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The Blunder In Iowa

On another page will be found an editorial reproduced from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "The Iowa Blunder." It so fully covers the case that its reproduction makes it unnecessary for The Commoner to add any extended comment. The democrats of Iowa have blundered, and it is difficult to say who are most to blame—the men who engineered the scheme or the men who were duped into believing that a party can fight best when on the run. The mistake made in Ohio a year ago has been repeated in Iowa, and the tactics employed were quite similar, although the majority against the indorsement of the Kansas City platform was much greater in Ohio than in Iowa, being only 384 to 344 in the latter state.

The Iowa platform does not indorse the gold standard, and therein demonstrates the cowardice of those who are not willing to indorse the national platform of the party. If bimetallism is not desirable the Iowa reorganizers ought to be willing to indorse the gold standard; if they favor bimetallism and are opposed to the ratio of 16 to 1 they ought to be willing to state what ratio they do favor, but they are not. They dare not put in writing any plan upon the money question and ask for its indorsement at the polls. They show small respect for the intelligence of the people when they assume that the voters can be fooled by such dodging and equivocation. If the democratic party cannot be trusted to state its position on the money question it cannot be trusted to stand by a position on any question, and the timid souls who beat a retreat on finance are not likely to beat a charge anywhere. If their fear of the financiers compels them to be silent on the money question they will find that the same scare will be used when they attempt to deal effectively with any question. If they had shown half as much moral courage in fighting the money changers as Governor Cummins showed in fighting the tariff-protected trusts they would have won more votes than they will by making concessions to the men who, by helping the republican party in 1896, became responsible for all of the iniquities against which the Iowa platform declares. The Iowa democrats who endeavored to secure the indorsement of the Kansas City platform can confidently expect better success next year, but they must make their fight at the primaries and not wait until the convention has been packed with men selected for the purpose of surrendering the party's position on the financial question. Insofar as the Iowa platform touches on public questions it is, in the main, sound, but it is neither as explicit nor as strong as the Kansas City platform which the convention threw into the waste basket. The fact is that a platform means much or little, according to the purpose of those who are to administer it, and no platform, however good, will amount to much if it must be administered by men who are frightened at their shadows and are willing to compromise on any question in the hope of securing a few votes.

Labor on Its Own Feet.

The Sioux City Journal, the leading republican newspaper of Iowa and one of the best edited

republican newspapers in the country, unconsciously stated a great truth in its issue of the morning after Labor Day when it said:

"A Labor Day parade offers much encouragement. Labor is able to go on its own feet."

The Journal meant it for a compliment, and only a compliment, but the truth is so apparent and so great that it deserves more than passing notice.

Labor is able to travel on its own feet solely because labor has been compelled to walk without assistance. But the "infant industries" must be provided with "jumpers," "perambulators," patent walking devices and all kinds of supports and protection. The working masses must fight their own way, but capitalists must be given government bounty, protection and a chance to wrest an undue profit from the people.

When laboring men organize and refuse to work unless paid remunerative wages they are

President Roosevelt Why not proceed against the Trusts under the Criminal Clause of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law? Section One of that law reads:

Sec. 1.—Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared illegal. Every person who shall make any such contract or engage in any such combination or conspiracy, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

called "anarchists," "disturbers of the peace," "menaces to society" and "agitators," but when capitalists organize and shut up one-half their mills in order to limit production and thereby force the people to pay tribute it is called "the evolution of modern industrial methods" and the capitalists are called "captains of industry." When the laborers organize and attempt to force capital to terms, the militia is called out. When capitalists organize and force labor and the public to pay tribute, public officials talk about the "delicate machinery of our vast business system" and plead that nothing be done to disarrange the machinery.

To be sure "labor is able to go on its own feet." Why should capital be helped along and coddled and nursed? Is capital any better or any more deserving than labor?

Johnson Wins In Ohio

The Ohio convention was of importance to the democratic party for two reasons; first, because the democrats of Ohio indorsed the Kansas City platform and put themselves in line with the democracy of the nation; and, second, because it showed Tom Johnson's influence in the councils of the party in that state. One year ago the McLean following was sufficient to prevent the indorsement of democratic principles as enunciated in the last national platform and Mr. McLean had a considerable portion, although not a majority, of the state committee. The readers of The Commoner will remember the comment that was made upon the Ohio platform of 1901, and they will also remember that the election returns did not justify the expectations of those who thought that they could build up the party by remaining silent on the money question. It was probably fortunate that the evasion occurred last year, rather than this, because it aroused the rank and file of the party, and they instructed at the primaries, and by the time the state convention was reached the McLean element was so weak that it did not make any open contest. The influence exerted by Tom Johnson upon the party organization is a wholesome one. He is strong, brave and honest. His sympathies are with the people, and he has the ability to fight their battles for them. He is open and above board in his methods and takes the people into his confidence. His candor is shown by his speech as temporary chairman. He said:

"The money question also is national. And let me tell you this is no dead issue, as some would have us believe. Dead though it may be in one form, it is alive in other and more radical forms. So long as Wall street interests dictate our financial policies, the money question cannot die. You know that I have never accepted the doctrine commonly known as '16 to 1.' I have worked with those who do accept it because I have believed, as I believe yet, that the free silver fight was the first great protest of the American people against monopoly—the first great struggle here of the masses against the privileged classes. It was not free silver that frightened the plutocratic leaders. What they feared was free men."

Mr. Johnson was not an advocate of free coinage at 16 to 1, but the Chicago platform had no more earnest supporter because he recognized that the silver question was only one phase of the money question and that the money question was only one phase of the unending struggle between greed and human rights. Mr. Johnson has not studied the money question as thoroughly as he has studied some other economic questions, but he is so devoted to the interests of the people that he can be depended upon to stand with them in the settlement of every controversy. He recognizes that the money question is not dead and he says it cannot die so long as Wall street interests dictate our financial policies, and that Wall street will dictate unless the people are constantly on their guard is only too evident.

The great financiers who act as pawn brokers for nations and great corporations do not want money plentiful; they are advocates now and always of dear money because it is to their interest to be so. When, after 1849, gold became plentiful