DEMOCRATS WILL WAR ON TRUSTS

Col. Bryan Sounds the Keynote of the Coming Campaign.

CHICAGO PLATFORM UPHELD

Perry Belmont Favors Bryan's Selection for Presidential Candidate—Champ Clark Outlines Program.

St. Louis, May 25.—Promptly at 6:45 o'clock this evening the caterer's bell rang, the band struck up "The Stars and Stripes Forever," an army of waiters laden with viands appeared and the mammoth Democratic anniversary banquet was on, while the 1,445 banqueters seated at the tables broke into a tremendous cheer, rising in a body and waving the small hand flags which had been provided for each one.

The vast arena of the Coliseum was filled with long tables tastefully decorated with roses, lilies of the valley and carnations. The table of honor was placed on a raised platform at the north side of the arena, and on it were seated Hon. W. J. Bryan, ex-Governor John P. Altgeld, O. H. P. Belmont, M. C. Wetmore, Harry B. Hawes, president of the Jefferson club, under whose auspices the dinner was given; Hon. Champ Clark, Hon. David A. De Armond, and a number of other prominent Democrats. The tables were decorated throughout with flags and in the corner of each was fixed a large silver shield.

The dinner was concluded at 8 o'clock. No speeches were made during the banquet. It was strictly a love feast. By the time the tables were cleared the 5,000 seats of the amphitheater were filled with spectators representing the society of St. Louis and the speaking began.

HARRY HAWES SPEAKS.

The first speaker in the evening was Harry B. Hawes, president of the Jefferson club, who delivered the address of welcome. Mr. Hawes said in part:

"It was not intended that this dinner should be merely the means of affording an entertainment but it was believed by its promoters that the serious discussions to be held tonight would be the means of crystallizing public sentiment against the encroachment upon the liberties of the people of the giant trusts and monopolies. It is not enough or desired to push to the background the vital issues of 1896 nor to pass to any particular the light to trade upon the greatest of the trusts, the money trusts which, greater than all, is more dangerous than all, and by its existence, renders possible many combinations of wealth that without it would not survive.

THE BATTLE LINE.

"The battle line must be drawn sharply and clear with Democracy on one hand and the dollar and the demagogue on the other. If the discussions here tonight will add to the enthusiasm and determination of the Democratic party to win out of existence these formidable allies of Republicanism, then the object of this meeting will have been accomplished.

"Mr. Hawes gave but a few words to inspiration, declaring that if and the Democracy of Missouri were ever forced to the colors of Democratic party.

"President Hawes was followed by the Hon. Champ Clark of Missouri who presented the state and district delegates in the name of the state committee. Mr. Clark was greeted with a tremendous ovation.

The Hon. Champ Clark said in part:

"Having endorsed the platform of 1896 as accomplished fact, it is unnecessary to discuss it at this early date. Missouri, electing for Democratic delegates, should proclaim in no uncertain tones the unbelieving principles of Democracy.

"Stated generally, in a single sentence, these principles may be summed as follows: 'Equal rights for all, special privileges to none; or to a still briefer form: 'Mon money and less taxes.'

"To be more specific: In 1896 we will express the unyielding principles of Democracy' in this wise:

"1. We will not only re-affirm, but re-adopt the Chicago platform of 1896, word for word, syllable for syllable, shading neither jot nor tittle of that immortal declaration of independence.

ANTI TRUST PLANK.

"2. We will put into our platform as strong an anti-trust plank as the American language can make—the strongest language which can be found in English—which will restore to every citizen of this republic the inalienable right to earn his living by the sweat of his face, which will guarantee to every laborer the enjoyment of all his wages, and which will even make possible a state that competition which was supposed to be the life of trade until the American party proved to a scandalized world of trusts which are seeking the enthralment of the great body of the people. To my judgment the best way for Congress to attack the trusts is to place upon the free list all things used to make and sold by the trusts. Then let both Congress and State legislatures make it a penitentiary offense to form, conspire or be interested in a trust and those calamities will be lopped from the body politic.

FOR THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

"3. We will declare emphatically and unequivocally in favor of the observance of the Monroe doctrine in all its vigor and against the criminal idiocy of corrupting and destroying our institutions by making Asiatics and negroes out of ten million heathen Malays under the equator.

"4. We will declare in unmistakable language that we will put a sudden stop to the wicked and wanton waste of the people's money—which, as evidenced by the recklessness of the Fifty-fifth Congress, amounts to practical malfeasance.

"5. We will proclaim our everlasting hostility to government by the sword and government by injunction, both of which are being foisted upon the country for the benefit and at the behest of the trusts and jobbers of every degree.

THE IMPENDING CAMPAIGN.

"In the impending campaign, be that it not for us to quibble or to dodge, to shuffle, to double, double, to stand off to horse, to hedge, to equivocate, to forsake between lines.

"The American people deserve to be treated honestly, fairly, candidly and courageously. They demand and are entitled to have a declaration of political faith about which there is no double meaning, no faltering in a double sense, no equivocation, no dead Locke, dead Devil clapetrap—a declaration so plain that even the dullest may comprehend it and so thoroughly Democratic that all honest men can stand upon it. They want no rhetoric that are not Democratic principles and they do not propose that the fruits of another victory shall turn to ashes upon their lips. After all this don't want any more presidential pies in pokes. They will get what they want. The platform and I have outlined will give lovers of freedom and good government everywhere hearts of oak.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

"Upon that platform we will place a man who is a platform within himself—whose name, I am happy to state, is execrated by every monopolist in America and loved by every patriot between the two oceans—and lead him to the White House—the foremost statesman of our age—William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska and of the United States at large.

"When he sits in the chair of Washington and wears the mantle of Jefferson, there will be another Andrew Jackson sent to judgment.

"Gentlemen, Bryan is a civilian; in times of war he is a soldier; at all times he is the ideal American citizen and patriot.

PALMER AND BUCKNER.

"But we may be asked whether we want the Palmer and Buckner Democrats back. Of course we do—we will welcome them, not as major generals and brigadiers, but as privates—not to touch so Democracy, but to burn Democracy of re-and will give them the glorious opportunity of winning new laurels. Yes, we welcome those returning soldiers, but they must not expect to monopolize the fatted calf. Those who had borne the heat and burden of the day—the brunt of the battle—expect the choicest and largest cuts of the veal themselves.

DOORS STAND WIDE OPEN.

"The doors stand wide open to all who wish to help us. We will not inquire too minutely into their antecedents. There are two institutions which have no mourners' bench—the Democratic party and the Christian church. We also welcome all Republicans who are dissatisfied with Mark Hanna's new-fangled policy of imperialism. We hail with delight the patriotic movements of Dr. Amos Pinchotas and other German-American orators, knowing full well that the Republicans cannot carry a State west of the Allegheniss and north of Arkansas without the German vote.

"We also extend the right hand of fellowship to the vast army of traveling men who have discovered that trusts are their special enemies and who are now preaching an anti-trust crusade. Men power is their tongue.

"Trusts and Democracy" occupied Col. M. C. Wetmore of St. Louis but a few minutes. His remarks were greeted with cheers.

TRUST AND ITS PARENTS.

He was followed by Hon. David De Armond of Missouri, who spoke upon "The Trust and Its Parents." The parents of the trust, according to the speaker, are the protective tariff favored by the Republicans and the partiality which the courts are showing the behind