

There are plenty of anti-Bryan democrats who in good faith have accepted Bryan as the next candidate. They may be trusted. But the plutocratic gang who were eager to ruin when they could not rule, are only watching for an opportunity to recover control of the party organization. They rely chiefly upon the law of democratic conventions that a two-thirds vote is necessary to nominate; and in order to avail themselves of this law, they are opposing the instruction of delegates. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that all democratic constituencies that oppose reactionary proceedings at the national convention should instruct their delegates for Bryan. Not the least important temptation to uninstructed delegates at Kansas City will be Hanna's campaign fund. The Hanna plutocrats are just as anxious to defeat Bryan at the democratic convention as are the "democratic" plutocrats. Let him who doubts it read the Hanna newspapers.

Friends of municipal ownership of public utilities should at least hesitate about giving to the city of New York the credit of having applied that principle to the underground transit system now in process of construction. The application appears to be only nominal. It is a reasonable presumption from the facts that the existing railroad interests of the city have succeeded in vesting in a state commission, controlled by themselves, the power to dispose of rapid transit franchises upon its own terms. It has express authority to lay out routes, to acquire property, to contract for construction without competition, and, also without competition, to lease roads when built and paid for by the city for terms of 50 years with privilege of renewal. Pursuant to this extraordinary power, the commission has made a contract for the construction of the underground road. It agrees, in behalf of the city, to pay the contractor for construction and equipment \$36,000,000; and upon the completion of

his work to turn the road over to him upon a 50 years' lease, with the privilege of a 25 years' renewal. For this he is to pay an annual sum equal to the annual interest payable by the city on construction bonds—not including bonds for rights of way, etc.—and a contingent sum not exceeding one per cent. on such bonds. This is an astounding contract. The only feature of municipal ownership about it is the fact that the city pays for the road. Observe that the lessees get possession for 75 years of an invaluable franchise for not more than one per cent. of the cost of construction. All above that sum they are to pay is nothing but rental for the plant. When other terms of the lease are considered the lessees are really to pay nothing at all for the franchise. For they are guaranteed exemption from taxation, both as to franchise and equipment, for the entire period. Moreover, at the end of the term, the city is to purchase the equipment of the lessees. Under this contract the people of New York will some time wish to know whether the city owns the road or the lessees own the city.

The secretary of the British humanitarian league circumstantially denies the assertion made by John G. Shortall, of Chicago, that highway robbery with violence was suppressed in England by the use of the lash. The league explains the probable basis of Mr. Shortall's assertion. In 1862 there was a sudden outbreak of garroting in the streets of London. This criminal epidemic lasted only four months, and no person convicted of the crime was flogged. It was not until six or eight months after the garroting epidemic had subsided that the bill to authorize flogging for violent robberies was introduced. Evidently the English flogging act is not a valuable precedent for citation in support of the brutal notion that flogging lessens crime.

In an editorial of March 28, on the Philippine question, the Chicago Times-Herald, Mr. Kohlsaats' paper, made a fatal admission for a protec-

tion organ. Referring to the prophecy from certain quarters that American industries would suffer if Philippine products were admitted to the states free of duty, it said:

This is the cheapest sort of political clap trap. None of the products of the Philippines will come to the United States except those whose natural market is here and for which American consumers have need.

That is sound doctrine. But it smashes the protection theory to flinders. If foreign products will not come to this country unless this is their natural market and our consumers need them, we require no protection tariff to prevent foreigners from overwhelming us with cheap goods. To say that we do is, in the language of the Times-Herald, "the cheapest sort of political clap trap." The Times-Herald is right. It is American consumers, not foreign producers, who bring foreign goods to this country. And by that same token it is American consumers whose needs all protective tariffs interfere with.

Col. Alexander S. Bacon has published a pamphlet in which he charges Col. Roosevelt, now governor, with being a "quitter." In substantiation of the charge Col. Bacon quotes from the official report of Maj. Reed, to be found at page 102 of the inspector general's report. Maj. Reed there states, says Col. Bacon, that while the American army lay before Santiago and Shafter was negotiating for a surrender Col. Roosevelt said to his superior officer:

Twenty-five per cent. of my rough riders can't carry a pail of water from the creek to the trenches. No man can decry me or my regiment, but we must accede to the next proposition from the enemy.

This quotation sounds much more like a whine than an expression of that strenuous spirit which Col. Roosevelt affects.

It is not an easy thing for a political candidate who sincerely believes in removing the legal obstacles which put workingmen at the mercy of great capitalists, to refuse to pledge