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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE MINOR PARTIES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

II.

(From an American correspondent.)

Undoubtedly the most brilliant exponent of the Prohibition party, its aims and its platform, is President Samuel Dickie, of Albion College, Michigan, who has contributed several articles to American periodicals since the beginning of the Presidential fight. It is a popular mistake that the Prohibitionists are out and out fanatics on the liquor question, and that this issue is made paramount to the exclusion of all else. On the contrary, the party's platform bears a marked resemblance to that of the Independents, in as much as it contains "planks" demanding a graduated income and inheritance tax and the election of United States Senators by popular vote. While possessing extreme views on the drink question, Prohibitionists advocate several measures which cannot fail to coincide with views held by the best class of the American people. The abolition of child labour, for instance, is a point to which the party gives particular attention, and the countless statistics it has gathered together on this subject present an appalling picture to anybody interested enough to peruse them. Child labour in certain States flourishes to an extent that is nothing less than a national disgrace. Little mites of seven and eight years, and of even tenderer age, are debarred from educational advantages and exploited to benefit sordid capitalists who are lost to all sense of humanity and national responsibility. In many cases the parents cannot be held responsible, for the statistics furnished by the Prohibitionist party demonstrate in a lurid manner the soul-crushing poverty which exists in many States that are held up as shining examples of prosperity and good government. America has justly been called the land of the children, so far as juvenile rights are concerned; but here is a plague-spot that threatens to demoralise no inconsiderable section of the rising generation. The Prohibitionist platform also includes a woman suffrage plank, which will certainly draw feminine support to the party. With regard to the preservation of the public forests and the natural resources of the country, the "water-wagon" party is as bold and outspoken as its rival organisations, the only difference in this respect being that some platforms go farther than others in demanding that Uncle Sam keep permanent control of his lands, forests, water-power, and mineral deposits.

The Prohibitionist warriors enter the field at this stage under peculiarly adverse conditions, brought about by the extremely severe legislation against the liquor traffic which has come into effect since 1904. It is claimed that prohibition has become synonymous with petty tyranny, and that the individual citizen has been deprived of his rights owing to the influence of irresponsible temperance agitators. There is no doubt that a large number of temperate, law-abiding electors will vote against prohibition merely as a matter of principle. Nevertheless, the leaders of the party declare themselves more optimistic over the result than at any previous Presidential election period. They point with just pride to the fact that the liquor traffic, according to latest statistics, has suffered a great decline within the last two or three years, and adduce this circumstance as evidence of their contention that legislation is, in spite of assertions to the contrary, a powerful means of combating intemperance.

The principles of the Socialist party are outlined in the columns of an American contemporary by Mr. Robert Hunter, the article being an unusually straightforward exposition of what American Socialists stand for and advocate. He gives in detail the platform of the party, which has named Mr. Debs for its Presidential candidate, in spite of his somewhat shady record. We take it that the nomination of such a black sheep indicates that the Socialist party has very little intention of making a serious fight this time, though its leaders confidently anticipate the polling of at least a million votes, some going so far as to forecast 1,500,000. Mr. Hunter has much to say regarding the systematic organisation of his party. The movement,

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he affirms, is in the hands of extremely capable people, who are actuated solely by the commendable desire to relieve the social misery in which countless American citizens exist. Those who care to follow the trend of democratic thought and sentiment in America will find it worth while to study the Socialist platform; many of the measures advocated are already popular, and can be found in the platforms of other parties; but a surprising number of the practical demands of the Socialist party have been favoured by Mr. Bryan at different times, and not a few of them have had sympathetic support by the more radical members of both the great parties.

The Populist party is so insignificant as to call for little remark. It cannot in any way influence the larger issues, and its membership roll, in contrast to that of every other political organisation, shows signs of diminution. Its Presidential candidate is the Hon. Thomas E. Watson, a well-known Georgia attorney. He entered Congress as a Populist representative in 1891, but was defeated in the elections two years later, and has never since been successful in regaining his seat. He was Vice-President of the Populist Convention at St. Louis in 1896, when the party threw in its lot with Mr. W. J. Bryan. While in Congress he secured the first appropriation for free delivery of mails in rural districts that Congress ever passed. This year the Populists are playing for their own hand, but their activities, however strenuous, must inevitably be lost sight of in the conflict between the Republican and Democratic giants.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

UNIONIST VICTORY AT NEWCASTLE.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, September 25.

