

# FOLLY OF JINGOISM

## REASONS ADVANCED FOR IMPENSE NAVY LACK FORCE.

Idea of a combination of European Powers Against the United States is Preposterous—Tendency Toward Free Trade.

The reason for the speech of President Roosevelt at San Francisco in which he made so strong a plea for a greatly enlarged navy and other preparations for war, is now apparent. His friend, Senator Lodge, delivered an address at Groton, Mass., in which he spoke of dangers from without due to our great industrial growth and power.

"We have," said he, "a higher energy of organization and production than any other nation. For this reason we are driving less highly organized and less energetic peoples to the wall. Whether the opposition thus aroused can be still or whether it will become desperate and manifest itself in a political or military manner no man can say. It behooves us, however, to watch carefully and be always on our guard both in our conduct and our readiness."

President Roosevelt and Senator Lodge are evidently agreed that strenuous steps are necessary to preserve this country from the united opposition of Europe either politically by tariffs and other forms of protection or by the more resolute method of war. It may be that both these thoughtful statesmen are merely intent upon arousing a martial spirit in the hearts of their countrymen, so that they will allow themselves to be bled more freely for large appropriations for the navy, the army and the other concomitants of expansion. But if they are sincere in their advice and really fear this country is in such great danger, it would seem that they should take their fellow citizens more into their confidence and say how soon the attack may be expected and what country will take the lead in crippling us. But are they not mistaken? Can any country or a combination of them gain anything by such a move? England, dependent as she is upon the United States for almost her daily bread, can have no such intention. France has always been our friend and, besides, is having hard work to make both ends meet without the far greater expense of war. Germany is in the midst of a social revolution, and the growing power of the people is such that her vast armaments are more likely to be decreased than to inaugurate a war that would drain her resources to the utmost. Russia could make no stand against us on the sea, and without the command of that element, who could harm us?

These two strenuous statesmen, Roosevelt and Lodge, should be more chary of their war talk and excite the American people unnecessarily. The Republican party with its extreme protective tariff to shut out all importations and fostering the sale of exports to foreigners cheaper than to our own people may force Europe to combine against us, but all would lose by such protest against international trade. The tendency is toward free trade and more of it, and those who invite an economic war, much more a military one, for their own aggrandizement will not be backed up by the American people.

### Joss Stick Diplomacy.

There's as much virtue in a joss stick in mosquito time as in an iron in regions pestered by that alert tormentor the way of the burning joss stick has become a metaphor for the little nuisance and when the air is sufficiently charged with the joss stick the mosquito disappears.

From a protection to a pastime is not a great distance. The joss stick has become an amusement. Dexterously waved in the dark, it can be made to write and the puzzle is to read its letters of light on the air vibrations.

The words brilliantly but flimsily formed are fascinating but elusive. They are out almost as soon as they are in. It requires a quick eye and unusual power of perception and interpretation to catch the joss stick phrases while they arrive, dazzle and flit.

China and Russia have been playing joss stick diplomacy with Secretary Hay and his friends. No other head of a state department has been lured to "porch fireworks." All the others are too old to be caught in trickery so transparent.

Secretary Hay does not lack years. His vanity and credulity make him an easy dupe of oriental ambidexterity. While he thinks the glittering joss sticks in the porch of statesmanship are keeping off international pests of problems, Berlin and St. Petersburg are talking solemnly to him with joss stick pens and he accepts their ambassador's assurances of the significance of their coruscating phrases. Nobody but himself is deceived, but meanwhile the chancelleries have no end of fun.

Meanwhile also the gentleman at Oyster Bay speaks softly and Russia carries the big stick in Manchuria.

