

and hideth himself, while the foolish pass on and are punished. The power to reason from what is to what shall be marks the difference between the wise and the foolish. Whether we are considering the individual or a nation composed of individuals we must expect that those will fare best who watch the beginning of evil and apply a remedy while the remedy is easy. Many an individual has died from a disease which might have been checked if treated in time, and nations suffer grievously because they fail to act in time. If our people possess the intellectual superiority of which we are prone to boast, they ought to watch every development of government with constant vigilance to the end that only right principles shall be applied or if mistakes are made that they be corrected at once.

### A Dangerous Man.

The Milwaukee Sentinel has the following to say in regard to Governor La Follette of that state:

"And this is the record he is making from day to day. The governor of Wisconsin, chosen by the people to wisely and impartially execute the laws, is going about the state with the unblushing impudence of a paid agitator who has nothing to lose endeavoring to foment discontent. He is poisoning the wells from which the people drink. He is sowing the seeds of social and industrial discord. He differs from the ordinary breeder of class hatred in that he appeals first to one and then to the other class with a plea that he believes will fit the time and place. Blind to the honors that have been conferred upon him, greedy for more power, and careless of the consequences of his acts so long as he can score a temporary victory, the man whom the people of Wisconsin have elevated to the highest place in their gift is now playing the part of a political agitator whose stock in trade is falsehood, misrepresentation and half truths, the latter of which are worse than falsehood.

"Governor La Follette is a dangerous man. Those who countenance and aid him in furthering his political ambition are in part responsible for the consequence of his acts. The day will surely come when they will regret the part they are playing in current events which will come to be known as marking one of the historical periods in Wisconsin that would best be forgotten."

It is only two years ago that the more partisan of the republican papers were attributing the assassination of President McKinley to criticism which appeared in democrat papers. What criticism could be more severe than that above quoted from the columns of the Sentinel? What more severe accusation, if the Sentinel's readers give any weight to its opinion, could be brought against a public man? The Sentinel charges Governor La Follette with "attempting to foment discontent," but what kind of discontent is it? In what manner is he "poisoning the wells from which the people drink?" What is he doing that can be described as "sowing the seeds of social and industrial discord?" It is not sufficient to say that Governor La Follette is a candidate for re-election, or that he is ambitious. The question is, "Are his charges of corporation rule true or false?" If they are true, no one can justly criticize him for making them. If they are false, and he knows them to be false, he merits the condemnation that ought to be visited upon any untruthful person.

The whole question turns upon the truth or falsity of the accusation which Governor La Follette brings against the republican leaders of his state. If Governor La Follette's charges are true, to say that in making them he is not entitled to credit because he is an aspirant for office would be like saying that a policeman is not entitled to credit for apprehending a criminal, because the policeman's act may lead to his promotion. Even if the policeman had the promotion in mind and was doing his duty for the sole purpose of securing a promotion, he would still be credited with any good act. It is a pity that more republicans

are not trying to secure office by taking the people's side.

According to papers like the Sentinel the extortions practiced by railroads ought not to be pointed out by any one who is now, or hereafter expects to be, a candidate for office. It is a common practice among the corporation organs to assail every reformer as a dangerous man, and as an office-seeking politician. They are not prepared to meet the charges made against organized wealth; they are not able to defend the practices of the corporations that are running the government in their own interests, so they assail the men who attempt to secure remedial legislation. Governor La Follette is a republican, and as such he has supported and is supporting many republican policies which the democrats regard as hostile to the interests of the people. But Governor La Follette has made an heroic fight to rescue his own party from the heartless domination of the corporations of the state, and in doing so he has brought upon himself, as he might have expected, the bitter vituperation of the republican politicians and the republican editors who, for pay or gratuitously, represent entrenched privileges.

The Commoner, without indorsing or excusing the governor's opinions on national questions, commends his effort to purify his party. He is not likely to be long successful, because the forces against which he contends are too powerful for him to overcome, but he deserves credit for the effort, and if he fails the work he is doing will make the process of education easier for the democrats.

The very fact that the corporations are denouncing La Follette explains the sympathy which democrats express for him. They admire his courage, although they feel that his efforts to reform the republican party are doomed to failure, and they think that he would show more discretion if he allied himself with the democratic party and worked with the people who are trying to defeat republican policies as well as republican methods.