The bye-election at Newcastle-on-Tyne in consequence of the death of Mr. T. Cairns, the Liberal representative, has resulted in victory for the Unionist candidate, Mr. George Renwick, who received 13,863 votes, as against 11,720 polled for Mr. E. Shortt (Liberal), and 2,971 for Alderman E. R. Hartley (Socialist).

At the last election in 1906 the largest vote was polled by the Labour candidate, Mr. W. Hudson, Mr. T. Cairns, the Liberal candidate, coming next with 18,423. There were then two Unionist candidates. It will be seen by comparing these figures with those made known today that the Liberals have lost an enormous amount of support, and their leaders attribute no small portion of this to the fact of Mr. Asquith's intervention regarding the Eucharistic procession, an action which practically alienated the solid Catholic vote in the Newcastle constituency.

SIR ROBERT HART RECALLED.

London, September 25.

The *Morning Post* publishes a telegram from Shanghai that the Chinese Government has requested Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector General of Customs, to return to Pekin without delay; and further that Colonel Spicer Simson returned to Shanghai on Thursday from Chun-king, having completed for the Admiralty the first chart of the Yang-tse-kiang river.

Another telegram from Pekin states that the Governor of Pen-tien, Tang Shao Ti, who is on his way to Europe and America to study finance, will pay a visit to Germany.

THE COUNTESS OF YARMOUTH.

London, September 24.

The *Press Association* is informed by Messrs. Lewis and Lewis that the Countess of Yarmouth, who on her petition obtained an annulment of her marriage with the Earl of Yarmouth, has decided to abandon the title of Lady Yarmouth, and will in future be known as Mrs. Copley Thaw.

AUSTRALIA AND THE BRITISH FLEET.

Melbourne, September 24.

Replying to a question in the Commonwealth House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Deakin, the Federal Premier, stated that no formal invitation had been sent for a British Fleet to visit Australia, but successive Commonwealth Governments had conveyed to the Admiralty their desire for a more imposing display of British naval power in Australian waters, and he sincerely hoped that the announcement in the *Press* of a visit to be paid by a modern squadron next year would prove correct.

The Sydney correspondent of the *Times* says it is understood that the Admiralty frankly accepts the greater portion of Mr. Deakin's naval proposals, and agrees to lend Australia two up-to-date cruisers for training purposes. If an agreement is arrived at, the Admiralty will also withdraw the "Powerful" from the Australian station, retaining there only small cruisers to police the Western Pacific.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

A SERMON SYNDICATE.

According to revelations published in New York, and contained in a telegram by the correspondent of a London paper, a syndicate has been established in the United States to provide the pastors of all churches with sermons at bargain rates, and many of these have been unloaded on confiding congregations as strictly original. This application of the commercial methods of syndicates and trusts to "religious wares" has thrilled American congregations with virtuous indignation, and it seems certain from the steps already taken that any attempt hereafter of a pastor in the States to palm off a two-thousand-word sermon, costing him just 25 cents a week, or 10 dollars yearly, as his own, will entail the severest punishment, amounting in some cases to permanent suspension.

New York is described as the worst offender in regard to the purchase of religious wares, and the temptation is admittedly great, because in the metropolis sermons are now being hawked at the rates quoted above, sermons containing from 2,200 to 2,500 words in length, which are described by the sellers as being strictly "up-to-date" and containing allusions to current affairs and matters of national interest.

The correspondent himself has seen a circular addressed "Dear brother in the Lord," in which a well-known publishing firm offers clergymen sermons at knock-down prices. "We shall not furnish our service to more than one minister in any given city," concludes the circular. No patron, says the document, need fear an accusation of plagiarism.

Judged by the census returns, New York is the first Jewish city in the world, and is the second or third as regards Roman Catholics. The correspondent has interviewed representatives of both these bodies, and they declare that the charge of plagiarism in the pulpit is wholly unjustified so far as they are concerned. Members of other bodies whom the correspondent called upon would not

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