### Divided Councils.

The Republicans are having troubles of their own these days and on questions that they should be most united about, and the numerous pilgrimages to Oyster Bay of the leaders of the different factions do not seem to clear the way for united action. First we are told that Senator Aldrich and his committee have agreed upon a financial bill which is generally acceptable to Wall Street and is approved by President Roosevelt. Then we hear that Uncle Joe Cannon is mulish and does not fall in with the program. He is "agin rubber currency" and does not think any financial legislation necessary. We have the best currency on earth, and so on. Strange to relate, Rockefeller and Morgan agree with each other that the Aldrich bill will save the country and incidentally of course, Wall Street. They are very insistent that the loans to the banks by the United States treasury, without interest, should be made legal, and, if possible, permanent. They also demand that the re-

ceipts from custom duties should be deposited in the banks, as the internal revenue taxes now are. This latter part of the program is said to be especially objectionable to the prospective speaker, and Congressman Fowler in an interview says that Uncle Joe prefers the Fowler assists currency bill to the Aldrich bill. With Wall Street and Congress divided on the scope and plan of financial legislation, and the Republican leaders divided, there is a chance that the Democratic minority may have to decide the question of legislation or no legislation.

In all the controversy about the proposed financial legislation it will be noticed that no Republican comes forward with any proposition that would be of comfort or assistance to the ordinary voter. The people appear to have no place at the Republican feast. The Wall Street financial magnates are invited to Oyster Bay, the trust and corporation officers and attorneys are called into conference, but not one known friend of the common people is invited, or, indeed, allowed, to voice their sentiments. Wall Street, the trust and the railroads are omnipotent in the councils of the Republican party.

### Big Anarchists.

We wish to call the attention of Secretary Cortelyou and the Department of Commerce, whose business it is to obtain and publish facts against the trusts, to at least one great trust that is doing business openly and in the most brazen manner and in defiance of the laws. The Iron Age of July 23, page 29, contains details of the "steel billet pool." This trust is a revival of the association which has, at intervals, been doing business for many years. The members of this new pool are the United States Steel Corporation, Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, Wheeling Steel & Iron Company, Cambria Steel Company, Pennsylvania Steel Company, Lackawanna Steel Company, and Maryland Steel Company. Meetings are held at New York every day, at which inquiries and sales are regularly reported. The agreement refers exclusively to prices which have been established for the principal points of consumption and which are quoted in the Iron Age.

The trust, like its prototypes, the steel rail pool, the sheet steel association, and dozens of others with which the United States Steel corporation is mixed up, are clearly trusts, not only under the Sherman anti-trust law, but in the eyes of the common law. All the new department has to do is to obtain, in legal manner, the facts as published in regard to all of these trusts and the attorney general will have no trouble in squelching them. Why are these great lawbreakers not now at the bar of justice? Or are the trusts above the laws?

### Populist Factions Unite.

The two factions of the people's party, each with a national organization, have decided to amalgamate, and in order to strengthen their chances for success issued an address to all reform bodies to join in the work.

The address, which was adopted at the joint conference in Denver, Colo., on July 4, 1908. However, for the benefit of the uninformed, we declare our unyielding adherence to the demands for (a) a money, whether stamped on gold, silver, or paper, to be coined and issued exclusively by the government and made full legal tender for all debts, both public and private; (b) a system of transportation and the transmission of intelligence owned by the public and operated by the government at the cost of service; (c) land for use rather than for speculation and the abolition of alien ownership of land; (d) American ships for American foreign commerce, without a cent of subsidy.

### Popular Election of Senators.

The great reason why the people desire the popular election of senators is that the United States senate is no longer amenable to public sentiment. The senators represent politicians and political machines rather than the people. They are thus made independent of the people and find it perfectly safe to defy the public will. There is another objection to the present method and that is that the senatorial elections interfere with the legitimate work of the legislatures, consuming the time which should belong to law-making. It also has a bad effect upon the personnel of legislatures. Men are elected to the general assembly frequently with regard only to their vote for senator and with no regard for their fitness as lawmakers.

### Roosevelt Not a Paragon.

Speaking of the charge that Miller the bookbinder of the government printing office, had spoken disrespectfully of the President, a contemporary declares that even if true, Roosevelt would cut no figure with Mr. Roosevelt, "who is the last man in the world to discharge a man on grounds personal to himself." The esteemed contemporary evidently has forgotten the case of the woman department clerk in whose case the civil service regulations were suspended in order to dismiss her for lesemajesty.

### Chamberlain's "Iowa Idea."

News from merry England shows that Mr. Chamberlain is utilizing the "Iowa idea"—that is, he is hedging on his protective tariff proposals pending the parliamentary elections, after which he will come back to the orthodox protection doctrine that the tariff is sacred and not to be touched save to increase it when it is too low.

