

in the same day. Yet, if we pause to inquire, if we are not already convinced beforehand to vote for and pass this legislation without investigation of the conditions with which it deals, without any knowledge of its effect in application, without even being informed of the reasons which controlled in framing it, we are accused of "giving aid and comfort to the enemy." We are denounced by the Attorney General as traitors to the Republican party and threatened with the displeasure of the Administration. Mr. President, men who have grown gray fighting the battles of the Republican party are not obliged to have their Republicanism certified by an Attorney General, who, until recently, was known to the public chiefly as attorney for the Big Business and financial interests of New York. Nor will they be intimidated by him or his kind in their efforts to bring the Republican party in Congress and convention, as it still is among the people, back to the Republicanism of Lincoln, to the service of public interests and of public interests alone.

The pending bill has been heralded to the country as "a bill to create a court of commerce." It is true that the bill proposes in the first section to create a court of commerce, but the court of commerce provision is relatively of so little importance among the many provisions of this bill that, giving not the slightest clew to the real purposes of this legislation, it amounts, in effect, to a misnomer. The bill is before the country under false pretenses and a false title. The court of commerce provision is little more than a mask, behind which lurk unknown and unnumbered villainies of proposed legislation. This bill, Mr. President, is the boldest raid upon public right in the form of legislation upon this great subject that the System ever has succeeded in forcing upon the serious consideration of Congress.

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Democratic Politics.

Jefferson's birthday dinners on the 13th brought out expressions from leading Democrats upon the present political situation in the United States. The most notable in that respect were the dinner at Washington and the one at Indianapolis, at both of which a letter from William J. Bryan, who was traveling in South America when he wrote it, was read. Objections to parts of it were made by some of the Democratic leaders. Following is the part of the letter that contained the expressions to which objections were made:

I notice that we seem likely to win a victory over the meat trust. Monopoly prices at last have provoked a popular protest, and now that the people are looking for a remedy there is hope that they will accept the Democratic remedy. It is not unnatural that they should use the boycott, even if they punish themselves while they are inflicting punishment on their oppressors; but I am sure they will in the end, find legislation more satisfactory than abstinence from meat, and join with the Democrats in declaring a private monopoly—not the meat trust only, but every private monopoly—indefensible and intolerable. Another item of news has just come to my attention. President Taft, in his Lincoln speech at New York Feb. 12, attributes present high prices

mainly to the increase in the production of gold and the consequent enlargement of the volume of money. This unexpected indorsement of our party's proposition in 1896, when we demanded more money as the only remedy for falling prices, is very gratifying. How valuable that admission would have been to us if it had been made during the campaign of that year, when the Republican leaders were denying that the volume of money had any influence on prices, and asserting that it did not matter whether we had much money or little, provided it was all good. We may now consider the quantitative theory of money established beyond dispute and proceed to the consideration of other questions. But the President and his predecessor have admitted the correctness of the Democratic position on so many questions that further argument is hardly necessary on any subject. We may take judgment against the Republican party by confession.

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Another Landslide.

A Standpat Republican was defeated for Congress on the 19th at Rochester, N. Y., by James S. Havens, a Democrat, by 5,000 plurality. The Republican, whose death had caused the vacancy, was elected in 1908 by 10,167.

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Bryan's Return.

After a tour of South America and the West Indies, William J. Bryan returned to the United States on the 18th, landing at New York. After a call upon Mayor Gaynor, he was received at dinner by the Circumnavigators' Club, which had elected him to membership. Asked by newspaper interviewers if he would consent to accept another nomination for the Presidency, Mr. Bryan said: "I have said all I am going to say on that subject. I think my position is understood perfectly. I don't think it necessary to deny stories that I am going to be a candidate for the United States Senate or that I am going to embrace the Prohibition movement."

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Convention of Women Suffragists.

