

and cartoon has drummed in concert and continuously on the theme that republican success would mean prosperity, while democratic success would mean disaster. Logic and reason were subordinated to this fear of change by even such strong advocates of free trade as the Springfield Republican, and the New York Evening Post, their attitude no doubt being due to class feeling heightened by the injunction issue. The majority has preferred one dollar in the hand to two in the bush, notwithstanding that the one dollar is tainted. In other words the majority of voters have actually chosen poverty-breeding protection rather than the economically sound principle of free trade; they have commended the un-American policy of imperialism in opposition to the principles of our Declaration of Independence; and they have again supported the party of special privileges simply because they feared a change. But there are more real democrats (those that didn't get scared into denying their principles) than ever before, and the floating vote (comprising those who feel instead of think) can not long remain with the party of privilege.

Thomas Shannon, Oconomowoc, Wis.—In the town of Oconomowoc there are about 300 votes cast, of this number the republicans receive about 200. I am pleased to inform you that we reduced this majority considerably. If there were any losses outside our precinct in our county it was caused by republican postmasters transporting uninterested voters to the polls in automobiles on November 3 last. Second, the republican newspapers succeeded in scaring thousands of lukewarm democrats into voting for Taft, regardless of principle. As for future democratic victory I would suggest that you, as an editor, redouble your efforts towards putting *The Commoner* into every American home as I think this is the most practical way of exposing the fallacies of the republican argument.

Dr. J. J. McKinnon, Wadena, Minn.—Two, Fear of hard times so industriously cultivated by republicans during the last two or three weeks of the campaign. The large majority of unthinking voters believe that, if Mr. Bryan had been elected in 1896 and had put into operation his free silver doctrine, untold disaster would have overtaken us. This "free silver heresy" as they call it has been a great asset to the republican party especially against Mr. Bryan. They have ingeniously exploited it for twelve years and I believe that there is no doubt it has had the effect of weakening the confidence of the ordinary voter in Mr. Bryan. Three, Stick to Jeffersonian democracy and Bryan, its greatest living exponent. In other words, stick to Bryan and Bryanism. We may not get the offices, but we will get the results and that is what we are after. It would be easier and pleasanter to accomplish these results if we had the offices, but it can be done without them. Mr. Bryan has not only been the dominant factor in his own party during the last decade, but has forced democratic principles into the republican party and compelled them to accept them. He is the head and front and backbone of the reform movement that has made the man in the White House great. The only logical thing for reformers to do is to follow Mr. Bryan. Five, No, it can not unless it adopts a platform and nominates a candidate passed upon and approved by the interests.

Theodore A. Johnson, Youngstown, Ohio.—Two, Repeat the democratic platform in all essentials word for word, and add to it an "old age pension" clause. Three, Yes, on one condition being complied with by that party, namely, that the platform and candidates be democratic enough, in addition to being sincere and virile, to hold all democrats now in the party and gather together in one band all democrats of whatever name. By a democrat I mean a person who accepts as a foundation for his political creed the familiar saying, "equal rights to all, special privileges to none." There are many democrats in the republican party, and in all other parties in this country. The democratic party can win if it can poll all the votes of the real democrats in this country. By so constructing the platform and choosing the candidates, the party will lose to the republicans some voters who are now in the democratic party, but who are not democrats after the fashion of the familiar saying before quoted. Unless the democratic party can rid itself of the present situation, which is, that when a democrat of the Cleveland type is a candidate for office, radicals will not vote for him and where a man of the Bryan type is a candidate the ultra conservatives refuse to vote for him, it

can never win. This situation can be dissolved by making and keeping the platform and party truly democratic. We can hope for nothing from the privileged classes? Why carry the few such we have? They only weaken our argument that we represent the people and prevent real democrats in other parties from uniting with us. But we must act quickly, or the middle class, which now furnishes many votes and most of our funds, will have been so depleted that there will be two great parties only—tollers, who will be socialists, and the privileged class and their hangers-on who will be republicans.

Piebe Swart, New Paris, Ind.—In our county the democrats made gains, especially on local issues, caused by the bad management of the republican officers who controlled the administration of the government. The influence of this mismanagement would have reached further if the republicans had not had seemingly, large amounts of money to work with and to counteract the influence of this mismanagement. Coercion, also, was a factor in the result. Then the fact that the republicans said very little about their platform and set up the cry of intensification of the panic in case the democrats were successful, helped to defeat us. The course to adopt, I think, is to stick to our cause of truth, and to educate on the lines of overcoming prejudice born of ignorance and prejudice of party pride. This can only be done by constant organization and keeping the truth before the people, and non-reliance upon a two months' campaign organization.

