Mr. Quinn up to the convention platform, and, handing him the gavel, said that he was the chairman of the convention, and Mr. Quinn, seizing the gavel, began his rule of tyranny, despotism and unfairness. (Great applause.)

Then they had their committee of the State committee putting on the roll the delegates whom they wanted, but when the credentials committee brought in a minority report they re-

fused to consider it and refused to allow a report upon it.

And yet, in spite of the fact that that convention was not allowed to act upon its own credentials, was not allowed to decide the merits of its own delegates, yet, with all they seated they did not seat enough, for more than half of the men actually seated by the Hopkins committee have signed petitions asking that they be sent back home, and that Democrats who represent the people of that State be substituted for them in this convention. (Cheers.)

In the hearing before the committee it was asked: Why did not they present a minority report in the committee appointed to select delegates at large? Well, my friends, there was a contest in that committee. There was opposition to Hopkins and Cable; but why would you expect that a minority report would be filed? Why should they expect it, when they had already held that a minority report was only advisory, and could be put into the waste basket, and need not be acted upon?

They are estopped from asking why a minority report was not filed. They made no attempt, they declared no purpose to substitute delegates for the various districts, and, my friends, we admit in the report that if they had openly intended to substitute other men for the men selected by the districts they might have done so, but so do so it would have to be the act of the convention. The convention never attempted it. The convention was not asked to do it; and the evidence shows that the resolution that is a part of this report and upon which they relied was never introduced, was never passed, but is a fraud, pure and simple, presented here to this convention to-day. (Loud applause.)

Now, my friends, what is the duty of this Democratic convention? The Democrats of Illinois are not like the Democrats of the South. Down South the Democrats have all the local offices, and they can reward their men for their loyalty to the party. Up in Illinois there is a strong Republican majority, and the Democrats in Illinois are in many parts of the State struggling against overwhelming odds, but they are actuated by love of principles, not by hope of office.

What will you tell those men? Will you declare that the action of that convention is right? Will you support the methods employed? If they had a majority of the convention, why did they not permit a roll call? Why

would they deny it if they had the votes there? Men do not go wrong as a rule unless they think it is necessary to carry out some object, and the only way that you can decide that these men did wrong unnecessarily is to decide that they were so perverted in conscience that they did wrong from choice rather than from necessity. (Applause.)

Their whole conduct shows that their purpose was conceived in sin, born in iniquity and carried out to the destruction of Democratic hopes in that State. Give the Democrats of Illinois something to hope for. Do not tell them that when they go to a Democratic convention they must go armed as to war, prepared to fight their way up to the chairman of the convention. Let the Republican party stand as a representative of physical force, if it will. Our party stands for government by the consent of the governed.

What could they do? They could either resort to force and risk the killing that would result, or, you say, they could bolt. Yes, three-fourths of the convention could have gotten up and walked out and left one-fourth in charge as the regular convention. They hoped for a roll call. They knew that whenever they could get a roll call they could assert their rights. They only had this one roll call, and when the convention was over these men had to submit to the disfranchisement of the Democratic majority of Illinois, or they had to bring their protests to this convention; and so this petition was signed, and these men, 871, ask this convention to seat the men who have the right to seats from the districts, as shown by a majority of the votes.

They don't ask you to seat any one man. They don't ask you to seat any set of men. They don't ask you to seat Hearst men, Parker men or anybody's men. They ask you to seat the choice of the Democrats, no matter for whom they are here.

That convention was so openly, so notoriously a gag-rule and gang-run convention, that two of the men who had been out and had made a canvass in the State for Governor, refused to be candidates before that convention; and I honor Judge Prentiss, of Chicago, and Mayor Crolius, of Joliet—(applause)—I honor these men, who refused to go out as candidates of that convention; and if Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Cable had any respect for the rights of a majority to rule they would be ashamed to be here, the representatives of a minority. (Applause.)

