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THE COMMERCIAL

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CALLS TAFT "STRADDLER."

Bryan Replies to Recent Declaration of War Secretary.

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 26.—William J. Bryan's reply to the speech of Secretary Taft at Columbus, O., was given out to-night. Secretary Taft is condemned as a "straddler" on nearly all the important issues and criticised for not taking advanced ground in reform. Mr. Bryan complains also that his own position has been misrepresented by the Secretary. Mr. Bryan says: "Secretary Taft's speech will prove a disappointment to those who expected a clear bugle note in favor of reform. There is not a single question on which he takes a strong advanced position.

"On the railroad question he is in favor of preventing watered stock, opposes the consolidation of competing lines and the duplication of directorates. So far so good; but he does not advocate the ascertaining of the value of the roads or the reduction of rates. He even defends the President from the charge of favoring the reductions made by the States. The railroads may object to his rhetorical demolition of abuses, but they will hardly be scared by his remedies.

"On the trust question he thunders at unlawful trusts, but not only does not recommend new legislation, but takes the position that a monopoly may not be harmful. He seems to lean toward the idea that it must be convicted of some harmful act—and this throws the burden of proof upon the government.

"He recognizes that 'restraining is more difficult' when one corporation swallows up a lot of other corporations—that 'it involves enormous labor on the part of the government to prosecute such a combination because the proof of the gist of the offense lies underneath an almost limitless variety of transaction,' and yet he is opposed to the license system which would enable the government to absolutely prevent a monopoly. In other words, he gives the benefit of the doubt to the corporation instead of to the people.

"He thinks that putting one or two trust magnates in the penitentiary would have a healthy effect, but he uses so many qualifying words that one is left in doubt as to what he really favors.

"He makes out a strong case in favor of tariff reform, but when he gets to the remedy he goes no farther than the Republican leaders have gone in former campaigns. He wants enough tariff to cover the difference in cost of labor here and abroad, the excuse given for the present tariff, and he wants the tariff reformed by its friends.

"Tariff reform by the friends of the tariff is a farce and a fraud and the Secretary runs away from the conclusions which would naturally be drawn from the statistics which he presents."

ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN.

Jefferson Davis' Daughter Relates Father's Comment Upon It.

Colorado Springs, Colo., Aug. 24.—When Mrs. Margaret Howell Jefferson Davis Hayes, daughter of the President of the Confederacy, learned that a member of the fighting Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, attending the reunion here, had hung upon the walls of the Antier's Hotel a copy of the old proclamation offering a reward of \$300,000 for the arrest of her father and other Confederate leaders for alleged complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln, she immediately raised a protest to Gen. William J. Palmer, the host of the reunion.

Before her protest had been received, however, Gen. Palmer had heard of the proclamation and ordered that it be taken down, out of deference to Mrs. Hayes, who is the wife of J. A. Hayes, a banker in Colorado Springs.

"I was a small child at the time," Mrs. Hayes wrote, "and, like most Southern children, I looked upon Lincoln as the arch enemy of my country. As the servants and guards around us were thoughtlessly rejoicing, I ran to my father with what I supposed would be good news to him. He gravely and gently took me in his arms and explained to me that this terrible deed was done by a crazy man, who, no doubt, thought he was the savior of the South, but was really her worst enemy.

"Always remember, my little daughter, no wrong can ever make a right," he said. "The South does not wish her rights to come through dastardly murders, but through fair fights."

"Then he sighed heavily and said: "This is the bitterest blow that could have been dealt to the Southern cause. Lincoln was a just man and would have been fair and generous in his treatment of the Southern people. His successor is a man we can expect nothing from."

LATEST CLUBBING OFFER.

St. Louis Daily Republic

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NEW YORK'S DARK HORSE.

New York Democrats are grooming a candidate of their very own. He is Lieut.-Gov. Louis Stuyvesant Chanler of that State, who is said to be a most suitable man. He is described as being a man of "advanced" views touching cor-

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LEE HOLDER TRIES TO BREAK JACKSON JAIL.

With Two Others He Was Detected in the Nick of Time.

Jackson, Tenn., Aug. 24.—A bold attempt at jail-breaking was discovered about 4 o'clock Thursday morning by Jailor C. E. Givens.

Lee Holder, who is confined awaiting action of the Supreme Court, which meets here in special session September 5, was convicted in the lower court of the murder of his father, Rev. Holder, of Troy, and sentenced to be hanged, an appeal having been made to the Supreme Court. He, with two other prisoners, Ab Wilson and Fletcher Blackwood, confined to jail for misdemeanors, made the attempt.

When discovered, they had in some way cut two bars, thus escaping from the cell in which all three were placed, into the main hall. They had then dug through the outer brick wall, which is four bricks thick, and had they not been discovered when they were, their escape would have been effected.

It is said that when the prisoners were confronted by the jailor and city officers whom he had summoned to his aid, they were huddled in a corner of the jail, joking about their failure to carry out their purpose. A rope made of blankets had been made by the prisoners, with which to reach the ground. One of the prisoners stated that they had worked all night, muffling the noise as best they could with the means at their command, and remaining quiet when they heard any movements, to prevent discovery.

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Tennessee Shots Ready for Match.

Col. Harvey Alexander, who is in command of the Tennessee rifle team selected to represent the State militia at the Sandusky, O., match, writes that the boys have been doing some regular practice work, and that the record made this year will doubtless surpass that of last year at Seagirt, N. J. The Tennessee shoot will take place Aug. 28 and 29, and the result will be awaited with much interest by all the Guard members at home as well as by Tennesseans generally. The team is being coached by Capt. R. S. Henry, of Chattanooga, and is composed of the following shots: Col. Alexander, team captain; Capt. Henry, coach; Col. Spence, Maj. Phillips and Lieuts. Nankivell and Stevens of the Third Regiment; Dr. Moore, Sergt. Epperson, Corporal Hasslock and Private Jones of the First; Capt. Seay, Corporal Fulghen and Private Warmath of the Second; Lieut. Hyde of Troop A and Sergts. Hope and Rankin of Troop B.—Nashville Banner.

Hundred Professions.

Fulton Ky., Aug. 26.—Nearly 3,000 people attended services at the Tabernacle Sunday. It was the largest crowd that ever attended a religious meeting in this section. There were nine conversions and more than a hundred professions. Five hundred dollars were taken in as a free-will offering. Rev. E. E. Violet, an evangelist of national reputation, is conducting the meeting. Oscar Marks, of Canton, Mo., is directing the choir of 100 voices.

All orders given to our bread wagon on Saturdays for Sunday will be appreciated. DANKE.

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