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SHAKE--I'M WITH YOU

"HYSTERIA AND RANCOR"

In his message to congress, and referring to the corporation question, President Roosevelt said: "This legislation should be enacted in a spirit as remote as possible from hysteria and rancor." Of course there should be no "hysteria and rancor" in the transaction of public business, any more than there should be "hysteria and rancor" in the affairs of individuals. But it will occur to a great many people that it was hardly necessary for the president to warn a republican congress against "hysteria and rancor" in the framing of corporation legislation, unless, indeed, he meant to caution that body not to display too much rancor against a corporation-ridden public pleading for relief, and not to indulge in too much hysteria while pulling corporation chestnuts out of the fire.

Such phrases as those here used by President Roosevelt were coined in the mints controlled by the representatives of special interests. In their view every man is "hysterical" who raises his voice in protest against corporate imposition, and pleads for equal rights to all and special privileges to none; every man is "hysterical" who rejects the proposition that the Baers and the McCalls and the McCurdys are divinely ordained to control the property interests of the country and by reason of that high commission are entitled to select our public officials and to control our public policies—as well as our public and private funds.

If the warning against "hysteria and rancor" has any serious meaning it is that in the discharge of every duty, whether that duty relates to the affairs of government or to individual concerns, men should act calmly and without malice. But no one, outside of corporation circles, will seriously contend that men confronted

with the duty of protecting popular government from the foul hands of those who would destroy it should not act resolutely.

No one is justified in accusing the American people of "hysteria and rancor" in the contemplation of the evils confronting them.

In 1896 they were so calm, so far from "hysteria and rancor," that they gave their support to a political organization that had mortgaged itself to a coterie of men whose purpose it was to prey upon the people.

They are now so far from "hysteria and rancor" that, although the republican party has suffered to be put upon them imposition after imposition, they have borne it calmly and have restored to power, and have again restored to power, the political organization which, so far as political organizations go, is solely responsible for their woes.

They see sitting in the senate of the United States a number of admittedly unworthy men. Many of them are nothing more than the representatives of special interests. Some of them have been indicted and convicted in courts of justice. The dishonesty of some others has been exposed before investigating committees. Yet they all hold their offices, draw their salaries, and continue to cast their votes against the public interests. The people are so far from "hysteria and rancor" that there is hardly a protest against this affront to the intelligence and honesty of the country.

It has been shown before the insurance committee at New York that men in charge of great commercial bodies have stolen millions of dollars of their policy holders' money; that these men have committed perjury and have caused their subordinates to do likewise. Yet comparatively few of these men have retired from their commercial positions. Those who have retired have been succeeded by men who, in the pres-

A MICHIGAN SUGGESTION

Owosso, Mich., Oct. 28.—Did you ever stop to think what we as subscribers to The Commoner could do in the way of extending its usefulness if we only set about it. There are perhaps 150,000 of us taking this paper. Now it stands to reason that we are in sympathy with what it advocates or we would not be taking it. This being true why not one and all of us try to extend its usefulness and do it in this way: Each week when we receive our paper and have read it, let's pass it along. We will probably find some article that appeals particularly to us, or that we consider especially good. Let's encircle it with a lead pencil and mail or hand it to a friend. Do this every week. In a year's time we get fifty-two copies each. Supposing the whole of 150,000 of us would do as I suggest, just think what it would mean.

It would mean practically an endless chain of readers of The Commoner and, in my opinion, in a few months time would double the subscription list. Let's try it.

If you have old copies on hand wrap them up in bunches and hand them out to some one who you think will read them. "Keep them moving."

F. J. M'DANNEL.

ELKINS KNOWS

The Kansas City Star says: "It would be wholly unsafe to look to Senator Elkins for a good rate bill. His natural bent is all one way—toward the railways. But it is gratifying to note, from his statement of what he thinks ought to be done, that he has come a long way toward meeting the overwhelming sentiment of the country. He no longer talks about defeating legislation. He practically concedes a number of points urged by the president."

Has the editor of the Star forgotten that "when the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be; when the devil was well the devil a monk was he?" Mr. Elkins may, in truth, "concede a number of points urged by the president;" but the Star stated the case in a nutshell when it said "it would be wholly unsafe to look to Senator Elkins for a good rate bill."

If ever the time comes that Senator Elkins and Mr. Roosevelt agree upon a rate bill, Mr. Roosevelt will have made the material concession, while Senator Elkins will be found doing business at the old stand.