

# MENACE OF THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE

For ten years the democratic party has been calling public attention to the menace of the multi-millionaire. It has been pointing out the immoral methods employed by him in the accumulation of his money and the corrupting influence he has exerted on politics. During the last few years an increasing number of well-to-do republicans have been listening with interest to democratic speeches, but now even a few republicans of prominence are becoming alarmed. Secretary Shaw isn't scared, and Vice President Fairbanks has so far failed to raise any danger signal. But President Roosevelt has already suggested an inheritance tax as a means of making the multi-millionaire disgorge.

Now comes Senator Beveridge of Indiana with a speech that sounds strangely democratic. The senator made a speech at Dunkirk, Ind., on the 20th of October, and the Cincinnati Enquirer quotes him as saying: "Every reform measure and every proposed law for the nation's good has been fought by mighty financial interests whose practices and immunities the proposed law threatened. There seems to be a strange insanity created in the piling up of unhealthy fortunes with unhealthy haste, by unhealthy methods—an insanity that makes men who are worth scores of millions of dollars fight any law which will reduce even a small percentage of their enormous profit."

Mr. Beveridge then cites the case of an Arizona mining company which opposed statehood for fear its taxes might be increased. He adds: "This fact brings up another and, perhaps, the most serious problem immediately before us for solution. It is the problem of the more equal distribution of wealth, and especially of the limitation of what President Roosevelt calls swollen fortunes."

Mr. Beveridge calls attention to Rockefeller,

and says that he is reputed to be worth \$800,000,000, and that in the hands of Rockefeller's son this will probably be increased in a life time to \$2,000,000,000. "This," he declares, "is wrong. It is dangerous to the public."

"I am not the enemy of wealth," says Senator Beveridge. "I believe in fostering and encouraging that industrial enterprise which makes men accumulate money. But when a fortune reaches a point where it is no longer the result of individual effort and thought and thrift, but accumulates of its own course, it ceases to be a blessing and becomes a curse. No man should own \$1,000,000,000. No man should own \$100,000,000. No man in a republic of free and equal men should have the immeasurable power that the possession of such enormous riches gives him. It is bad enough from every point of view, but the deadly thing about it is that the managers of this great wealth constantly interfere with the people's government. This is manifest in our legislatures, it is apparent in our elections, it is present in our primaries. And it has got to be stopped. We can not permit this government of, by and for the people to become a government of, by and for merely wealthy men and great financial institutions. The multiplication of rich men in public life is not a good sign in free institutions."

This might be attributed to a democratic speaker and no one would ever notice the mistake. Probably a corporation republican would be led to denounce the language as demagogic and incendiary, if it were attributed to a democrat. But what is to be thought when a republican senator uses this language? Can any one doubt longer the truth of the democratic indictment of republican misrule? Where are these multi-millionaire whose fortunes menace the country? Are they to be found among the farm-

ers, who have been enjoying "a home market?" Are they to be found among the working men for whom the republican party has seemed so solicitous? Are these fortunes in the possession of the country merchants who have been voting the republican ticket with great regularity? No. Millionaires do not grow in the country, or in the villages. They are the product of hot-house legislation. They have been built up and pampered by the republican party which, for a quarter of a century, has acted upon the theory that if the corporations were made prosperous some of their prosperity would leak through on the people. Bonuses have been voted to manufacturers and trust magnates on the theory that they would generously divide with their employees. It is fortunate for the country that we are at the end of this delusion and that the people at large are getting their eyes open to the fact that predatory wealth must be checked and the opportunities of the average man enlarged.

The remedy proposed by the republicans is an inheritance tax. Although better than nothing, this is an inadequate remedy. Instead of allowing these commercial highwaymen to spend their lives plundering the public, and then grabbing a part of it when they die, the democrats propose to enforce the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. This will put all on an equal footing and give every one a fair chance. When the beneficiaries of republican legislation are stripped of special privileges and made to earn their living like the farmer and the laborer their fortunes will not be so swollen as to require heroic treatment.

Republican! Can't you help us this year to begin the reform of these abuses?

## NOT FOR CENTRALIZATION

One of the Chicago papers reports that some of the members of the Chicago Democratic club found it difficult to locate themselves on public questions. The aforesaid paper says of these democrats: "They see Bryan, an advocate of a nationalization of railroads and federal incorporation of all big concerns, the recognized leader of democracy."

