(Continued from first page.)

Republican column in Maryland. Neither do I believe a single one of my friends will falter at the polls.

They will vote the Republican ticket from top to bottom and permit the X rays of doubt, to a degree of glistening, to shine upon them without finding a less degree of true Republicanism than was shown in the 49,000 loyal voters of last spring. My dear friends, for the success of that which is so dear to us all, let us unite, and by so doing march on to victory and roll up a majority that will astonish even ourselves.

MR. FINDLAY'S ADDRESS

At Music Hall On Saturday Evening.

Following Is The Speech Of Hon. John V. L. Findlay At The Great Republican Ratification Meeting At Music Hall Last Saturday Night.

We are on the skirmish line of 1900. I know that it is claimed that there are no national issues involved in this campaign, but if this is so, inasmuch as the Democratic platform raises no issue of any kind, it would follow that there were no issues at all before the people. The Democratic candidates say that the issue is the redemption of Maryland from Republican rule, but that only presents the common case of the outs who want to get in, and is not so much an issue as a desire. The Republican party has not only declared for the gold standard, but it has also promised that its representatives in the next Congress will vote for such legislation as will put the question beyond assault and remove it forever from the field of partisan debate and controversy.

As the case stands today on the statute books of the United States the cause of gold has not been advanced a step beyond its position in 1896, when Mr. McKinley swept the State by a majority of over 30,000. Nothing stands in the way of the operation of the so-called endless chain but the moral sentiment which elected the President and put a Republican Congress at his back. Now, the Democratic party in this State, 106,000 strong, voted for free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and for W. J. Bryan, the most pronounced apostle of the creed. It matters not what at least one candidate on the Democratic State ticket did in this crisis, or the extent of his following. The fact is that the party as a whole supported its candidate and the platform on which he was nominated, and if Mr. Rayner did desert his party and denounce its platform in 1896, it could hardly be expected he would do so in 1900, after becoming its candidate for a public office. Still less so if he should happen to be elected. The Democratic party in Maryland is commited to the doctrine of free silver, and it openly repudiated a declaration which it solemnly made in favor of gold standard, and in this state of the

when it refuses to put itself on record on the money question, the inference

voidable that it is afraid to do so.

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for gold, and pledge him to support such legislation as will finally establish by law the status which gold now maintains as the result of moral forces merely? If this State, which beyond all question is a gold State, should go Democratic at the next election on a platform of principles which is silent on this question, after having gone Republican by 30,000 in 1896, would not such a result hinder the cause of sound money, particularly when the Republicans had openly declared for gold, and on this hypothesis were turned down?

There is no pretense that the affairs of the State have not been well managed by the Republicans. The Democrats, of course, can point to nothing which they have done for the last four years, because they have not been in power, and, therefore, they can only promise what they will do. The difference between the Republican and Democratic parties is that the Republican can point to performance as an earnest of the good faith in which it makes its promise, whereas the discredited Democratic party can simply hold out a promise, and nothing more. Credit is the same the world over—at the tailor's, the butcher's and the bank. The man who pays his debts stands in good credit, and the man who fails to do so has none. The Democratic party kept none of its promises to the people, and for that reason was turned out of power.

The Republican party has kept every promise it made, and yet it is gravely proposed to put the Democrats back and turn the Republicans out. Why? Because they have kept their promises! The Republicans in their platform, which constitutes the party pledge, promise that they will place the Police Board on a nonpartisan basis; and while Colonel Smith and Dr. Hering say they favor the same thing, both of them are on record in the Senate of the State as voting for a bipartisan board. These gentlemen are very much exercised about Western Maryland, but the people there are taking a deep interest in the charge that Colonel Smith was ready to sell the canal to a paper corporation for a mere song and destroy the means of livelihood of hundreds of people along the line of the canal in Montgomery, Frederick, Washington and Allegany counties.

There are other interests of a commercial character underlying this campaign which will make themselves known if the Democrats succeed. They will attack the present law revalving the property in this State, and they will lend their aid to the permanent appropriation of our public highways by private corporations.

