

The Commoner.

paign of 1900 various suggestions were heard to the effect that we should have a chairman who could approach the men of wealth and secure their contributions. The democrats who are interested in good government more than they are in holding office or in the distribution of patronage, might as well know that the failure of the democratic party to secure large contributions from rich men and corporations is due solely to the fact that the democratic party during the last two campaigns has refused to mortgage itself to those who seek to use the government for private gain.

It is now known that the democrats had more than half a million dollars to spend in the state of New York in 1892, and that one trust contributed one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars to the fund. As a result of the contributions made by corporations in that campaign the administration which followed became the pliant tool of "predatory wealth," and because of the subservience of the administration an odium was brought upon the party that was the main cause of democratic defeat in 1896 and 1900. The democratic voters could not indorse the administration that had betrayed the party into the hands of the syndicates, and when the party invited the people to follow the democratic banner it had to meet the opposition of repudiated democrats as well as the hostility of those who blamed the democratic party for the sins of an undemocratic administration.

In 1900 the republicans contrasted the improved conditions which existed under a republican administration with the conditions that existed under Mr. Cleveland's administration, and this argument had weight with those who did not investigate far enough to know that Mr. Cleveland and the republicans joined in supporting the policies that had made Mr. Cleveland's administration unpopular. If the democratic party has to appeal to the masses of the people it must be honest with them and it cannot be honest with them if it mortgages itself to corporations which are violating existing laws and preventing the passage of laws needed for the protection of the public.

Senator Jones acted in the interests of the democratic party when he refused to make terms with the element that controlled the government under Mr. Cleveland's administration. He saved the organization from disgrace, even if he did not save it from defeat. No amount of money could have elected the democratic ticket if the money had been secured from the sources upon which the republican party drew, because no campaign fund could have purchased republicans enough to offset the democratic vote that would have been lost by such a course. It is fortunate for the party, however, that Senator Jones was restrained by his conscience, his judgment and his obligation to the party from making the attempt.

Mr. Whitney's skillful use of campaign funds contributed largely to Mr. Cleveland's election in 1892, but that was before the democratic party was regenerated and before the democratic voters understood the methods that were being employed. The lamentable failure of the Palmer and Buckner ticket shows the folly of attempting to run the democratic party on corporation lines after the democrats have become informed as to the situation.

Reference is made to the subject at this time because throughout the country the corporation element is endeavoring to regain control of the democratic organization. In Illinois the attempt has been successful and Mr. Hopkins, who was high in the counsels of the Palmer and Buckner democrats in 1896, is chairman of the state committee. He claims to have returned to the democratic party in 1900, but instead of coming back to support the party's principles he began at once to plot and plan to put the party organization in the control of the corporation and money-worshipping element. The democrats of Illinois will find it necessary to purge their organization of this element and select men who will support democratic principles because of their

interest in those principles. The attempt which has been temporarily successful in Illinois is being made everywhere, and democrats must be on the alert or the party will lose the confidence that two honest campaigns have given it.

The republican party has no policy that looks to the permanent good of the people at large, and therefore experience must sooner or later lead to the overthrow of that party. But the democratic party cannot take advantage of republican errors unless it shows a steadfast devotion to the interests of the people. When it begins a flirtation with corporate wealth it will lose its hold upon the masses. Instead of considering plans for securing large contributions from those who make a profit out of the favoritism of government, it is better that the democratic party continue its advocacy of the doctrine of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and then labor for legislation which will prevent the collection of large campaign funds to be spent in the corruption of voters. The democratic party can better afford to run its campaigns entirely without money than to borrow of those who loan only on condition that their money shall be returned with usurious interest out of the pockets of the people.

Advertising Patrons Pleased.

The proprietor of The Commoner acknowledges his indebtedness to the readers of the paper for the support which they have given to the advertisers who patronize the paper. One book publisher says:

"Outside of the regularly recognized indispensable book mediums The Commoner ranks first for results."

Another renews his advertisement, saying:

"We think your paper one of the best advertising mediums we have ever tried. We received double the replies from your paper that we received from papers claiming five times the circulation that your paper claims."