But, my friends, if they have not learned to be ashamed to misrepresent a great State, you ought to teach them that they cannot do it with the approval of the Democratic party of the United States. (Applause.) Now their sin rests upon these men. You do not bear it. But when you, if you do, decide to seat these men, these delegates from the districts, against the evidence presented in regard to the contestants from the districts and these two national delegates, in spite of the protests of 871 members—if you do that, then you take from the shoulders of Hopkins and Quinn and Cable the odium that they bear, and put it upon the Democratic party of the nation and indorse that attempt. (Applause.)

You have not this condition in other States to-day, but let this convention indorse this conduct and the next national convention will see more than one State here as the result of gavel rule. And it is because this question transcends the interests of any State or any candidate or any faction, that I am here to present the minority report, and to ask you to do to the Democrats of Illinois that justice that this gang denied them, deliberately and insolently. (Cheers and continued applause.)

AN ECHO FROM THE JOHN P. HOPKINS MAYORALTY.

For The Public.

A paper found among the effects of Mr. Aloysius McCarmichael, deceased, some time a member of the municipal police of the city of Chicago, nephew of the Honorable Alderman Fergus McSwizzle, and second cousin (once removed) of Timothy McFosh, once under bailiff of Honorable Justice Hold P. Qulsite, of the West Madison street court, being a copy of letter addressed by the deceased (in his lifetime) to the then President of the United States.

November 13, 1895.

Mr. President, I'm writin' you this letter. Though I'm grievin' that I cannot make it better;

But I'm eddicated poor,
And you'll do your best, I'm sure,
To remimber what I say and not forgett'er.

We be runnin' of a joint, me and me brother;

Not a swell dive, but as good as any other
You can find in our block,

Where we kape a little stock,
So the byes do get a drink widout much bother.

We was both of us pollsmen for the city,
And we used to travel nights, for we was gritty;

But we lost our job, one day,
'Cause a felle got away;
Which the Captain said he thought it was a pity.

Now, the Mayor of the city was our frind,
For he said that any help that we could find,

In his last election fight,
He would certainly make right;
Now, to show you how he did it, I intind.

First, we put up forty bucks apiece to start;
Thin we worked both day and night, in every part

Of the old first ward; you see,
We live down on the levee;
Thin, to think that we should get the marbie heart!

Next, we waited for six months to get our stars;

(While we waited we was drivin' on the cars;

And we hadn't worked a week,
When the rottin little sneak
Got away, that should have stayed behind the bars.

I was fined for all the pay I should have got;

But the felle said he'd pay me, which was rot;

Not a cint in all his close;
But the divil goes and blows
To the Mayor; which was Johnny on the Spot.

Now, the Captain and the Mayor had coluded

Jus' to see if we could asy be deluded;

They put up a dirty job
Which nobody but a slob
Would have bit; and me and brother was exciuded.

Did you ever see this Johnny on the Spot?
He's the cutest politician of the lot,

For he's always strickly in it,
From the Council to the Senate,
When there's anything wid money to be got.

Sure, that bucko has a record most umbrageous,

And they say, you know, that it was quite outrageous;

For the way he trun us down,
When he run this little town,
Would set any man to swearing most courageous.

He said he'd git the polis a divorce,
And from politics he'd sparate the force;

And we thought he mint to do it;
If he did, we never knew it;
And the fees we paid wint into Johnny's purse.

Thin, he told us we could run our little games;

Sure, the sargint came and took down all our names;

Thin, he shook down every kitty;
Damned a one in all the city
Made enough to buy their license picture frames.

Thin, we thought we had him laid out on the shelf,

For he never spint a cint of all that pelf;

But, from Pullman down till now,
He was always in a row,
Tryin' how to kape the whole thing for himself.

That's the way he got the name of Alexander;

Any felle that was cold enough to wander

Wid his trap shut like a clam,
Or a door agin the jamb,
Wouldn't ever hear a hiss of goose or gander.

Did yez ever see the little divil grin?
Yez would me't if all yer bowels were of tin;