Vain Democratic Boasts.

They say that they have a large proportion of the intelligence, the social worth and property of the State. They certainly had not in '96 and in '97, and how they have succeeded to it in '99 is not so clear. The white people of this State undoubtedly compose by a large majority the best elements in the State, and no one is so foolish as to suppose that this element will not control and govern the State. That scarecrow was pulled down in '95.

This is the very element which will see to it that the large class of honest, industrious, law-abiding and intelligent colored men in our midst shall have all their civil and political rights preserved, and under no circumstances shall be confounded with disreputable rowdies, who bring disgrace upon their race and State. If the Democratic party wants to disfranchise the colored man, let it say so. Let it imitate what has been done by the same party in Louisiana and Mississippi, and what is proposed now in North Carolina. This would be a position much manlier in every way than these insidious assaults upon a whole people for the crimes of tramps and scoundrels, whom honorable colored men are the first to denounce.

But as to the preponderance of the intelligence and wealth among Democrats, a calculation made some years ago showed that the Republicans in this city did by no means suffer by the comparison. There was quite as much wealth among the Republicans, and, by a curious circumstance, nearly all our public charities were founded by Republican beneficence. Next in importance to the city are the great counties of Baltimore, Frederick, Washington and Allegany, by all odds the most populous counties in the State. I don't think the Republicans would suffer by a comparison with their Democratic neighbors in these counties.

If there is one thing more than another which the reformers have been pressing upon the consideration of both parties, it is the duty of retaining in office competent officials, who understand the routine work of their particular desks better than any novice possibly can. But this is a weakness of the Republican party, it seems, and yet everybody knows that the officials alluded to were recommended for retention by most members of the bar, and it has been whispered—with what truth, of course, I know not—that the gentleman making the change was among the indorsers, and not only so, but voted for some of the incompetent Republicans, who were asked not to make any change.

Nonpartisan Judiciary.

What can be expected of a party in the way of a nonpartisan police force that hasn't even the courage to indorse the principle of a nonpartisan judiciary? The proposition to indorse Judge Schmucker got just two votes in the Democratic Convention.

The Republican party is a party of positive convictions and constructive statesmanship. It has had, or will have had, in its charge the affairs of this country for 40 years, 8 years of Cleveland. There is not a law on the statute books of the United States of any moment which it has not framed and put in force in that time, Emancipation, the salvation of the Union, resumption of specie payments, the construction of the roads that bind the East with the West, the acquisition of Alaska, and lately of Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, are a few among the achievements of the party. What has the Democratic party done either in the State or the United States? It came near wrecking the country in 1896, near dividing it in 1861, and now it is engaged in encouraging the insurrection in our Pacific possessions, which, according to Funston, would be at peace if it were not for the pestilent encouragement that Aguinaldo receives from the Democratic party.

And yet it professes to love Funston and Dewey and Schley. What shadow is there over the prospects of the country, now universal, except that which falls from the prospect of possible Democratic ascendency? The clearings of the banks will exceed a billion dollars this year; every wheel is turning, every hand has work to do, the crops have been abundant, prices good, gold in every man's pocket; more gold, in fact, under McKinley than there threatened to be free silver under Bryan; and every heart would feel strong and happy if it were not for the fear of a change.

Prospect In The State.

Turning to the State, what would follow on a change? Contrast '99 with '95. Contrast the time when Governor Brown was sustaining his Board of Supervisors, and pandemonium reigned in the city, with the Sunday quiet of our elections.

He says there was only a little trouble in the Seventeenth ward. Let the independents, who took their lives in their hands and stood at the polls all over town, refresh his recollection.

Republican Nominees.

The Republican party has made the best nominations for the legislative ticket and the city local ticket in its history. Take Judge Wright, of the Orphans' Court, has been indorsed by the whole bar, irrespective of party. His associates are men of the highest integrity, diligence and intelligence.