### Vacillating Cummins.

The Honorable Cummins, it seems, has views respecting the currency as well as on the tariff. As his views are subject to revision "for the good of the party" at any moment, however, they will not be likely to exercise any profound influence upon legislation.

# THEIR EYES OPENING

## WORKERS BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE TARIFF ROBBERY.

Workers in the Textile Mills of Philadelphia Show Their Sentiments Plainly—"Prosperity" Only for the Rich.

The prolonged strike of the textile workers at Philadelphia has had good effect that will aid the whole country in throwing off the incubus of the protective tariff. Special dispatches from the Quaker City report that during the last few weeks the report of political feeling has been changing rapidly, and in every street parade made by the strikers banners were carried bearing sarcastic announcements and questions such as: "We are protected by a tariff but the Republican mill owners say we will be starved into submission." "Why are the tariff protected mills closed?" and many others of a like nature. One motto was especially significant: "If prosperity is so general, why can't we have a bit of it?"

The workers are at last discovering that the protective tariff means high prices for the things they have to buy and they are now discovering what it has been difficult to make them believe, that the trusts and combines are unwilling to increase wages to a par with the increased cost of living or needed anywhere near it.

Only two excuses have been made for protection: first, to control the market for American manufacturers, and second, to protect American labor. The first excuse has been pretty fully accomplished at the expense of the consumer. The tariff has prevented competition and has allowed the trusts to raise prices, until the average cost of living has increased 40 per cent. The second excuse has been an utter failure, for the working-man would not be striking for a fair share of the property that the trusts enjoy. The wages received by these workers are certainly less than will keep them in comfort

### STRANDED IN KANSAS.

#### Experience of Students Who Went West to Harvest Wheat at Big Wages.

One of the great evils of to-day is the quiet and secret, but powerful influence of great corporations. Speaking broadly, they control our politics, our press, and our pulpits. On matters affecting politics or legislation, we can believe not little—that we hear or read. The press and especially the great metropolitan journals, are well under control and act almost as a unit in doing the bidding of the trusts—railroad and industrial. They are especially interested in fooling the people as to the prosperity they are enjoying. Hence they give us only the slight glimmers and are inclined to paint this in too glowing colors. They quote each other and repeat the most absurd prosperity canards, but usually forget to publish corrections when made.

In order to sustain or advance prices of stocks in Wall street, the big eastern papers nearly every June teem with news about the great harvests and prosperity out west and the inability of farmers to get sufficient hands, even at high wages, to harvest their grain. This year, probably because there was more doubt than usual in the minds of investors, unusual Kansas farmers, we were told, were

FORWARD MARCH—GUIDE RIGHT! In the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 the democratic party made an honest fight for honest principles and polled more votes than the party ever polled before.

What if it has suffered defeat? Corruption and corruption, coupled with the desertion of gold democrats, were responsible for the defeat of 1896, while the defeat of 1900 was due to war enthusiasm and improved industrial conditions. The party has suffered defeat in the Kansas City platform—its purpose or abandoned its principles. Did it not suffer defeat in 1864 and again in 1868? Did it not suffer defeat in 1872 and also in 1880? Did it not make its tariff reform plank more emphatic rather than less so in 1892, after being defeated on that issue in 1888?

It stands for positive, aggressive democracy and its principles as formulated in its last national creed—the Kansas City platform—are sound and clearly defined. That platform declared imperialism to be a paramount issue, and the republican party has done nothing to settle that issue or remove it from the arena of politics. That platform declared private monopolies to be indefensible and intolerable, and the republican party has done nothing to settle that issue or to lessen its importance. Neither has anything been done to settle the money question. No one would dare commit the democratic party to the gold standard, and if bimetalism is desirable there is no better statement of it than that found in the platform. Besides the plank on free silver, the platform covers other phases of the money question and commits the party to a financial system made by the people for themselves. The fight coming on in congress over the currency legislation proposed by the banks in their own interests cannot help giving prominence to this question, and the party could not avoid the issue if it would.