### Redeem Indiana.

Republican papers have had much to say concerning lawlessness in Breathitt county, Kentucky. Not long ago Curtis Jett was tried and convicted on the charge of assassinating Attorney Marcum. Jett was sentenced to life imprisonment. Later Jett was placed on trial on the charge of killing Thomas Cockrill, whose assassination occurred several years ago and long prior to the killing of Marcum. In the Cockrill case Jett was found guilty and sentenced to death. Accepting, then, the verdicts in both of these cases as having been rendered in accordance with the law and the evidence, it seems that Kentucky, to this extent, at least, has redeemed itself.

Would it not be well now for some of these republican papers to devote their attention to the state of Indiana, which state, because of the conduct of its republican authorities, is in need of a little wholesome work along the redemption line?

William S. Taylor, former governor of Kentucky, is now given protection by the republican officials in the state of Indiana. Taylor is charged with having taken part in the assassination of the late Governor Geebel, and although the governor of Kentucky has repeatedly called upon the republican governor of Indiana to surrender Taylor to the Kentucky authorities, the Indiana governor has refused to do so.

### The Next Nominee.

The following letter was written in reply to an inquiry from Massachusetts. It seems to be necessary to reiterate the statements therein contained every few weeks to meet the misrepresentations that constantly appear in the corporation papers:

"Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your favor say-

ing that I had been reported as favorable to the nomination of Mr. Olney. I beg to say that I have never, directly or indirectly, suggested or advised the offering of a presidential nomination to Mr. Olney or to any other person who did not openly and actively indorse the platform and the ticket in both 1896 and 1900. On the contrary, I have at all times insisted that no man should be considered for the presidential nomination who was not thoroughly committed to the people's interests on all questions involved in the last two national campaigns. While the money question is not the paramount issue, and was not in 1900, yet some phase of it is always before the country, and those who have any knowledge of public affairs must know that a man who is willing to turn over the finances of the country to the control of the financiers, lacks either an understanding of the subject or sympathy with the people, and in either case it would not be wise to make such a person the standard-bearer of the democratic party.

"I enclose an editorial published recently which deals with this matter and treats it more at length than I have time to do by letter. Yours truly,

"W. J. BRYAN."

### A Bit Significant.

At this time when so many financiers are clamoring for an asset currency on the ground that the necessities of business require more money, a bit of information carried by the Associated press under date of Washington, September 9, may appear a bit significant. In that dispatch the Associated press said:

"Applications from national banks for the retirement of circulation are reaching the treasury department in unexpected numbers and amounts. For the seven business days of the present month the applications aggregate \$2,762,000. Under the law only \$3,000,000 in circulation can be retired in any one month, and the applications are granted in the order in which they are received. For several months past the retirements of circulation have been only nominal, and during the refunding period the circulation increased by about \$40,000,000.

"The present movement is accounted for at the treasury department by the high price of bonds, the banks evidently seeing a greater profit in selling their bonds than in keeping them in circulation."

For a long time we have been told that the high price of bonds served to discourage the issue of national bank notes under the government bond deposit plan. Is it not, however, a bit strange that this sudden retirement of circulation, in unexpected numbers and amount happens at this very moment when the financiers are insisting that the necessities of the country require enormous increase in the volume of our currency?

Can it be possible that "the present movement" is intended to so complicate the situation that the business men throughout the country will be persuaded to urge their congressmen to vote for the asset currency scheme? It must be admitted that there is something very suspicious about "the present movement."

### The Reason Why.

A reader of The Commoner asks why the silver dollars coined under the act of 1792 had inscribed upon the margin "100 cents, one dollar, or unit." When the government officials were selecting a monetary system they decided that gold and silver should be used as money metals. As Jefferson put it, they decided that the money unit should rest upon two metals, and in this Hamilton agreed with Jefferson. The next question was to find a ratio and the ratio of 15 to 1 was selected as the proper one. The Spanish silver dollar was the coin most common in circulation in the country, and it was taken as the unit and, the ratio having been fixed, the gold dollar was made to weigh one-fifteenth as much as the silver dollar. The gold