The candidate for Clerk of the City Court has made a model Sheriff, and will make a model clerk.

And when you come to scrutinize the legislative ticket it will be found that it is rare, indeed, when men of such substance and character in the community can be found who are willing to make a sacrifice of personal interest for the public warfare. And this is true of the legislative ticket throughout the State. The question then boils itself down to this: Are the voters of this State willing to run the risk of a change, with the Bryan shadow over them, simply on the promise of a discredited party to do what a party tried already has done, and promises to do better still?

"GOOD GOVERNMENT"

That Is The Issue, Says Governor Lloyd Lowndes.

The Following Is The Speech Of Gov. Lloyd Lowndes At The Great Republican Ratification Meeting At Music Hall Saturday Night.

Mr. President, Fellow-Citizens of Baltimore:

We have met this evening formally to open the Republican campaign. Four years ago I was nominated for Governor upon a platform containing certain pledges which I promised should be fulfilled if I was elected.

We appealed to the people of Maryland no longer to submit to the misrule of the Democratic party, and asked the friends of good government to vote for the nominees of the Republican party, and when the votes were counted in November, 1895, the Republican State candidates were elected by 18,000 majority.

We again come before the people of the State and submit every act of our administration and the work of every department to their scrutiny. We ask them to make a comparison of what the Republican party has done during the past four years with what the Democratic party did when it was in power. We think we met every question boldly, and our opponents cannot say that every department has not been managed with honesty and economy.

Those who are opposed to us today are those who were opposed to us in 1895. Then, for the first time in 30 years, they sustained defeat. They made a desperate fight to hold on to that absolute power which they possessed, and now they are straining every effort that the State government which they controlled so long may again come into their hands.

I have known my opponent, Colonel Smith, for a long time. For 25 years he has been seeking office, and for 10 years he has held office. He was a State Senator when elected to Congress, and he is now a member of Congress when a candidate for Governor; yet he says he is not a professional office-seeker. He has during these years been, and is now, a personal and political friend of those men who had absolute sway in the affairs of the State up to 1895. He is their nominee, and if elected will be dominated by them. He was one of the chief members of the ring during the General Assembly from 1890 to 1898, and he took no step or cast no vote until he had first consulted the bosses.

Mr. Rayner On Senator Gorman.

Gentlemen, the same men who were in control of the Democratic party in 1895 are in control of that organization today, and the same arguments which were applied to them at that time will apply with equal force now. In speaking of them, and particularly of Senator Gorman, from this very platform, on April 30, 1895, Mr. Rayner, the Democratic candidate for Attorney-General, who was then a candidate for the nomination for Governor, from which contest he withdrew a short time later, said:

"Who in the Republican government of ours has ever reposed such a power in anyone, and what right has any man to assume such power, to isolate himself from public view, gather around his presence a coterie of gentlemen who claim to own the wards over which they preside, agree upon a municipal ticket, and then invite his guests to wing their flight to Washington, so that in the banquet hall of our distinguished Senator from Maryland they might consent that he shall likewise name a ticket for the State and then expect a hundred thousand voters to be driven to the polls like cattle to the shambles as a sacrificial offering in consecration of this unholy compact?

"Why should Mr. Gorman give me his support, and what right have I to expect it? He is under obligations to those who have followed him and have agreed with him, and not those who have differed with him and opposed him.

"Speak to the managers; tell them that the party has inherent and inalienable rights which they must respect. Tell them that they have followed them until the time has come when they must follow you. They have had everything that they are entitled to—power, influence, emolument and honor. Let the majestic phalanx of the people move.

"I would like to know from you whether you concede the ownership of the Democratic party of this city and State to Mr. Rasin and Senator Gorman. The party has never been conveyed to them by any instrument that can be found upon the records. They have taken possession of it, of its issues, its profits and franchises, but they are only tenants by sufferance, and they are holding on simply because you, the lawful proprietors, have not chosen to claim restitution.

