

## AN "HARMONIOUS" HINT. According to the organs of the reorganizers, Kansas City platform democrats are to be read out of the party "with Grover in the chair."

Kansas City platform democrats are under obligation to the Brooklyn Eagle for a somewhat frank statement of the purpose of the reorganizers. The Eagle announces that "in 1904 there can be no democratic reiteration of the Bryanism of 1896 and 1900 on any of the points against which the country was then aroused." And referring to the Kansas City platform democrats as the "Bryan remnant," the Eagle says that these democrats "will have to support the nominee whoever he is and take their chances under him or they will have to get out." Then in order to make its desire for "harmony" well understood, the Eagle says, "If they (the Kansas City platform democrats) get out, their loss will be more than made good by better men whom they alone have alienated from the democratic party."

In another editorial the Eagle intimates that if Kansas City platform democrats are not very careful, Grover Cleveland may be chosen to preside over the democratic convention of 1904.

The Eagle is considerably more frank than other representatives of the reorganizers; and yet the Eagle is not candid enough to say that the recruits who are to "make good the loss" of the Kansas City platform democrats are the representatives of the trust interests and men whose sympathies are in line with the policies of the trust magnates.

These warnings should be sufficient to put every real democrat upon his guard in order that the effort to "republicanize" the democratic party may be thwarted. Wherever the reorganizers have obtained control, they have tried to avoid a clear

statement of the party's position upon important questions and have contented themselves with generalization that could be construed to mean anything or nothing. It is evidently their plan to secure uninstructed and yet secretly pledged delegates to the next national convention, and then at the convention to prepare an ambiguous platform and nominate a ticket selected by the great corporate interests to carry on a campaign with money collected from the trusts. If defeated, as they doubtless would be, the party would have to bear the disgrace as well as the defeat, and if successful the party would be in the position it was when Mr. Cleveland attempted to make it the exponent of plutocracy. That this is the purpose is plain to any one who has watched the course of the reorganizers.

The only way to meet the stealthy and covert movements of the reorganizers is by an open appeal to democratic voters. The very fact that the reorganizers refuse to disclose their plans is proof positive that they are conscious that they are in the minority in the party. They would be glad to have the pretense of a popular indorsement if they thought that they could secure the indorsement of a majority of the democrats at the primaries, but they know that this is as impossible now as it was in 1896 and therefore they will now, as in 1896, seek to secure by underhand means that which they cannot hope to secure in a fair fight. The advocates of the Kansas City platform, if they would hold the party to the advocacy of democratic principles, must proceed at once to perfect an organization within

the party, the purpose of which will be to make the fight at the primaries, where, and where alone, the voice of the people is heard.

If a club can be organized in every precinct the delegates can be selected from men whose opinions are known and these men can be instructed as they were in 1896. If this is done, the integrity of the party can be maintained and its character so established that patriotic republicans will turn to it for relief when they realize, as realize they must soon, that the republican party is completely dominated by organized wealth. These clubs will not only enable the Kansas City platform democrats to know each other and to act together, but they will furnish a means of supporting democratic principles. They can circulate democratic literature and by local debates bring pending questions to public attention. It would be well for these clubs to invite both the reorganizers and republicans to meet and discuss all questions at issue, for out of discussion comes the truth.

With a party as with an individual, character is everything. A party that puts an empty victory above the people's interests does not deserve and cannot long have the confidence of the people.

The Commoner desires to encourage the formation of these clubs and to aid them in their work after they are formed. A form for constitution and by-laws will be sent upon application, and The Commoner will publish from time to time suggestions in regard to subjects for debate.

**DO NOT DELAY! ORGANIZE NOW!**

If the secretary of the club will report the organization to The Commoner notice will be given for the information of other communities.

### A Significant Admission.

The speech delivered by Secretary of War Root before the Union League club in New York, February 6, tends to confirm the report that Mr. Roosevelt's advisers have warned him that he has gone a bit too far on the negro question.