John M. Barker, Montgomery City, Mo.—You invite your readers to answer the inquiry, "Can the democratic party hope ever to gain control of the federal government?" I think the proper answer to that question is "no," and for the following reasons: The government of the United States belongs to the trusts, the money trust chief of all. Every election the trusts take the money given to them by the legislative authorities and buy the government just as easily as a bag of potatoes is bought on the market, and the trusts are not wholly to blame, neither are the republicans wholly to blame. Many who call themselves democrats are as much in favor of such conditions as are the republicans. All parties being considered a big majority of the people want the trusts to own, manage and control the government and the people; they like it, prefer it and vote for it, and we have got it and it is not going to get away from us by any efforts of the democratic party as organized at present and under its present platform. The democratic party was right in 1896 and that year made the greatest battle of the ballot in history under the leadership of Mr. Bryan, even splendid in defeat, with the exception of the great victory under Jackson against the money trust, (the greatest all-around man, soldier and statesman that ever walked American soil). Then came the disgraceful surrender of the democratic party at St. Louis in 1904, when it hoisted the white flag to the republicans, nominated a man the money trust wanted, threw the little alligator to the big alligator, and saw it swallowed into the comfortable belly of the old Saurian even long before the ballots were delivered. Then the real, old battle scarred veterans of the great southwest democracy, like Napoleon at Waterloo, walked away in sullen silence and only whispered, "all is lost." Then came the battle of 1908, when the democrats met at Denver and made a fine organic speech against all the trusts of whatsoever kind except the old mother trust—the money combine—and went to the battle again, but nowhere on that field could be seen the white plume of Navarre, the banner of the great west was lying neglected in a lonely tent.

E. T. Lewis, Long Beach, Cal.—The only mystery we see is that our party cast as many votes as it did in the northern states, with so few newspapers, small campaign fund and few public officeholders. Speeches cut but little ice, as democrats go to democratic speeches and republicans to republican speeches; but the newspaper is talking to the voter every day in the year, and after pouring into his head one side of a question for three years and ten months, he can not be converted in the remaining two months by reading or hearing a few arguments on the other side. Of course the business scare that the republicans now use instead of the "bloody shirt" of a few years ago had some influence with the weak minded, and financially weak merchants.

Jesse A. Winger, Newton, Ia.—The causes are hard to fathom. The result was so entirely different from the outlook that discouragement follows. An encouraging outlook and a disappointing result amount to a loss. To what in-

fluence is this due? Republicans ignored the issues as presented and dwelt upon past campaigns and the former democratic administrations. They resorted to lying and misrepresentation. Republican newspapers continued to print lies after those who originated them had admitted their falseness. The people are perforce compelled to depend upon republican newspapers and these papers depend upon the Associated Press, which is suspected of being a mighty factor in the combine against any scheme for reform. Your fourth question should be answered before your third. In the light of recent performances the democratic party need not hope to gain control of the federal government as long as it stands for genuine reform and is led by honest leaders. The predatory interests seem to hold the balance of power and as the two great parties are now constituted neither one will be able to give the country the reforms needed. Why, then should reformers in either party continue to exert their strength against an impossibility? In the writer's opinion it will very soon develop that there is no reform legislation intended by the incoming administration. If this shall be true then the reformers of all parties should hold a conference and make up the issues for a new alignment. Let it be as broad as it may be and still be true to the interests of the common people. Democrats do not like to become republicans and republicans do not like to become democrats. Yet all those who really desire reform should and might be willing to give support to a new party. Let no hope be held out to the political pirates of the old parties. Let the Tammany crowd and the predatory buccaneers who fatten on special legislation get together and stay there. There is wisdom among the reformers and honesty among the people and right should find a way to win.

Gilmore Livesay, Houston, Mo.—First, Because money with its corrupting influences has an effect upon many who look to the filthy lucre as their god. Second, Because of the minor parties organized for the purpose of fighting the democratic party. Third, Because there are a heap more republicans than democrats; whether it is that they are believers in, and are in sympathy with that party's principles and policies; or, if by intimidation, threat and buncombe they have voted that ticket, it is a hard matter to say.

Dr. Edward J. Brown, Minneapolis, Minn.—One, In some parts of the country, notably the New England states, the traditional reputation of the democratic party as allied to the whisky power and other forms of lawlessness, has had a strong influence in repelling the well-meaning but not well-informed republican voter. Two, The prominence in the democratic party of plutocratic elements, near Wall Street and gold democrats including those self-styled Jeffersonian democrats who evidently believe that Jefferson in the twentieth century would be blind to the changed conditions. Three, The fear on the part of many radicals that Mr. Bryan does not appreciate at their full value the fundamental wrong of land monopoly and the largely consequent wrong of the exploitation of the workers through capitalism. "Equal rights to all" means, if it means anything, not income tax, but land values taxation; not revenue tariff, but free trade. In a word, the weakness of the democratic party lies in its cowardly fear of being consistently radical.

Isaac N. Snyder, Liberty, Ind.—You ask, "What course shall reformers adopt for the future?" Place no restrictions on the amount of money to be contributed for campaign purposes or from whom contributed. I am confident that we failed from lack of money, while the republicans had plenty of it. True this method is in a great measure degrading but how are you going to beat the republicans easier than to adopt their own methods, which are so successful in beating us democrats? I would like to see them beaten at their own game once, at least. I am a democrat who knows no such word as fail. I know that the principles advocated by the democratic party are nearer right than any other party which ever existed, hence I am for keeping up the fight, and control of the federal government will come soon. People will not always be scared or bought. When victory does come under such conditions the more it will be appreciated by the victors and the more lasting it will be. So I say let us fight on, and on, and on. Now, Mr. Bryan, few hated to hear of your defeat worse than I did. You made a great and wonderful fight against such great odds. So I want to see you in the senate, where you can, I think, do the most good under the present circumstances.