

again be quite the same. There followed after 1904, as there was bound to follow, a reaction against the reaction. The party made a rush not merely to reoccupy, but to push forward the abandoned outposts. Mr. Bryan's ascendancy, never really forfeited, became once more an unchallenged fact. The adoption by Mr. Roosevelt of most of the planks in the Chicago platform of 1896 helped to put Mr. Bryan in a juster light. He is unquestionably the only Democrat in the country who can hope to wipe out the enormous lead with which the Republicans enter the campaign. The task may again prove to be beyond his strength. But Bryanism is something greater than Mr. Bryan, and his personal fortunes will not affect or discount the inspiring fact that the Democratic party is again on the high road of Radicalism and in touch once more with realities.

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The March of Constitutionalism.

The (New York) Nation (ind.), July 30.—The years since 1904 have constituted an exceptional period. It calls for no perverted historical imagination to realize that we have been witnessing during these four years a tremendous social and political evolution in open and rapid play. Japan triumphant, Russia constitutionalized, Persia constitutionalized, China preparing for a constitution, India and Egypt stirred by great dreams of self-rule—it has been like a picture from a gigantic, swiftly-moving film projected upon a canvas covering nearly half the earth. And now comes Turkey. Abdul Hamid, aghast at the spirit of mutiny which has blazed up among his Macedonian and Albanian regiments, has called a Liberal Grand Vizier to power, announced the grant of a Constitution, and summoned a Parliament to meet in Constantinople. To the world at large the news comes like a bolt from the blue. In Russia, the Constitution of August, 1905, was preceded by six months of revolutionary activity. In Persia there was a long preceding period of agitation. But it is only a day or two ago that we learned how active the leaders of Young Turkey have been among the troops. In that day or two the Sultan has taken fright and submitted. . . . The effects which the new Constitution will produce in Turkey itself are too complicated for summary treatment. But the new Constitution has an importance and bearing outside of the Ottoman Empire. It comes as a timely reinforcement to the cause of constitutionalism in those places where the forces of political progress have still to contend with formidable difficulties. Only the other day liberal institutions in Persia were in the most serious danger. Today it cannot be doubted that the example of the leading Mohammedan nation will make it impossible for Persia to go back. Even in Russia autocracy, disguised as constitutionalism, must feel the effect. For very shame, the Czar cannot return to methods and institutions that Abdul Hamid has discarded. To civilization at large the event at Constantinople brings notable grounds for rejoicing. It brings another refutation of that gospel of inferior and superior races which has been made the basis of the brutal ethics of Imperial conquest and exploitation. Islam may rule itself. Liberty and democracy are not the special gifts of the divinely endowed white European races.

RELATED THINGS

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THE ARCHITECT AND THE BUILDERS.

For The Public.

Ye Lords of Earth still tell us,
 "The slave must be a clod";
 Ye mark poor bodies here for Hell
 Whose souls belong to God.

If we were great Creators,
 With Wisdom, Love and Might,
 Would we make a fellow-mortal,
 If we could not build him right?

And we are strictly human,
 Our weakness known abroad;
 We cannot claim a kindness
 That we won't ascribe to God!

Ah! it seems the more we ponder,
 Philosophize and thresh—
 What comes from God is noble,
 The Strife is born of Flesh!

Strife, that's the Tyrant's ally;
 Strife, that's the Gospel's knell.
 God gave us plans for Heaven;
 'Tis men that build the Hell.

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK.

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RAYMOND ROBINS AT THE DENVER CONVENTION.

Address of Raymond Robins of Illinois, Before the
 National Democratic Convention at Denver, July
 9, as Reported by the Associated Press.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow Democrats: It is good to have been one of the boys of 1896 and to be one of the men of 1908. (Applause.) It is good to have stood with that man who came out of the West, a man with a message, a man who made that message the conscience of the whole great people. (Applause.) From the East to the West and from the North to the South men honor both the man and the message. (Applause.)

Within that time a great leader of another party in this country has risen to national fame upon the basis of the policies declared by the man in his first message to a Democratic people in the convention of 1896 in the city of Chicago; and the difference between the applause given in Chicago to the man who adopted the principles of Bryan, and the applause given to the originator of those principles, is an indication of the difference in majorities between a man's man and the man himself, next November. (Applause.)