Mr. Root took occasion to say that in extending White house courtesies to the negroes, Mr. Roosevelt had gone no further than any of his predecessors. He also invited special attention to the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has appointed fewer negroes to office than did Harrison, Hayes or McKinley. Mr. Root declared that the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments have utterly failed to carry into effect the plan formulated to elevate the black man by making him a citizen and giving him the right to vote. Mr. Root said that he believed that within a few years the overwhelming dominant white opinion in the south would succeed in excluding the negro from all offices in southern states and he left upon his hearers the impression that he did not regard it to be the duty of the north to interfere with the inevitable result.

The Kansas City Journal, one of the leading republican papers in the west, commenting upon Mr. Root's speech, says that because Mr. Roosevelt has had time to manifest his disapproval, if he felt any, but has not done so, "the speech must stand as the latest and most up-to-date republican doctrine as announced from the White house."

The Journal further says:

"This speech, where it deals with the negro question, is so absolutely contrary to the record of the republican party it is difficult to realize that it could have been delivered by one of the party's leaders so eminent in authority and high in position as Mr. Root is. If the attitude of the republican party is changing, the negro has himself to blame. In the border states between the north and the south, and in all the larger cities, the negroes are no longer loyal adherents of the party

that freed them. Republican leaders are beginning to feel that they cannot rely on the undivided support of the black vote, and so it is not strange that their sympathy should cool with this loss of confidence. But Secretary Root, of course, did not refer to this. He meant that the racial benefits which were expected to ensue from clothing the negro with citizenship had not materialized and that negro suffrage had proved a disappointment from a patriotic standpoint."

This will doubtless be interesting reading to those who have imagined that the republican party was the disinterested friend of the negro.

It will be observed that this republican paper says that the negro has himself to blame if the attitude of the republican party is changing. The fault of the negroes, according to this republican organ, is that in the border states between the north and the south and in all larger cities the negroes are no longer loyal adherents of the republican party. The fault, according to this republican organ, is that the negroes have given republican leaders cause to feel that they cannot rely on the undivided support of the black vote.

"And so," says this republican organ, "it is not strange that their sympathy should cool with this loss of confidence."

The Journal editorial in which this comment appears is entitled "A Significant Admission." The Journal meant that the head-line should apply to Secretary Root's address; and yet it is particularly applicable to the admission made by the Journal itself, which is, in effect, that the republican party is the friend of the negro for political purposes only.

### Beneficent Laws.

In his message to the legislature Governor Murphy of New Jersey denied that the laws of the state gave unjust powers to corporations. Governor Murphy said:

"It is the impression of some who are

ignorant of the facts that the corporation laws of the state of New Jersey are especially liberal, and that corporations organized under them have unusual and perhaps unwise powers. This is not so. Corporations that want to do a dishonest business have a hard time of it under the New Jersey law. Corporations that desire to conduct their business as honest men conduct theirs are protected as fully and completely as any individual in the state.

"As a matter of fact, there are few, if any real trusts, and the name is given promiscuously to large corporations of all kinds, especially if composed of a combination of a number of smaller concerns. Our people are too enterprising to allow monopolies to exist.

"In the last thirteen years the corporations organized under our beneficent laws have paid the state \$13,000,000 and for the last three years payments have averaged \$2,227,246. Their capitalization is many billions and the stockholders are hundreds of thousands of people. The state has its obligations to these stockholders. Let us live up to them frankly and manfully and not be ashamed to be honest."

If the laws of New Jersey are not especially liberal and if under those laws corporations do not have unusual and unwise powers, then is it not strange that New Jersey has come to be known as the "trust state?"

The fact that during the last thirteen years the corporations organized under the "beneficent laws" of New Jersey have paid to the state \$13,000,000 would seem to indicate that the impression of which Governor Murphy complains is not altogether an erroneous one.

Several eastern newspapers pretending to be democratic commend those democratic legislators of Delaware who propose to join with anti-Addicks republicans to elect one democratic and one republican senator. These are the same so-called democratic newspapers that never lose an opportunity to denounce fusion between western democrats and populists for the purpose of defeating other republicans like Addicks.