On the questions affecting labor, too, the platform is explicit and the party's position well stated. Neither does the tariff plank of the Kansas City platform need revision—in fact there is nothing in that platform that requires apology or explanation. As no issue in that platform has been settled and as no new and overshadowing issue has arisen since 1900, nothing remains but to continue the fight along lines already laid down until the people realize the dangerous tendency of republican politics and turn to our party for relief.

In spite of the obvious necessity of maintaining the party's integrity the reorganizers are actively engaged in an effort to emasculate the platform. They want to keep up a sham battle on the tariff while they secretly advance the interests of financiers and protect the trusts from any effective legislation. The duty of those democrats who believe in the Kansas City platform is clear. They must march forward and meet the enemy as they have in the campaigns of the past. They must fight for the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform and for the application of the same principles to new questions as they arise. There must be no surrender and there can be no compromise of principle that is not equivalent to a surrender. If the reorganizers refer to the defeats of 1896 and 1900 remind them of the defeat of 1894 and tell them that the party would have been annihilated had the Cleveland leadership continued. If they doubt our ability to win a victory in 1904 on an honest platform like that adopted in 1900, tell them that it offers a better promise of success than any dishonest platform, and that if defeat

Nuttall with his \$3 got on the first train going east. He had to give the \$3 up to various brakemen before he got to Kansas City. There he sold his watch for \$2.50, on which he managed to get to St. Louis. A purse was raised for him here, and he started for New York to-night.

Thus have these college students learned their "prosperity" lesson in the dearest, but best, of all schools—that of experience. Tens of thousands of investors, scattered all over the country, have been attending the same school and have been fooled by the same kind of information published in the great newspapers, which are often "come on" for Wall street. And yet some people express surprise at the little influence which metropolitan newspapers appear to have with voters.

Moral: Between false news reports and the juggled statistics of our agricultural department, we do not know "where we are at" or what the future will bring forth. In the meantime it will probably be best for each of us to let the western farmers and the Wall street sharks shift for themselves and harvest their crops without assistance.

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if any, return to the people who are taxed to pay it. Clarkson is an old political pal of Postmaster-General Payne, they having been mixed up in some similar deals—securing delegates, on former occasions, so nobody will be particularly surprised at the information that "Ret" Clarkson is the official who has furnished the revenue cut-off for Postmaster-General Payne and his family to take their summer outing on. That revenue cutters were not intended for private use does not seem to have troubled the elastic political consciences of either Clarkson or Payne. It is through this loose idea of the private snap that high officials regard as their political requisites, that the grating and looting in the postoffice and other departments have grown to such serious scandals.