"You cannot throttle reform by compromise, and you cannot save a sinking ship simply by taking on the deck the men who have combined to scuttle it."

Mr. Rayner may have changed his mind, but his arraignment of his own party leaders in 1895 remains uncontradicted on the record today, and he has said nothing in all his speeches to show that his opinion is in any way different.

Democratic Party And Elections.

For many years, up to and including 1895, elections in Maryland were a shame and a reproach to the State. Fraud reigned supreme. Respectable citizens were chased from the polls, knocked down, beaten and shot at, and there was no guarantee that the verdict announced as that of the people was a true index to public opinion. At last the people, indignant at these disgraceful repetitions, demanded of the dominant party an honest and decent election law. That party, as is its habit, glibly made its promises of reform, but year after year those promises remained unkept.

As early as 1884 the Reform League of Baltimore city presented a bill to the General Assembly, but the measure was not even considered.

Again, in 1886, the same association advocated a bill similar to the law now in force. Gentlemen of the highest standing appeared before the committee of the General Assembly, but the bill was reported adversely.

In 1888 still another effort was made, but the measure was rejected without any consideration whatever. Just prior to the session of 1890 the press of Baltimore took up the matter of ballot reform, and made a strong fight in favor of the Reform League bill. The day before the opening of the session Senator Gorman and other Democratic leaders gave the Democratic county editors a dinner at Rennert's, and there these editors were urged by the Senator to oppose the passage of the proposed bill. It was on that occasion that Senator Gorman made his famous argument against the Australian ballot law, in which he said it ought to be labeled, "A bill to relegate the Democratic party to the rear." The editors took the cue; most of them opposed the bill.

A so-called reform measure was passed, but under it, while the expenses of the Democratic campaign managers were reduced, the opportunities for fraudulent practices were increased. Two of the candidates on the Democratic State ticket—Colonel Smith and Mr. Rayner—were members of several Assemblies, yet never raised their voices in favor of ballot reform, or exerted their influence in behalf of the passage of any measure to provide for honest elections.

In 1895, when the results of the Reform League's examination of the registration lists disclosed wholesale fraud, it was determined to show the fictitious character of these registrations by sending such persons as were suspected registered letters. Out of 1,152 sent to the residences of suspected persons, whose names appeared upon the registration lists, only 190 were receipted for, and of those fully 100 betrayed evidence which indicated that they were given by persons other than to whom the letters were addressed.

The newspapers of Baltimore city on election day, 1895, said that hundreds of repeaters had been brought here to aid the ring in its desperate effort to save itself from defeat. Many of the repeaters were Republicans buttons, purchased in large numbers by ring managers to facilitate their business. The out-of-towners demanded that their original bargain of $3 for each vote be increased to $5. This demand was acceded to, and caused much dissatisfaction on the part of the local leaders. Their protests were so strenuous that the managers placed all hands on an equal footing.

Reform League's Great Work.

You all remember those courageous and public-spirited men who volunteered to stand at the polls on that election day to see that justice was done. It required courage to do this, for the hired thugs of the ring had declared that these watchers should be driven from the voting places. But these men were not to be frightened from their duty. All day they remained at their posts in the face of vile abuse, assaults, the use of firearms and all manner of insult and intimidation that the ring's rowdies could invent. Let us see the methods that these tender gentry employed in their work of registering the will of the people. Here is a paragraph from a newspaper at that time:

"Men—white men—and for no other reason than that they were known to be Republicans, would be surrounded by a crowd of toughs, who would close in on the victim until the man could not move; then he would receive a heavy blow in the face. He would be knocked down, beaten and kicked about the head and face before help could get to him from the police. Then, if he managed to struggle to his feet, he would run down the street, followed by almost a hundred toughs, shouting at the top of their voices, 'Kill him; Kill him!'"

Such cases were frequent, and it was seldom that arrests were made, although the men had chased inoffensive citizens from the polls. After having given them a good beating, frequently firing pistol shots in the air as they ran after their victims, they would return to the polls to wait for the next man whose politics they did not like.

