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The principal item of McKinley prosperity for the current week, the suspension of the Paterson (N. J.) Ribbon company, is the climax to a succession of stoppages of the large industries of that place which have occurred since the election. This ribbon company began business in 1883; it has a plant worth \$500,000; and creditors will be paid in full. The reason given for its suspension is "general business depression."

A proposition to have the state build a sea wall at Galveston, for the protection of the site of the new city that is expected to grow up there, is exciting a good deal of wholesome discussion in Texas. Inasmuch as such an improvement would enrich the owners of the Galveston site, people in other parts of the state fail to see the fairness of taxing themselves for the cost of building it.

In discussing the message of the American president, a prominent St. Petersburg paper says it does not regard the part which deals with the Chinese question as America's last word. The American policy having already undergone many changes, it thinks a further change not improbable. This Russian paper's opinion of Mr. McKinley is not unlike that of his own countrymen who recall his obsolete sentiments about forcible annexation and plain duty.

The postmaster general is greatly concerned again about second-class

mail matter. In his annual report he begs congress to narrow this privilege. But he is not concerned about the exorbitant prices his department pays to railroad companies for hauling the mail, and that is an enormously greater financial burden upon his department than the second-class matter evil.

On pretense of preventing frauds in the sale of oleomargarine, the lower house of congress has rushed through a bill imposing a tax of 10 cents a pound on oleomargarine when it is colored to resemble butter. This law is intended to protect butter makers from competition with oleomargarine makers. It has no other object. The point about coloring is a sham. If it is a fraud to color oleomargarine—which is as wholesome a food product as butter—why is it not a fraud to color one kind of butter so as to resemble another kind? Yet this is as common as coloring oleomargarine. The bill might reasonably be so amended as to put the 10 cent tax on both butter and oleomargarine when either is colored to resemble what it is not. Such a tax, at any rate, would not be a tariff for the protection of the butter industry against the competition of another industry equally desirable.

The Chicago judges decide that the Illinois anti-trust law is constitutional except as to a section which discriminates between corporations, subjecting some to its penalties and exempting others. They could hardly have decided otherwise, without usurping the functions of the legislature. But the next legislature might engage in worse business than doing what the judges couldn't do. They should repeal the law. An obstruction to

legitimate business combination, it in no wise prevents or modifies the trust evil. It accomplishes nothing beyond extorting an annual dollar for the secretary of state's office from all corporations that would rather pay the dollar and swear that they are not in a trust than submit to a fine of fifty dollars.

Some of the clergymen of Cleveland who are deeply concerned about the difficulty of getting a good attendance at church, contemplate a season of prayer and fasting behind closed doors to see what effect this will have. They say they have tried several other devices, including the preaching of sermons on subjects of popular interest. Have they tried the experiment of making their churches religious instead of pious?

One of the ablest political documents of recent times is William J. Bryan's letter to the public, which appeared in the Chicago American on the 10th. It is his first review since election of the political situation and outlook. Without assailing Grover Cleveland by so much as a single word, Mr. Bryan briefly but completely marshals the facts in connection with Mr. Cleveland's second term so as to make them tell their own story of treachery on the tariff question and party disruption on the money question. This recapitulation of facts will not be relished by Cleveland's admirers. But it is difficult to guess what objections they can urge against the reasons Bryan recites to justify the reiteration of the silver plank in the campaign of 1900. He makes out a perfect case, both upon the score of expediency and of common honesty. And while he admits that the republican party was able to make use of this action on the

silver question to threaten borrowers and scare bank depositors, he truly says that "this could not have been avoided without a complete surrender to the influences which control the republican party." Incidentally he administers a merited rebuke to the men who call themselves democrats but who in the recent campaign urged "opposition to silver as a reason for defending trusts, a large army and an imperial policy." But what is calculated most to strengthen the confidence of those democrats who believe in Bryan's democracy, and to draw others of their kind toward him, is his brief but vital discussion of the shifting issues of political campaigns. Because no one can foresee events, no one in 1896 could tell, he says, what would be the paramount issue in 1900, nor can anyone tell what will be the paramount issue of 1904. But, he continues—

while no one can foresee events, parties, like individuals, can have fixed and definite principles and can apply these principles to new issues as they arise. The man who is determined to obey the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," cannot foresee what temptation may come to him or what emergencies he may have to meet, but he can know that he will not take that which belongs to another, no matter how great the temptation may be.