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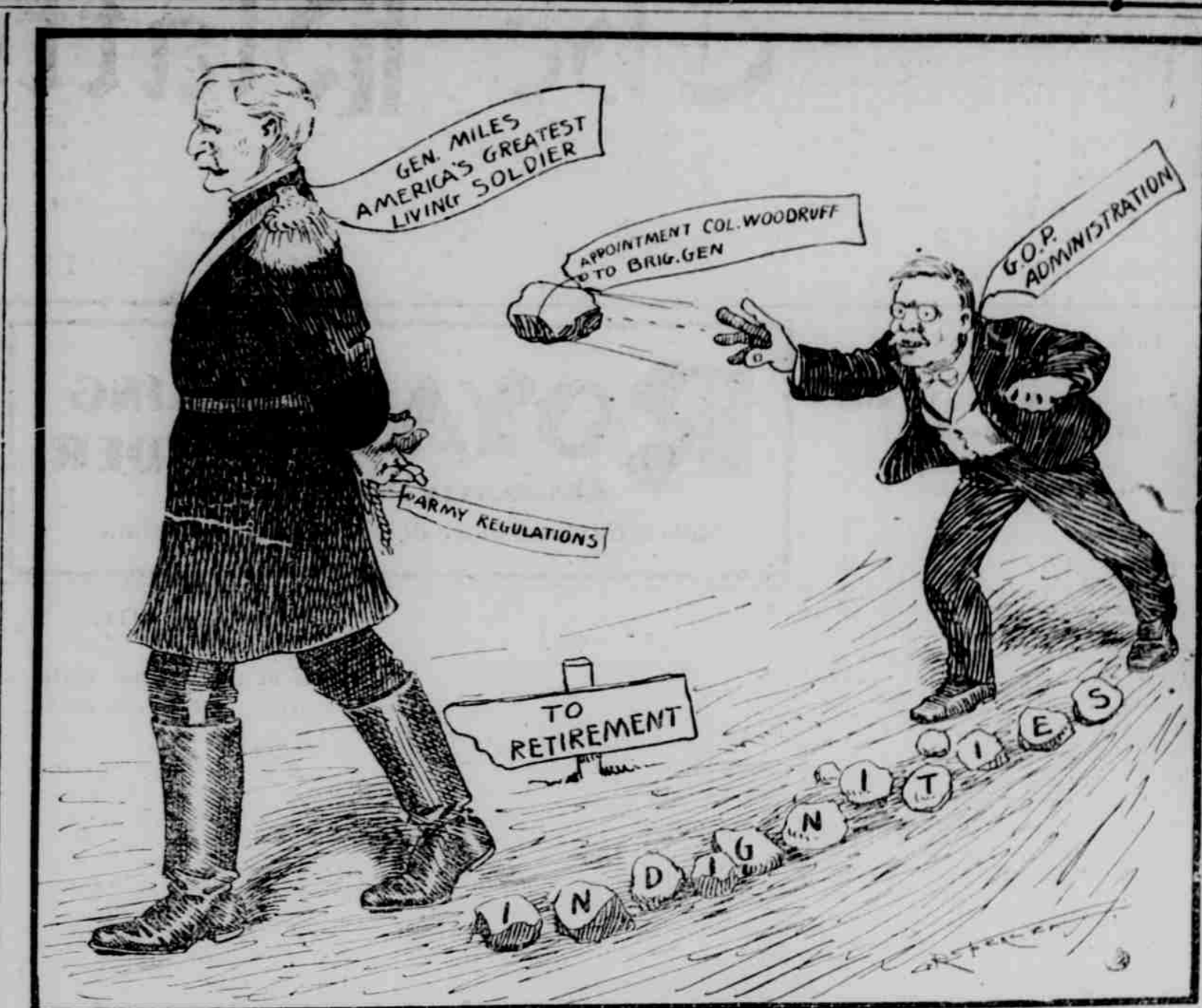
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THE LAST ONE? —Used by courtesy of The Commoner

does come it will not only be less sweeping than a defeat on different lines, but that there would be no dishonor with it. Honor and expediency unite in demanding fidelity to the last national platform and to the interests of the people on all questions.

### ANOTHER WALL STREET DEMAND.

Wall street has been demanding an elastic currency for some time, but now comes the demand from the Wall Street Journal for an elastic anti-trust law. It says that the decision of the court in the merger case "calls loudly for remedial legislation." It says: "The law must be made, if possible, more elastic so as to permit of such combinations as are beneficial even though technically in restraint of trade." Elasticity seems to be popular in Wall street—elasticity of conscience, elasticity of law, elasticity of currency, and elasticity even of the Declaration of Independence. It would seem that we need less elasticity instead of more.

### WHY NOT SENATOR COCKRELL?

Why not Francis Marion Cockrell of Missouri for president? His Christian character, his long experience, his great ability, and his unquestioned integrity make him worthy to be considered among those eligible to a democratic nomination. As one who has been in harmony with his party on every question he would be acceptable to the Kansas City platform democrats, and yet what reorganizer could find a personal objection to him? His long service would disarm criticism and his popularity would spread as he became better known.

He is 69 years of age, but young enough for service yet. His service in the confederate army would not weaken him, first, because the war is over, and second, because his record has been such as to commend him to those who wore the blue as well as to those who wore the gray.

The Commoner has already mentioned several available men and has others in reserve, but it takes pleasure in proposing Senator Cockrell.

### THE GORMAN INTERVIEW.

The Cincinnati Enquirer, a champion of Senator Gorman, says of its interview with him: "His attitude as to his willingness to accept presidential nomination, but declared that there are three issues before the country—'tariff reform, economy in public affairs, and honesty in office.'"

