

The Public

LOUIS F. POST, Editor

ALICE THACHER POST, Managing Editor

Vol. IX.

Number 437.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1906.

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EDITORIAL

The Labor Element in Republican Politics.

If the inspired dispatches in Republican papers are true, Republican national leaders have decided to break with the labor leaders who have heretofore been found so useful to them. It is now nearly thirty years since the Republican party began to fool the labor sentiment of the country with its cry of "protection to American labor." The protection has turned out to be for the trusts

and those interested in them, and not at all for the working classes; but with a strange fatuity workmen with their ever-empty dinner pail have been toddling along behind Republican banners, like little school boys running after the circus wagons as they pass through the village, thinking the thoughts and saying the words of the prosperous. But now that the great financial interests have secured their tariff privileges and established themselves in economic power, Republican leaders feel that they can afford to come to an issue with organized labor in politics, and organized labor is beginning to hear the snapping of their fingers and to catch now and then an echo of their oral jocularity.

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The Hearst Campaign in New York.

It is evident from the reports from New York that the Independence League, through which William R. Hearst is prosecuting his work in politics, will force him to the front as its candidate for governor; and the indications are very strong that he may be elected. "It would be foolish to deny," says the New York Press (Republican), editorially, "that the radical element of the Republican party is going to the League just as surely as the radical element of the Democratic party." To this the Press adds: "It is more than likely that the radical Republicans who swing over to the League will far outnumber the conservative Democrats who swing over to the Republicans." The value of this quotation is to be considered, of course, in the light of the fact that Mr. Hearst, virtually even though not nominally, is now the owner of the Press, notwithstanding that that paper continues to stand by Republican protectionism. But the statement of the Press is not overdrawn, no matter who inspired it. Our editorial correspondence of last week from one of the best newspaper observers in the East, Charles O'Connor Hennessey, is directly in line with the Press's prophecy; and in his letters from the interior of New York State the special correspondent of the New York Times, a conservative Democratic paper which Mr. Hearst does not own, virtually or otherwise, fully bears out the opinion of the Press and of Mr. Hennessey.

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If Mr. Hearst's nomination for governor should be forced upon the Democratic convention, as

many of his supporters hope and expect, his election would be almost a certainty. It is doubtful if any person at all, not completely tarred with the plutocratic stick, would be defeated this year if nominated by the Democrats and not opposed by a third party of sufficient popularity to divide the radical vote. But it is far from certain that Mr. Hearst will be nominated by the Democratic convention. There is a possibility if not a probability, that some such reactionary Democrat as Jerome may receive the Democratic nomination. In that case the contest might narrow down to Hearst and the Republican candidate, with the chances in favor of Hearst. A Democratic reactionary would count for little, perhaps, with the Democratic rank and file; and the Republicans throughout the State as well as in the city, appear to be resentful enough of the bare-faced surrender of their party to plutocratic combines to give their leaders a savage lesson. Yet any third party candidate looks stronger now than he is likely to look when the votes are counted, in a State of the political character of New York. When that time approaches more closely, it will probably appear that the nomination of a reactionary by the Democrats means the election of the Republican candidate. New York State is not New York City, and Republicans are mightily party bound.

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The Primary Law in Illinois.

Governor Deneen's pinchbeck primary law has turned out as might have been expected, and as he and his coterie of Republican "reformers" probably intended it should—barring the necessity it has put them under of compromising with Lorimer. It is a primary law only in name; not at all in substance. While it gives the rank and file of the political parties opportunity to vote at the primaries, it is so framed that their vote does not count at the conventions. A political bosses' law, it makes it quite as easy for political bosses to control nominations as it was before, and gives them the added advantage of seeming to act not only with the might but in the name of the people.

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The effect of this law in Chicago has been to put Roger C. Sullivan in control of the Democratic machinery, with ex-Mayor Harrison as his lieutenant, and to bring about a division of Republican spoils between the pretentious Deneen and the unspeakable Lorimer. In consequence, the people of Chicago are called upon to choose

between two sets of candidates which, with two or three individual exceptions in each set, are about the worst that were ever presented to a discriminating constituency. In this emergency the Independence League, under the direction of Mr. Hearst, is proposing to nominate a third ticket, composed of men worthy the support of self-respecting citizens. It is to be hoped that such a ticket may be presented. The effect might be merely a division of the Democratic vote and the election of the Republican candidates; but for the sake of genuine democracy, and even of the Democratic party itself, it would be better that the Republican machine should sweep the field and bear the responsibility and odium of putting into office such candidates as it has named, than that the Democratic party should be responsible for Sullivan and his spoils-hunting cohorts.

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Human Equality.

Secretary Bonaparte in his Chautauqua speech at Cumberland on the 12th, expounded in a somewhat remarkable manner the American idea of equality. His speech was aimed at what he called "anarchists," whom he amiably proposed to put to death without much discrimination either as to their opinions or their acts. As Mr. Bonaparte explained that socialists and anarchists are from the same root, we must assume that he intended his drastic measures for members of the Socialistic party as well as for the undefined and undefinable type, varying from Quaker to revolutionist, whom he called "anarchist." The most peculiar thing about his speech, however, was his theory of the origin of the crime of "anarchy." He traced it to the doctrine that men are born equal and that their equality ought to be maintained. That it was his purpose to condemn this doctrine is manifest; but what he meant by the doctrine he condemned is not so clear. We must assume that by equality he did not mean equality of height, or strength, or mental or physical ability; to suppose that he did would be to take Mr. Bonaparte for a fool, and it is cheerfully conceded that he is no fool. There is doubtless a good deal of the savage in him, but one may not be a fool because he happens to be a savage. Upon the assumption, then, that he did not mean equality of height, etc., Mr. Bonaparte must have alluded to equality of rights, and therefore must have intended to condemn the doctrine that men are born with equal rights and that equality of rights ought to be maintained. It would seem that Mr. Bonaparte is more in need of having the Declaration of Independence expounded to him than the