

The Commoner.

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A Dismal Failure

Every young man—and every old man too for that matter—should read an editorial that appeared recently in the Chicago Evening News. That editorial follows:

"Senator Aldrich, during the period of his official activity as a member of the national senate, has been a power in the republican party and in the affairs of the nation. Now it must be humiliating to him to find that his followers are being driven from office by an indignant people. The verdict of condemnation passed upon his policies must impress even so inveterate an exponent of the old order as the senator from Rhode Island.

"The one fact that stands out," says the New York Evening Post, after conceding the ability of Senator Aldrich and his hard work in the carrying on of the necessary business of the senate, 'is that he was the living embodiment of that sordid and corrupt system which has left its ineffaceable brand on the history of the republican party for three decades.' The close of Senator Aldrich's career, the Post confidently affirms, 'will coincide with the close of this most unedifying chapter in the history of the republican party.'

"Men love power. Senator Aldrich during the days of his supremacy had the satisfaction of realizing his own influence in the affairs of government. But most men, especially as they approach the close of their active careers, also crave honor and the approval of public opinion. Since he has not gained these the senator from Rhode Island is a dismal failure."

If a man like Aldrich can not find satisfaction in the sort of honors that have come to him through ardent service to the special interests, how may any other public man expect to profit on that line. No other man may expect to win in the hearts of the trust magnate's the pinnacle attained by Mr. Aldrich, yet he has found that this sort of honor is like dead sea fruit that turns to ashes on the lips. Young man, if you intend to enter public life, better be determined to win your own self-respect through faithful service to the public interests.

WHAT IT MEANS

The Commoner warns Governor Harmon that "the democratic party is in no mood to be trifled with." We hope this means in part that the editor of The Commoner does not mean to return to trifling.—New York World.

It means that The Commoner speaks for those democrats who believe that persistent and consistent efforts toward reform should be made by the democratic party. They do not believe in the brand so popular in the New York World's editorial rooms wherein the line is drawn against reform whenever it touches the great railroad trust in whose securities the World editor's money is reported to be invested. It means that the democrats of America are deter-

mined that if the weary, trust ridden people turn again to the democratic party they will not "hold the word of promise to the ear only to break it to the hope." It means that in order to give the people reason to turn to the democratic party the party's own doorsteps must be swept clean and the party must be placed in a position where it may win success because it deserves it.

Try Your Hand at This

In his great speech delivered in the United States senate Senator Owen of Oklahoma asked, "If the people really rule why don't the people get what they want?"

The Commoner will be glad to print brief answers to this question.

Make your answer brief and to the point.

This question is in reality the most important question that may be considered by the American people. Plainly something is wrong with the American government; plainly the people do not get what they want although they are presumed to rule. What is the matter? The Commoner readers have the opportunity of contributing to the solution of this problem.

WHY?

Quoting from a news report the statement, "Senator LaFollette spoke at great length," the Houston (Texas) Post says: "Why not the simple statement that Senator LaFollette spoke? The public understands very well that it is always to a finish whenever LaFollette takes the floor."

And the public is always anxious to read what LaFollette says because the public has learned that the senator from Wisconsin is a faithful defender of the public interests rather than the servile tool of special interests.

But how does it happen that the Houston (Texas) Post, which passes in some quarters as a democratic newspaper, is so ready to aim its shafts at men like LaFollette. The Post's reputation among democrats would be of a higher order if it gave more support to faithful public servants and less encouragement to those who have little or no sympathy with popular government.

GOOD ADVICE

Collier's Weekly gives this good advice: "Every democrat in the United States has a patriotic duty during the twenty-five weeks which end the 8th of next November; it is to see that men of high qualities get the democratic nomination for congress in every district." That is good advice, too, for men of all parties. We need not only good men but we need also platforms that meet the issues of the day in unmistakable tone.

ONLY A WARNING

The Philadelphia North American says, in a feather duster editorial, that John Dalzell has "received a warning." But what do men of Dalzell's stripe care for a warning so long as they can get such papers as the Philadelphia North American to support them and the people of Pennsylvania to elect them. So long as they are permitted to rule in the republican party they will put up with all the feather duster warnings the people see fit to give them.

RATHER LATE

Charles J. Bonaparte, who was Mr. Roosevelt's attorney general delivered an address before the Canadian club, of Montreal, on the "Purification of Politics." Mr. Bonaparte had an opportunity when he was attorney general to make generous contribution to the purification of politics; he failed, however, and his advice on that line is a bit too late.

A Nation-Wide Fight

The Houston (Texas) Post criticises Mr. Bryan's suggestion that the democrats of Ohio nominate a candidate for United States senator. The Post says:

"It was noted at the time that there was no demand whatever in Ohio for convention action with respect to the senatorship, and probably it was for this reason that the committee determined to let it alone. Moreover, convention action with respect to senatorships gives no assurance that the choice of the people can be better obtained that way than by members of the legislature. Ordinarily, the member of the legislature will be very apt to represent the views of his constituents. They can instruct him quite as well as they can instruct conventions, and there ought to be no difficulty in securing a good senator, provided, of course, that the democrats elect a majority of the legislature. It has been many years since the democrats controlled the Ohio legislature and it will require a tremendous battle, with the party united, to win the legislature this year. To introduce a question and a contest that might tend to division and the loss of the legislature would not have been good policy and could only have postponed the desired result—the election of a democratic United States senator from Ohio. It is good policy to take into account existing conditions, and those conditions in Ohio are unquestionably better known to Governor Harmon and the Ohio democrats than to outsiders."

While the convention's action with respect to the senatorship gives no assurance that the best man will be nominated, still it permits the people to know prior to election day just what they may expect in the way of a United States senator, in the event they choose a democratic legislature.

It is reasonable to believe that the choice of the people can be better obtained through nomination by convention, held prior to election day, than through selection made by the legislature after election day.

The Post's arguments about the necessity for "tactics" in the effort to control the Ohio legislature are of no moment in this day when men of all parties are turning seriously to the effort to preserve popular government. It is absurd to say that a party which stands out in the open and tells the people just what it proposes to do in the selection of a United States senator will, by reason of its frankness, lose votes. It may be true that it will lose the active co-operation of a few men who aspire to senatorial honors but whose affiliation with special interests is too notorious to justify any party in giving them nomination for high office.

The conditions in Ohio, so far as popular government is concerned, are no different from the conditions in other states. The abuses in the United States senate are so flagrant that a cry has gone up from the American people and it reaches from Maine to California and from the lakes to the gulf. It is the cry, "push the popular election of senators." The very fact that there are men in Ohio, as there were in Indiana, who object to the democratic convention acting and telling the people in advance what a democratic legislature would do in the way of selecting a senator, is sufficient reason to place Ohio democrats on their guard. Nor is the selection of a senator purely a state affair. Democrats everywhere are interested in driving the trusts from power in the United States senate. Democrats everywhere are interested in placing that great body under the control of a majority composed of men who will be dominated by patriotic desire for the public welfare, rather than by concern for special interests.

On this point, then, there are no "outsiders" with respect to any senatorial election in America. The fight for popular government is nation-wide and must necessarily be so if effective work is to be done.

Indiana democrats cordially welcomed The Commoner's help in bringing about the nomina-

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