As the republicans will insist that they, too, favor economy and honesty, that would leave tariff reform as the only issue, and as Senator Gorman was chief among the group of senators that emaciated the Wilson bill and brought ridicule upon the party in 1894, his candidacy would eliminate the tariff issue. But there is another issue that should not be overlooked. The duty of those democrats who believe in the Kansas City platform is clear. They must march forward and meet the enemy as they have in the campaigns of the past. They must fight for the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform and for the application of the same principles to new questions as they arise. There must be no surrender and there can be no compromise of principle that is not equivalent to a surrender. If the reorganizers refer to the defeats of 1896 and 1900 remind them of the defeat of 1894 and tell them that the party would have been annihilated had the Cleveland leadership continued. If they doubt our ability to win a victory in 1904 on an honest platform like that adopted in 1900, tell them that it offers a better promise of success than any dishonest platform, and that if defeat

In view of the probable trouble Mr. Hanna will meet in his senatorial campaign, it is not too difficult to understand why he took so much interest in securing the acquittal of Estes G. Rathbone. It will be remembered that Mr. Rathbone handled the telephone with the skill of an expert during a former senatorial campaign.

Somehow or other the tariff on wheat did not succeed in making the grain thresh out according to prospects. The attention of the "stand-patters" is called to this remarkable fact.

The Houston Post devotes a column of editorial space to "The Republican Financial Program." The program is to issue a lot of asset currency and then respond to the claque's encores.

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number of democrats can endorse so useless and inanimate a policy. The Kansas City platform democrats are the only democrats who are making an aggressive fight for democratic principles and policies.

### THE MONEY QUESTION.

In its issue of Friday, July 31, the Wall Street Journal said: "As it was in the beginning of the year, is now, and is likely to continue to be during all of 1903, the money question is the one of most vital importance. There is nothing in the business situation as it presents itself at this time to prevent a continuance of our national prosperity, except the congestion of the money market, due to its inability to expand as rapidly as the trade and industries of the country."

The Journal addresses the bankers when it reminds them that "the money question is the one of most vital importance." When other representatives of Wall street address the people, the people are assured that the money question is a dead issue.

From the standpoint of these men the people should not tamper with the money question. They should not discuss it. They should not insist upon having a part in the arrangement of our monetary system.

While the bankers it is different. They are to be reminded that "the money question is the one of most vital importance," and they are to be counseled to urge senators and representatives in congress to see that this question is disposed of entirely in line with the vital interests of the financiers.

But when the Wall Street Journal admits that "the money question is the one of most vital importance," with what reason does it assume to draw the line where the discussion of this question may terminate?

Does it object to the bimetalists urging their method of providing the country with what they believe to be a sound monetary system? Or does it insist that all discussion with respect to this question of "most vital importance" be limited to a consideration of the currency system proposed by the financiers and that participation in that discussion be confined to the financiers themselves?

The Wall Street Journal has made a most interesting confession. Whatever men may say about the "dead and buried past," whatever men may say about "worshiping issues," the indisputable fact remains that in the discussion of our financial system the "money question" cannot be separated from the money question.

The navy department has decided to discourage the enlistment of negroes, and to begin a gradual elimination of the colored man from the navy. Had this policy been adopted by the army six or eight years ago there would have been some ragged holes in a certain San Juan reputation.

The National Civil Service league seems to be laboring under the delusion that the president should still believe in strict enforcement of the civil service laws. But this may be due to the fact that none of its members has had to worry about re-election to a high office.

A college education is within the reach of every young man and young woman who possessed the desire to achieve and the will to do. The Commoner has a proposition to make to those who desire to secure a college education and invites correspondence with them.

Mr. Morgan is going to give Uncle Sam some paintings, and of course Uncle Sam is expected to continue certain lines of gifts he has been sending Morganward for several years.

The exposure of a vast amount of corrupt and dishonest business is resulting in the sending of a lot of republicans to the penitentiary.

Perhaps that New York congressman went into the glove contract because he wanted his speculations handled that way by future investigating committees.

Mr. James J. Hill has not expressed his choice for president, but since the handing down of a certain decision in the merger case it would be safe to guess.

The employees who took preferred stock in the steel trust at \$2.50 are being applauded Governor Durbin's determination to uphold the law.

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