The editor of the paper ought to know, and the members of the democratic club have reason to know that Mr. Bryan does not favor the nationalization of railroads, but has proposed a dual plan as a substitute for this very nationalization. Mr. Bryan's plan limits federal ownership to trunk lines and contemplates state ownership of state lines, the change to be made when the people are ready for it. As for the "federal incorporation of all big concerns," Mr. Bryan has expressly opposed such incorporation and has repeatedly pointed out the danger of federal incorporation of industrial enterprises. He insists that all industrial corporations should be incorporated by the state, and that the federal government should then apply such restrictions as will prevent any corporation from becoming a monopoly.

The members of the club referred to are probably not as much at sea as the republican editors would like to have them, and if any of them are at sea, it is their own fault. The democratic party believes in local self government and would keep the government as near the people as possible.

## FISH OF ONE, FOWL OF ANOTHER

A New York dispatch under date of October 24 follows: "Because M. A. Fitzgerald, a mail carrier, had political aspirations and accepted the nomination of Independence League (Hearst) candidate for congress from the Fifth district of Brooklyn, he has been summarily dismissed from the postoffice department. The notice that Fitzgerald got clearly implied that no mail carrier must have political ambitions, while George B. Cortelyou is postmaster general, at least. The peremptory order to resign from the postal service characterized Fitzgerald's action in taking the nomination as 'pernicious political activity.'"

It was "pernicious political activity" for Fitzgerald, a mail carrier, to accept the nomination for congress, and he paid the penalty.

What was it when George B. Cortelyou, postmaster general, accepted the office of chairman

of the republican national committee? And what was it when George B. Cortelyou, acting as chairman of the republican national committee, participated in the misappropriation, for the use and benefit of the republican party, of trust funds belonging to policyholders?

After accepting the nomination given to him by the people Fitzgerald is discharged from the public service. But Cortelyou is to be promoted to the treasury portfolio! It seems very difficult for Mr. Roosevelt's administration to keep its pretensions "on straight."

## IN MINNESOTA

Let every Minnesota democrat go to the polls and assist in the re-election of Governor Johnson and the election of the rest of the state and congressional tickets. Governor Johnson has earned a re-election, and should have the state house thoroughly in sympathy with his policies. It is important, too, that democrats make gains in Minnesota's congressional districts.

## "THE OLD SCHOOL"

Mr. Virgil P. Kline, the Standard Oil attorney of Ohio, in defending his client at Findlay, Ohio, the other day said: "I belong to the old school which believes that government the best which interferes the least with the interests of the citizens."

That is a favorite argument for trust defenders. After they have violated Jeffersonian doctrine by allowing gigantic corporations to be formed for the express purpose of plundering the people, they then attempt to hide behind Jeffer-

son and protest against necessary legislation. It is a farce to invoke Jefferson for the protection of trusts, when Jefferson should have been invoked in the beginning to prevent the trusts. The "old school" lawyer who grows fat hunting for constitutional defenses for highway robbery will not fool the people much longer. There is no school so old but what opposition to monopoly is older. The control of the markets by private individuals has from time immemorial been held criminal and a lawyer who had any moral sense would be ashamed to sell his brains for the defense of so indefensible a thing as a private monopoly.

## CORTELYOU

Washington dispatches say that Mr. Cortelyou, now postmaster general, is to be appointed secretary of the treasury.

There are a great many people who believe that Mr. Cortelyou should be retired from the cabinet rather than advanced to a more responsible position than the one he now holds.

The part played by Mr. Cortelyou in connection with the policyholders' money, misappropriated and traced to the political committee of which Mr. Cortelyou is chairman, has never been satisfactorily explained. To advance Mr. Cortelyou to the treasury portfolio is, under the circumstances, a very poor way of "backing words with deeds," when "words" display the purpose to maintain publicity with respect to public affairs and to trust funds, and the purpose, also, to maintain "a square deal" by requiring men who wrongfully acquire money to make restoration and otherwise pay the penalty.

## MISSOURIANS GO TO THE POLLS!

Chairman Neidringhaus of the Missouri republican state committee, says that the republicans are "going to carry Missouri on purpose this year." Two years ago the republicans captured Missouri "by accident," nearly 60,000 democrats remaining away from the polls to show their protest against the so-called "safe and sane" policy of the men who controlled the St. Louis convention. They remained away "on purpose" and let the republicans carry the state "by accident." This year the democrats of Missouri should not remain away from the polls unless "by accident," and they should do the carrying of the state "on purpose." The long drawn out contest over the senatorship and the disclosures of the intrigues connected therewith, together with many other incidents of republican management, should suffice to bring Missouri back into the democratic column this fall.

Let every Missourian go to the polls!