Nor does the commendation come from the book publishers alone. A manufacturer of gasoline engines inserted an advertisement a short time ago, and before the term for which the advertisement was inserted expired, asked that the notice be temporarily suspended until he could catch up with the orders that it had already brought to him. His letter reads:

"You may discontinue our ad. for the present. We are so crowded with Gasoline Engine trade that we will hardly be able to take care of all the trade that seems in sight through our ad. in your paper."

The widespread response which has been made to Commoner advertisements is largely due to the fact that this paper does not accept advertisements until assured of the honesty and responsibility of the advertisers. Therefore, the readers can deal with our advertisers without any fear that they will be swindled. Many advertisements are turned down every week because they are objectionable or because the references given are not satisfactory. The value of advertising space in a paper must ultimately depend upon the returns received by advertisers, and those returns are increased as the patrons have confidence in the paper's determination to exclude frauds and shams.

The proprietor of The Commoner, in thanking the readers for the help they have given, renews his request that they will give him notice if any dishonesty or unfairness is attempted by those who advertise their wares in the columns of this paper.

Gov. Cummins' Plain Words.

Governor Cummins of Iowa, in his inaugural address, gave the republican politicians of the country a severe shock. Governor Cummins declares that the tariff is oppressive and responsible for the trusts, and he boldly places himself in antagonism to Mr. Roosevelt's trust remedy.

"Competition," says Governor Cummins, "is

the paramount law of industrial life. It may and very often does destroy, but in my judgment it must exist in full vigor if we do not desire the government to assume the power of fixing the price of industrial products." Then the governor declares "The most manifest evil of these tremendous aggregations is their effects upon competition." "Every consolidation, even though it does not draw in all the products in which it deals," according to Governor Cummins, "narrows the field of competition." He admits that "there may be sharp and effective competition with two competitors. It is, however, not so likely as with a greater number."

The governor admits that a perfect remedy is not within our reach "for much must be remitted to natural laws of individual enterprise," but he declares that "interference on certain lines is not only permissible, but demanded." He thinks "the motives for organizing such corporations could be and should be limited to the natural desire to make profit from the business in which the corporation is to engage." He believes that "many of the large industrial combinations would not have been proposed or effected had it not been for the knowledge that the promoters or organizers could make stupendous fortunes in the mere operation of consolidation."

"I believe," says Governor Cummins, "that the question is a national one and that the time has come to nationalize it." And then the governor disposes of Mr. Roosevelt's remedy in this way:

"I am unable to agree that we can cure whatever evils may exist in these organizations by publicity. Their affairs are already sufficiently public so that every intelligent man understands in a general way of what they are composed, what they are doing and what they are earning. It is well enough to require them to make statements and submit to examinations, but if we are to limit our regulation to mere publicity the outcome will not justify the attention we are bestowing upon the subject."

One of the most striking passages in the governor's address was that wherein he says, "We must see to it that if we cannot artificially induce competition, we can at least be certain that we do not artificially exclude it." He declares that it is plain "that whenever a consolidation of manufacturers with respect to any commodity stifles competition at home or so restricts its operation that its force is not fairly felt, then it is the imperative duty of congress to immediately remove the artificial restraints we have created."

"I regard," says Governor Cummins, "the consequences of a monopoly or substantial monopoly, in any important product as infinitely more disastrous than the consequences of foreign importations."

When one reads these statements and learns that they come from a man who has recently been elected governor of the republican state of Iowa, he is not surprised when he is informed of the further fact that Governor Cummins is without material influence in the national councils of his party. It is gratifying, however, to find a conspicuous republican boldly speaking his sentiments even though in doing so he must array himself, as Governor Cummins has, against his party's national policy.

Roosevelt on Colonies.

Theodore Roosevelt, now president of the United States, once issued a book entitled, "American Ideas and Other Essays." In this book Mr. Roosevelt had considerable to say concerning colonies. Mr. Roosevelt's books may be obtained at any book-seller's counter today. If any one is interested in obtaining the opinion of Mr. Roosevelt, the citizen, let him read the book referred to and he will find therein the following:

At best, the inhabitants of a colony are in a cramped and unnatural state. At the worst, the establishment of a colony prevents any