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Mr. Taft's Acceptance Speech.

It is significant, and a hopeful sign for Democratic success that the Republican candidate for the Presidency devoted most of his speech in accepting the notification of his nomination, to a discussion of the Democratic platform, rather than to an analysis of the one on which he is himself to stand. The speech was a characteristic one. Dignified in tone and manner, plausible and compromising in matter, it presented in style of expression and method of thought a great contrast to the somewhat ill-tempered and impetuous denunciations characteristic of Mr. Roosevelt, and to the evidently sincere and clear-cut declarations of Mr. Bryan, when they have had the same subjects to discuss. For all Mr. Taft's promises "to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor," he would be quite as unlikely to do it as Mr. Van Buren was when he used that phrase in Jackson's administration. The vested "big business" interests would have little to fear from Mr. Taft. By temperament, by habit of thought, by intellectual bent and training, he is a tactful, suave, able apologist for things as they are. His speech shows this to one who can read between the lines.



Take, for example, his discussion of the injunction planks in the respective platforms: He makes much of the recommendation of the Republican platform that injunctions in labor disputes should not generally issue without notice, and declares

that while in some cases they are proper without such notice, it is only infrequently. One would think from the stress that he puts on this plain proposition, and his comment on the silence of the Democratic platform about it, that it was a new proposition which would remove all danger of injustice to the workingman in the use of this autocratic process. The fact is, however, that all courts and all codes of equity practice have always recognized this fundamental rule. Sometimes, undoubtedly, it has been flagrantly violated in labor disputes, but the occasions have been rather rare. It has not been want of notice or postponements of hearings that have been responsible for most of the grievances complained of by workingmen. It has been the matter which Mr. Taft insists it is important *not* to change—the trial of alleged violations of the injunctions granted on *ex parte* affidavit testimony in which all the safeguards thrown by enlightened experience around the liberty of the citizen have been disregarded. Men accused of offenses against the law—men to whom the mass of their fellow workingmen were looking at the time for guidance and leadership—have been imprisoned on the most general statements of their former employers or employers' agents or detectives, without any opportunity for a sifting of those statements by cross-examination. If there are cases in which the intervention of a jury in such a case would be disadvantageous, they are, as Mr. Taft says of injunctions which should be granted without notice, "very few." There are none, at all events, where the hearing should not be in open court, with the power of cross-examination given to the defendant. The suggestion of Mr. Taft that "the intervention of a jury" would give greater advantage only "to the wealthy and unscrupulous defendant able to employ astute and cunning counsel and anxious to avoid justice," has a humorous sound to it when one thinks of the repugnance to jury trials which the great corporations markedly show.

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Then there is the tariff. Mr. Taft would revise it—certainly. But how? The "protective" principle must be preserved, the cost of production must be "equalized," a "reasonable profit" must be given to the American producer, and indeed "there are a few schedules in which the tariff is not sufficiently high to give the measure of protection which they should receive upon Republican principles." Even as to these latter, Mr. Taft does not advocate a change! Only "they should not be reduced." But above all, trust-produced articles must not be put on the free list as the Democratic

platform demands. That would "utterly destroy business," and is "ruthless and impracticable." We agree with Mr. Taft, that a tariff revised on his principles would not disturb "business," as he uses the word. It would only continue to disturb the welfare and happiness of almost a hundred millions of consumers!

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Mr. Taft treats also of the Philippine question. He is a kind-hearted man, and a just man according to his lights. But after all he is a shallow optimist, and as we have said, "an apologist for things as they are." One looks in vain in what he has to say on the Islands and the population in which he has been so deeply interested, for anything of the spirit which animated Mr. Bryan's wonderful address in Indianapolis in 1900. Mr. Taft is incapable constitutionally of feeling it. He belongs to the class of those who think "good government" means government by the good. That is aristocracy. Mr. Bryan believes that "good government" in any true sense means "self-government." That is democracy. And Mr. Taft has nothing to propose but "partial" self-government, even for the educated and intelligent portion of the Filipinos, until the lapse of "two generations" has completed "our great missionary work." Does Mr. Taft really believe that at the end of two generations of American exploitation of the material resources of the Philippines for the benefit of "protected" American "business men" we shall be willing to turn over the government of them to their inhabitants? We hardly think him so credulous. The Spaniards did "a great missionary work" in the Philippines. The conversion of millions of natives to Christianity by their efforts was the wonder of the world. But it did not prevent other Spaniards from oppressing, pillaging and enslaving their descendants.

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Mr. Taft's Notification.

The press reports of Mr. Taft's notification of his nomination by the Republican party for the Presidency (p. 417) gave a pretty picture of the tumultuous rejoicing of a happy people over the exaltation of their eminent townsman. But a private letter from Cincinnati presents another view. "The Taft notification," says our correspondent, "was a howling farce. One more such, and Bryan will carry Ohio, and Hamilton Co. The Roosevelt Republican Club, of which Taft is a member, was conspicuous by its absence. The sixty per cent Negro part of the parade was paid one dollar a head, and the house of refuge boys