Here are a few of our citizens whose names I recall to whom this method was applied:

Dr. Howard Kelly, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, was struck in the face.

Prof. W. J. A. Bliss, Reform League watcher, was knocked down and kicked, his jaw being broken.

Charles H. Hesse, watcher, was shot at three times and an attempt made to rob him.

Charles Galley, Jr., watcher, was struck in the face.

Rev. Charles A. Fulton, of Immanuel Baptist Church, had cow itch rubbed on him.

Charles G. Baldwin, watcher, was knocked down and had his head cut.

Policeman Cox, of the Eastern district, was struck in the back of the head and fainted.

Alfred S. Niles, watcher, was struck in the eye.

Leigh Bonsal, watcher, was struck a terrible blow on the ear.

George Thornton, Republican challenger, was knocked down and kicked in the head.

William A. Pleasants was knocked down and beaten.

One hundred and one arrests were made in one ward alone that day.

The Charge Against Them.

In most cases the assailants of the Reform League watchers, under the merciful protection of the Democratic police and magistrates of that time, were simply charged with "fighting at the polls." On the following day Mr. Roger W. Cull, of the Reform League, said that he believed that watchers, by their vigilance, prevented the casting of not less than 1,800 fraudulent votes. Mr. Cull, in this connection, made this significant statement: "It is to be noticed that the violence and disorder in the Seventh and Eighth precincts of the Seventeenth ward, resulting in the driving of the league's watchers from the polls in these precincts, happened in the very ward where Senator Gorman made his inflammatory speech at the Cross Street Market. The roughing in these precincts was of the kind to show that there was a determination at any cost to drive the watchers away from the polls. The roughs spared nobody. Gentlemen of the bar, in high standing, and citizens of high character not of the profession were assaulted and driven from the polls in the presence of the police without any support from them."

The Republican record is as brief as it is satisfactory. The party came into power in 1895, with the distinct understanding that the Reform League bill was to be enacted. The law was passed by that party in 1895, as promised.

Col. Smith's Dilatory Tactics.

In regard to the passage of the present election law by the General Assembly of 1896, Colonel Smith and other Democratic speakers have claimed that its enactment was due to the fact that the Democratic majority in the State Senate favored it. The truth is this bill would not have been passed had Colonel Smith and the regular Democrats in the Senate been able to prevent it. There were two independents, however, in the persons of President W. Cabell Bruce and Senator Michael, of Harford county, who were favorable to the bill, and expressed their determined intention to aid the Republicans by their votes. When it came up in the Senate for final action the record shows that the Democrats, under the leadership of Colonel Smith and the late Senator Charles C. Crothers, made all sorts of dilatory motions in the shape of proposed amendments, motions to take recess, to adjourn, or to go into executive session. They were defeated on every point, the Republicans being aided by Senators Bruce and Michael throughout, and, although Colonel Smith voted for the final passage of the bill, he only did so when he found that it would be passed without his aid, and he, therefore, made a virtue of necessity. As an indication of the real Democratic sentiment on the subject the record shows that Senators Finley, Talbott and Tilghman, all Democrats, voted against it. Of these Senator Talbott was chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and was strongly opposed to the bill from the time it was introduced.

And just here it is timely to remind Col. Smith, if the fact has slipped his memory, that he voted against one of the most salutary measures originated by the Republicans in behalf of fair elections—the bill to redivide Baltimore city into wards. This bill aimed to wipe out the unfair and unnatural ward lines drawn by the Democrats in their effort to retain control of the City Council. That result has been accomplished. The wards are now more logically and compactly arranged, and neither party is given any undue advantage. Yet, as I have said, from this eminently just measure Colonel Smith withheld his support, and in this he was joined by his colleague on the Democratic ticket, Dr. Hering.

"Fair Vote And Honest Count."

As to the beneficial results of the Republican law one has only to contrast the first election held under its operation in 1896 with the last held under the Democratic regime the year before.