The most memorable national convention of women suffragists in the history of that movement in the United States (vol. xii, p. 664; vol. xiii, p. 256) assembled at Washington, D. C., on the 14th and remained in session until the 19th. They were addressed by President Taft on the opening day; and among the speakers at their mass meetings were Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Ella S. Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Robins. In a long procession of taxicabs on the 18th they sent to Congress a petition for a Constitutional amendment giving suffrage to women. The petition, which was signed by 400,000 persons, was delivered to Senators and Representatives in bundles by States. These were presented to the two Houses by the members entrusted with them. Senator La Follette made an eloquent speech in the Senate in behalf of the petition as he pre-

sented it. No speeches were made in the House, the rules forbidding speeches on presenting petitions. Committee hearings were had on the 19th under the leadership of the Rev. Anna Shaw before the judiciary committee of the Senate, and Florence Kelley before the judiciary committee of the House. The convention elected on the 18th the following officers for the National American Suffrage Association: President, Anna Shaw; first vice-president, Rachel Foster Avery; second vice-president, Catharine Waugh McCulloch; recording secretary, Ella S. Stewart; corresponding secretary, Mary Ware Dennett; treasurer, Harriet Taylor Upton; auditors, Laura Clay and Alice Stone Blackwell.

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President Taft at the Suffrage Convention.

It was announced on the 13th that President Taft, whose friendliness to women's suffrage was one of the features of his campaign for the Presidency, would address the national convention of women suffragists at Washington (p. 256), and, according to the Washington correspondence of the Chicago Tribune of the 14th, delegates to the convention asserted that he would "go further than a mere address of welcome" and would "speak words of real encouragement for the cause." His acceptance aroused the organized anti-suffrage women who wrote him a letter of protest, and when he came to speak on the 14th he made what he described as his "confession of faith":

I am not entirely certain that I ought to have come tonight, but your committee who invited me assured me that I would be welcome, even if I did not support all the views which were to be advanced. I considered that this movement represented a sufficient part of the intelligence of the community to justify my coming here to welcome you to Washington. . . .

When I was 16 years old, and was graduated from the Woodward High school in Cincinnati, I took for my subject, "Woman Suffrage," and I was as strong an advocate of woman suffrage as any member of this convention. I had read Mills' "Subjection of Woman"; my father was a woman suffragist, and so at that time I was orthodox. But in the actual political experience which I have had I have modified my views somewhat.

In the first place, popular representative government we approve and support, because on the whole every class, that is, every set of individuals who are similarly situated in the community, who are intelligent enough to know what their own interests are, is better qualified to determine how those interests shall be cared for and preserved than any other class, however altruistic that class may be. But I call your attention to two qualifications in that statement—one is that the class should be intelligent enough to know its own interests. The theory that Hottentots or any uneducated, altogether unintelligent class, is fitted for self-government at once, or to take part in government, is a theory that I wholly dissent from, but this qualification is not applicable

to the question here. The other qualification to which I call your attention is that the class should, as a whole, care enough to look after its interests to take part as a whole in the exercise of political power, if it is conferred. Now, if it does not care enough for this, then it seems to me that the danger is, if the power is conferred, that it may be exercised by that part of the class least desirable as political constituents, and be neglected by many of those who are intelligent and patriotic and would be most desirable as members of the electorate.

The last phrases of this sentence were drowned out in the volume of murmurs of disapproval and hisses. Mr. Taft continued, after a moment:

Now, my dear ladies, you must show yourselves equal to self-government by exercising, in listening to opposing arguments, that degree of restraint without which successful self-government is impossible. If I could be sure that women as a class in the community, including all the intelligent women most desirable as political constituents, would exercise the franchise, I should be in favor of it. At present there is considerable doubt upon this point. In certain of the States which have tried it, woman suffrage has not been a failure. It has not made, I think, any substantial difference in politics. I think it is perhaps possible to say that its adoption has shown an improvement in the body politic, but it has been tested only in those States where the population is sparse and where the problem of intrusting such power to women in the concentrated population of great cities is not presented. For this reason, if you will permit me to say so, my impression is that the task before you in obtaining what you think ought to be granted in respect to the political rights of women is not in convincing men, but it is in convincing the majority of your own class of the wisdom of extending the suffrage to them and of their duty to exercise it.

The convention sent a letter of apology to President Taft for the hissing and he wrote in reply an acceptance of the apology.

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Labor Lockout in Germany.

Despatches from Berlin tell of an enormous lockout of workmen by a general combination of employers. It began on the 15th, and on the 16th 250,000 workmen were locked out. The object of the lockout, as stated by the employers, is to subdue the working classes so that they will not be able to continue their policy of forcing higher wages and shorter hours by bringing on local strikes and thereby securing agreements from time to time and here and there from employers unable single-handed to resist their demands. The immediate occasion for the lockout was the unanimous refusal of the federation of trades unions to accept a wage tariff proposed by the master builders' union. The general employers' organization, which includes representatives of every German industry, is supporting the lockout and already has voted several million marks for the aid of master builders.