

driving the carp away, he says he might as well have tried to sweepback the rise of the Columbia with a broom.

If this thing goes on, the carp will soon get a very bad name. They may not eat very much grass or grub up many meadows, because of lack of opportunity; but if, failing in this, they stir the malarial depths of ponds and lakes to the detriment of health in people who dwell near by, then Mr. Carp, as well as Mrs. Sparrow, will afford an avenue for the expenditure of money in bounties for destruction.

IF MCKINLEY IS FLECTED.

When the St. Louis convention named Wm. McKinley as the Republican candidate for President of the United States, the English press congratulated itself because prospects were no worse; for while they expected British markets to be affected by some changes in the tariff they did not think these changes would be of great importance, and they especially congratulated themselves on the "sound money" platform and candidate. Now that they have had time to look over the situation they do not feel quite so certain as they were of a satisfactory financial policy in this country. They have been looking up McKinley's record, and have come to the conclusion that free silver with him is by no means an impossibility or even an improbability. Recently the London Times had this expression of the later view of the British press:

We are not sure that party platforms are so important, because when the President is elected he becomes a free agent in the safer and stronger possession of power than an English premier. Therefore it is not certain that McKinley will oppose the popular will or that of Congress should it send him a bill for free silver.

It might be said that it is reasonably certain that if Congress were to send a free silver bill to McKinley as President he would not oppose it. In that respect Major McKinley may be said to be an entirely different man to President Cleveland, without throwing discredit on either. President Cleveland will maintain his individual views to the last extremity, conscientiously believing that it is his privilege and duty to do so, even though the majority of the country is against him. Major McKinley is of that class who insist that, unless the contravention of principle is involved, his duty is to express in his administration the popular will. Therefore, while President Cleveland with his strong financial views would antagonize any free silver movement no matter on what platform, Mr. McKinley with his leanings to bimetallicism might be looked upon with equal certainty to approve a free coinage measure if he were convinced the popular will was in its favor, and Congress should pass such a bill. In the case of McKinley as President, as with a silver man in the same position, the chief difficulty would be with Congress.

It may be that there is not much prospect of a free coinage bill getting through Congress; but if it did, the difference in its reception by a man with pronounced views in favor of

bimetallicism elected on a discretionary platform like that of St. Louis, and its treatment by one whose predilections are determined for the gold standard, may be easily foreseen. If a President of the first named class had been elected on the Democratic platform of 1892 there is good reason to assume that legislation on the silver question would have been entirely different to what we have seen.

The chief hope for silver under a McKinley administration will be, however, in an international agreement. The St. Louis platform is committed to that, and with an avowed bimetallicist as President there is cause to hope that the former policy of advocating bimetallicism in words and opposing it in deeds will be so far reversed as to give bimetallicism vigorous and determined support from the administration. If this should be the case, then the earnestness of the United States might bring Germany, France, and other European nations to the same view, and the desired end be attained. Of course Mr. McKinley's election on the St. Louis platform is not all that the silver advocates desire, but if it comes it would be hardly fair to designate it as a backward step from existing conditions.

CAN DEMOCRATS WIN?

The great event of next week will be the Democratic national convention at Chicago; and to a large extent the action of that assemblage will be a reply to the question as to whether, in the coming presidential campaign, the Democrats can win. On the old distinct party lines, independent of silver Republicans, victory for the Democratic party is altogether out of the question. If it could muster up 150 votes in the electoral college out of a total of 447, that would be the best it could do. But the possible outcome of the convention on the silver question puts a different face on the situation, and makes speculation on the outcome quite interesting.

There are at least three possible lines of procedure which the convention can follow, with a reasonable certainty of losing. One of these would be as suggested—to proceed on old lines. This can be done with a declaration for free silver, and a pronounced platform on the tariff question. Should the convention ignore the fact that was so potent in nominating Major McKinley—his tariff reputation—and come out strongly against that, then it would alienate a mass of voters who believe that a change in tariff policy would be an improvement in the present situation, and who would not declare against it, even with a free coinage pledge. On this point Democratic safety consists in saying as little as possible to antagonize free coinage voters who are equally tariff advocates.

A second line, and one that is not altogether sure will not be adopted, will be to nominate a "straddle" ticket. A free coinage plank in the platform, no matter how emphatic, will not avail against even a vice presidential candidate not equally strong for silver. There must be the platform and both candidates outspoken for silver, and not too pronounced against the pro-

tection theory, to make any showing at all.

The third course referred to would be to give free coinage candidates and platform, and to be at the same time under the domination of the extreme wing represented by Governor Altgeld, of Illinois. The fact of Altgeld's popularity with his party in the "sucker" state is no recommendation to him outside. His record and inclinations are too anarchistic for the country. The most outspoken declarations for free coinage of silver could not save the party from the boomerang that Altgeldism would prove to be, in case it should be the dominating influence at Chicago. In that influence is the most serious menace of the party to-day.

But assuming that the Democratic party is wise on this occasion, that it keeps "shouters" out of sight, avoids offense to protectionist silver men and allays all fear of anarchistic tendencies, there is the fourth danger that there may be sufficient Populist strength to break the Democratic silver rank in favor of the opposition; but the leading prospect in this connection is that possibly such break would have the effect of throwing the election into the House of Representatives.

Thus it may be seen that the Chicago convention has serious difficulties to cope with, and if these are all met there is uncertainty concerning a united support outside the ardent advocates of the St. Louis platform and candidates. But supposing that the party craft is steered in such manner as to pass those dangers and get the undivided support of Populists, silver Republicans and Democrats, what then? Oh that showing here is a table that presents a possible, or even probable result; the right hand column representing the Republican states and the left hand the combined opposition.

Alabama.....	11	California.....	9
Arkansas.....	8	Connecticut.....	6
Colorado.....	4	Delaware.....	3
Florida.....	4	Indiana.....	15
Georgia.....	13	Maine.....	6
Idaho.....	3	Maryland.....	8
Illinois.....	24	Massachusetts.....	15
Iowa.....	13	Michigan.....	14
Kansas.....	10	Minnesota.....	9
Kentucky.....	13	Nebraska.....	8
Louisiana.....	8	New Hampshire.....	4
Mississippi.....	9	New Jersey.....	10
Missouri.....	17	New York.....	36
Montana.....	3	Ohio.....	23
Nevada.....	3	Pennsylvania.....	32
North Carolina.....	11	Rhode Island.....	4
North Dakota.....	3	Vermont.....	4
Oregon.....	4	West Virginia.....	6
South Carolina.....	9	Wisconsin.....	12
South Dakota.....	4		
Tennessee.....	12		
Texas.....	15		
Utah.....	8		
Virginia.....	12		
Washington.....	4		
Wyoming.....	3		

223

224

From this classification, which gives California to the Republicans, there may be a variance; on the other side, North Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming, and other states are susceptible to change. That possibility includes two results: 1—to give the Democrats more votes and make the electoral college stand in their favor instead of otherwise; and 2—to throw the election into the