The election of 1896, held under the Republican auspices, was as quiet as a Sabbath. In the old Seventeenth ward, where there was a riot and drunkenness the year before, only six arrests were made, and these for minor offenses. To quote again from the newspaper files of the day:

"The contrast with the former elections was marked. Before the introduction of the Australian ballot law into Maryland it was exceedingly disagreeable to go to the polls to cast a vote. Within a square of the voting places the voter would be besieged by a swarm of partisans, who would jostle him and argue with him, thrust ballots into his face, and make life miserable for the time being. If they did not inflict bodily harm. Even when the Australian ballot was introduced the same nuisance was a menacing one. There were no ballots to be distributed, but there were still votes to be solicited, and the solicitors continued to do a fair amount of work. As recently as the State election of 1895 the need of such a law as that which was enforced yesterday for the first time was felt. Immediately in front of many polling places of the city, particularly at those in which disorder prevailed, crowds of 50, and sometimes 100, men were gathered last year endeavoring by wiles, legitimate and illegitimate, to influence the approaching voter, but all this has passed. Never has there been a more orderly election in Baltimore than that of yesterday, and the new law which authorized the posting of warning placards was largely responsible for the good results. There were patrolmen at all the polling places, but, with few exceptions, they had an easy time."

Another leading newspaper of the city said, editorially, on November 5:

"The conduct of the election in Maryland last Tuesday shows that the new election law of the State is an excellent one. Notwithstanding the intense interest in the issues, amounting in places to excitement, the election everywhere was quiet and orderly, and every intelligent man accepts the result. It was a fair vote and an honest count. During the progress of the election every citizen when he cast his ballot felt assured that it would be counted as cast. Such confidence is of inestimable value, and promotes, more than anything else, peace and quiet and content."

What Reassessment Has Done.

The Democratic record of reassessment is one long list of pledges unfulfilled; the Republican, a promise followed by a speedy redemption. In 1878 the Democratic State platform contained a plank providing for reassessment of all the property in the State. Two years later the promise was renewed. The General Assembly passed a bill, but it was vetoed by Governor Jackson. In 1891 the State convention again adopted reassessment as a catch-cry, and the Democratic candidate for Governor, in all his speeches during the campaign, advocated it. Yet when the General Assembly passed a bill it failed to become a law owing to the failure of the Executive to sign it. In 1893 the Democratic platform made a similar pledge, and the candidates for the General Assembly in all parts of the State were required to bind themselves to further such legislation. A bill was introduced and again defeated. Four different times that party pledged themselves to the passage of a reassessment bill. In every instance it failed to keep faith and ignored its duty to the people who had intrusted it with power.

The Republican record is short and satisfactory. In 1895 the Cambridge platform contained a promise that should we carry the election, a reassessment law would be placed on the statute book. Before the close of the ensuing session of the General Assembly in 1896 the bill was passed and approved.

This law is reasonable without being inquisitorial, and has been extremely beneficial. It has equalized values in the old and new city of Baltimore and in Baltimore county. The new assessment of realty in the old twenty wards of the city of Baltimore shows a decline of $21,500,000; in the belt of the Annex, and in Baltimore county is shown an increase of $25,000,000.

What is surprising to the taxpayer and the people of Baltimore city is the important fact that the realty in the old twenty wards of the city was not only assessed in 1897 at $21,000,000 less than in 1896, but this assessment and valuation was shown, notwithstanding that there were erected 20,800 new buildings between the years 1877 and 1896. This shows that the old taxable basis was not only a farce, but a fraud; those millions of dollars under the old law were kept upon the tax books for the purpose of pulling the wool over the eyes of the taxpayers and fooling the people. The new law has not only equalized values, but wiped out favoritism. The uniform tax of 20 cents on each hundred dollars on certain classes of bonds and stocks has prevented many persons from moving from the city to the counties to save the difference between city and county taxation, and the tax books now show that over $6,000,000 worth of such bonds has been returned under the new law, while under the old law there were only $6,000,000. Similar results have been secured in all parts of the State.