And what is the great struggle? It has not

been a struggle any less great than this: Throughout the nation there has been a contest between the group of plunder on the one hand and the group of toil on the other, and to-day we are lined up in this nation upon that issue. The Democratic party has always been the defender of honest property; the Republican party has the peculiar privilege of being the defender of monopoly plunder from one end of the nation to the other. In that difference lies the great struggle of this nation at this time.

There are two kinds of property, men and women of America. There is the kind of property that comes from honest toil, whether it be of hand or brain; and there is the other kind of property wrung by special privilege of legislation, wrung by cunning and by greed, wrung by injunction processes and the like from the sweat and blood of working people and business people of all kinds who really earn what they eat. (Applause.) And to-day throughout the nation there is that distinction being made in the minds of the people. We want all honest property protected, and we intend to protect it to the limit of the power of the law and the power of the whole people; but we intend to take the water values out of the great corporations by which they have charged the workers of the country six and seven per cent upon millions of dollars of water that were created over night by gentlemen sitting at a table and charging it against the producing masses of the world. (Applause.) We want to protect the property of labor and of business in every department, in every corner of the nation; but the only way you can protect honest property is to destroy monopoly plunder in every form. (Applause.) You cannot maintain both. You cannot maintain the workers working for their daily bread, the people who feed and clothe and house the world, and at the same time maintain in idleness a group of automobile bums who clip the coupons of privilege, and live upon the labor of the working world. (Applause.)

We have had twelve years of undisputed control by one party in all branches of the Federal Government, and this last winter has witnessed the greatest groups of men standing at the bread lines in the large cities of the nation that we have ever witnessed in the history of America. The crops were bountiful, the workers were willing, and the most capable in the world. The business men were eager to carry on their enterprises, and in the midst of unexampled prosperity the nation finds itself paralyzed by an overwhelming panic; and men wonder why. While dividends are being charged day after day against watered thousands and watered millions, upon railroads and steel and one great industry after another, the people cannot pay the price, and you have financial panic and ruin widespread in the midst of bounteous crops and the most capable workers

in the world. Is there not something wrong? (Applause, and a Voice: "You bet".) And the wrong is that the group of plunder has sat in the places of power, and has used the governing machinery of the whole people to secure special privileges for a few at the cost of the labor and the homes and the welfare of the nation; and you know it and I know it. (Applause.)

A little while ago there a was man standing in the presence of hungry workers in the city of New York. They asked him: "What are you going to do when men are willing to work and can't get a chance to work?" And that eminent statesman said: "God knows." He evidently did not. And I wish to say to you that the people of this country, so far as I know them, in the great group of toil, do not intend to vote for "Injunction Bill" who says "God knows," but who does not know what to do for the people of America. (Great applause.)

The traditions of this nation are the traditions of a great people, made up from the bottom to the top of free men. Manhood and womanhood are the hope and promise of America; and any man or party that tries to make the aggregation of wealth and the piling up of millions as the heritage of this people, is false to the history and false to the hope of America.

I thank you. (Great applause.)

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TAXATION IN BUFFALO.

For The Public.

In view of the agitation in some quarters for separate valuations of lands and improvements, it may be of interest to learn that the assessors of the city of Buffalo, N. Y., made separate valuations of lands and improvements in their annual tax rolls, as far back at least as 1854, although there was no law requiring it prior to 1901.

When I was connected with the Corporation Counsel's office there were many suits brought by individuals to annul the taxes upon their lands. I was afraid the rolls would be attacked on the ground that the assessors had no right to make separate valuations. Such an attack, if successful, might result in the assessors discontinuing the practice. So, with the approval of the Corporation Counsel, I prepared an amendment to the City Charter requiring the assessors to do what they were already doing. It was an easy matter to have the Common Council approve of the amendment and to secure its passage by the State legislature, under the plea that it merely legalized the practice of the assessors, without which amendment the tax rolls might be declared void by the courts. The amendment is in Laws of New York of 1901, Chapter 376, Section 3, and is, in part, as follows: "The board (of assessors) shall prepare annual assessment rolls of each ward, which