In this habit of meeting the shifting problems of daily life by reference to absolute principle, trying both to know and to apply the principle aright, lies the strength of Mr. Bryan's character and the tenacious quality of his popularity. It is also the explanation of his unpopularity. The man who truly makes principle his mentor and guide is a dubious character to a large proportion of mankind. They don't understand that mode of life. There would seem, at any rate, to be no other reasonable explanation of the bitterness of hate which a large class of conventionally good people exhibit toward this young man of manifest ability, of proved

moral character and of stainless life. He lives in the concrete what they only preach in the abstract.

Mayor James K. McGuire, of Syracuse, makes a plausible prediction regarding the democratic presidential nomination for 1904. He believes that if conservative forces secure control of the party, David B. Hill will be the nominee; but "if the radical element of the party develops strength enough to again get into the saddle," that then the nominee will be Mr. Bryan. This prediction is doubtless as nearly right as can be expected of political forecasts, and it is a very clear indication of the present condition of the party. Hill would not be an ideal candidate for the plutocratic elements, but he approximates it as closely as they could hope for, since Cleveland, who is their ideal, is out of the question. And though a large proportion of the democratic element of the party do not regard Bryan as an ideal democrat, neither his superior nor his equal has yet been heard of. Over these two names, then, as well as can be judged at present, the plutocratic and the democratic elements of the democratic party are likely during the next four years to wage the conflict that will determine whether the democratic party shall any longer represent democracy in party politics.

"Fusion being dead in Kansas, the democracy will again assert itself," is the substance of an observation of a leading democrat of that state whose democracy is marked with the McKinley brand—Col. William H. Rossington, to wit. Since the democracy of Kansas is to assert itself because fusion is dead, it should be interesting to observe how the democracy of Kansas did assert itself before fusion was born. And interesting it is. Cleveland lost the state in 1888 by more than 80,000 votes. Now, as fusion in its "death struggle" lost it by less than 26,000—

Bryan the "fusionist" getting 60,000 more votes than Cleveland the "democrat," and McKinley only 5,000 more than Harrison—a question arises. Which is the deader, Kansas fusion or Kansas democracy?

An astounding political confession is made by the Buffalo Express. After supporting Mr. McKinley throughout the campaign, and though still holding the attitude of a McKinley paper, it completely collapses in its support of McKinley's Philippine policy. And what is especially notable is its recognition of the fraudulent character of the McKinley campaign with reference to the war in the Philippines. We quote from a leading editorial in its issue of November 30:

It is high time the American public got over its delusions about this war. It has deceived itself too long with the notion that it was fighting merely an ambitious rebel chief, representing only a fraction of a single tribe and maintaining his power as much by the terror he inspires as by any sense of patriotism. We are not fighting a government or an army, but a whole people.

But the American public has not deceived itself, as the Express assumes. It has been deceived by its public servants and their obliging newspapers. Mr. McKinley himself contributed to the deception. He helped make a gullible public believe that he was trying to put down an ambitious rebel chief, who represented only a small and barbarous tribe and maintained his power by terrorizing a peaceably disposed Philippine population who were yearning for American protection. Not only did McKinley and his supporters falsify the situation in that respect. They also assured the same gullible public—which consisted, however, as the vote indicates, of only about 54 per cent. of the voting population of the country—that McKinley's election would so discourage the Filipinos that peace with American sovereignty would follow immediately. But here is what the Buffalo Express of the date noted