Police Reorganization.

In my letter of acceptance I tried to make my position as to the reorganization of the Police Department of Baltimore city plain and unmistakable. I have always been in favor of legislation that would lift that branch of the public service as far as possible out of politics, and at the last session of the General Assembly I favored the passage of the Putzel bill. That it might become a law I asked the aid of certain Democratic Senators, among them Colonel Smith and Dr. Hering. They would listen to no plan that did not provide for a bipartisan board, and even this was objected to by nearly all of the Democratic members. The platform of the late Democratic State Convention is as silent as the tomb on this important subject, and it was not until they heard the popular approval of the Republican declaration on police reorganization that the gentlemen on the opposing ticket gave any expression on the matter.

Not only did I favor the passage of legislation to take the police force of Baltimore city out of the control of party politics, but I used all my personal and official influence in behalf of the measure before the General Assembly. I urged my friends to vote for the bill, and held numerous conference with the leaders of both sides on the subject. I took the matter up early in the session, and did not cease working for it until the final adjournment. Everything that could be done was done, and that we failed was largely the fault of the Democratic members, who were numerous enough in the House of Delegates to block the passage of many measures to which they were opposed.

Their policy, as announced by their leaders, was to "hold up," as far as they could, all beneficial or reform legislation, and thus prevent the Republicans from gaining any credit from the people. They were controlled by partisan feeling from start to finish at Annapolis, and the question with them was not how they might aid in the passage of laws beneficial to the people of the State, but how they might best hamper the majority in their efforts to bring about reforms, and, above all else, how they might be able to put the Republican party, as they openly boasted, in "a hole." I expressed myself in favor of minority representation on the Police Board. I told them I was ready to name, as the minority member, any man whom they might select, provided he was fit and competent to perform the duties. But they were unwilling to aid in passing the bill, and that it failed to become a law may be justly attributed to their hostility. In pursuance of this policy, when Commissioner Schryver's term expired last March, I declined to make an appointment in his place, in order that the minority might still retain a representative on the Board. Today I favor the bill prepared by the Reform League of Baltimore city. My party is pledged to it, and if we are successful such a law will be enacted.

Equal Protection To All Citizens.

In the administration of my office it has been my endeavor to secure the enforcement of the law in such manner that the homes of the people, regardless of color or condition, would be protected. For this I have been criticised in some quarters, although such criticism has been unfounded, and would not have been put forward had my motives been understood. I have desired in the past, and desire now, to use all my influence in behalf of the advancement of all classes of our people, both white and colored, along the lines which will best tend to their material and moral welfare. My efforts, both personal and official, have been used to that end, and, should I be re-elected, the experience of the past four years will enable me to continue my work in such manner that greater results will be accomplished.

Our colored people in Maryland are much further advanced in morals and material prosperity, in intelligence and education, than members of the same race in many other sections of the country. I desire to aid in their further improvement, and to that end I favor the extension of State assistance to educational and manual training institutions, that will enable them to become fitted for the struggle of life. Money spent by the State to instruct them in the way to gain an honest livelihood, to teach them habits of morality, industry and thrift, will in years to come return tenfold in benefits to the whole people.

Ex-Governor Brown Answered.

The charge made by the Democrats that I have used the public schools for partisan purposes is, in the light of their own record, simply ridiculous. The first public school law in Maryland was passed by the Union party in 1865. When the Democrats came into power in 1867 the General Assembly of 1868 passed a school law by which the School Commissioners were elected by the people. At that time every county in the State showed a large Democratic majority, and the Commissioners elected under this law were all Democrats. As soon as the Republicans had a majority in a few counties, the law was changed—the right of selection taken from the people and placed in the hands of the judges. Again, when the people began to elect a few Republican judges throughout the State, the General Assembly made exceptions in the appointing power, and gave it to the Governor. In 1892, in the further pursuit of the partisan policy, this power was wholly taken from the judges and placed in the hands of the Governor.

At once the whole public school system was made a part of the Democratic machine. The Republican Commissioners were turned out and their places filled with Democratic politicians. Ex-Gov. Brown, from this very platform on last Thursday night, stated that he reappointed all except 12 or 15 commissioners. This may be true, but all that he did turn out were Republicans. Mr. Brown also said that I had removed nearly 100 commissioners. The fact is, that when I assumed office in 1896, there were only 81 commissioners in the State. Of these, but five were Republicans. I have not removed a single commissioner. As the term of office of some expired I appointed Republicans, but never have I lost sight of the principle of minority representation. In proof of this, today there are 54 Republican Commissioners and 27 Democrats—there being a representative of the minority party in every board in the State. And, further, in 1896, every school examiner in the 23 counties was a Democrat. Today there are 14 Republican examiners and 9 Democrats. In addition, I wish to remind my Democratic friends that Prof. E. B. Prettyman, principal of the State Normal School and secretary of the State Board of Education, has been retained in office, as has also Prof. R. W. Silvester, of the Maryland Agricultural College. The politics of both of these gentlemen is very well known throughout the State, and while I am on this line, I want to emphasize the fact that in the reformatory, eleemosynary and all other institutions under the management of the State, with but a single exception, less a change been made.

Republicans Originated Free Books

Colonel Smith claims the credit of having introduced the first free school book bill. In this he is entirely wrong. In the General Assembly of 1886 Mr. Gantt, a Republican member from Calvert county, introduced a bill "to provide for free text-books, maps, etc., in the public schools of the counties of the State." To him and to the Republican party is due the credit of originating this important measure.

Our opponents have much to say just now about keeping the judiciary out of politics, and their remarks would lead one ignorant of their party's record to believe that this happy end could be reached only by the election of the Democratic ticket. My position in this matter must be judged by my acts, and likewise, I take it, Colonel Smith's attitude will furnish the key to his course. Therefore, permit me to remind you that when, in 1890, Chief Judge Stone, of the Second Judicial Circuit, the only Republican member of the Court of Appeals, was about to attain the legal age of retirement, a resolution was introduced in the Senate to extend the limit. Colonel Smith voted against it, and it was lost through his act, the vote standing 12 for and 13 against.

Republican Case Rested.

To those independent Democrats who have done me the honor of being here on this occasion, and to those who gave me their support four years ago, I desire to say that I have striven to give you good government and economical administration in every department of the State. The record is before you; the books are open. Your assistance helped to make me Governor. I now come before you for an indorsement of my acts and administration, which can only be done by re-election. I know as fair-minded, intelligent men you do not want this State to again fall under the control of those whom you helped to displace four years ago and to go back to their old frauds and misrule. It is the same old crowd that are fighting to get back, and while some of them are kept in concealment by those who are conducting the campaign, yet you know and I know who are responsible for the nominations and what influence will control them if elected. A repetition of the old misrule of the political bosses is threatened again. To those who have the welfare of the State at heart it is of the utmost importance that every man who favors good government should arouse himself and see to it that we are not hindered in the course of prosperity and advancement.

We have given an election law through which the humblest and highest can register and have their vote honestly counted. An assessment law which has added $80,000,000 to the assessable basis of the State. Our finances have been ably and honorably managed, our debt reduced, our credit raised to the highest, so that today Maryland stands forth as one of the most progressive States, financially and commercially, in the Union. The revenues, larger than ever before, have been promptly collected and closely guarded, the schools have received larger sums for their support, and a new insane asylum has been built, a large addition to the penitentiary and House of Correction, all without adding to taxation. In every department the standard of efficiency has been raised to a higher level.

We have put down the bosses in the Democratic party, and we have not submitted to any bosses in the Republican party.

Maryland was never so prosperous as it is today; while some have made much money and added greatly to their fortunes, there is a general prosperity throughout the State. Never before were so many homes owned by the occupants, never such good incomes, never such good wages as today.

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