

The Commoner.

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VOL. 10, NO. 48

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 9, 1910

Whole Number 516

"The conscience of the nation is now aroused and will free the Government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset of the favor-seeking corporations. It must become again a people's government, and be administered in all departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim, 'Equal rights to all, special privileges to none.' 'Shall the people rule?' is the overwhelming issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion."---(Democratic National Platform of 1908.) Will Democrats now make their party a "business asset of the favor-seeking corporations" by permitting the corporation agents to reorganize it?

Cannonism Dethroned

However people may differ as to the elements which enter into the democratic victory won at the polls on November 8, there can be no doubt that Cannonism was overwhelmingly repudiated. The democratic national platform of 1908 specifically and emphatically denounced Cannonism, and the strongest protest made by the progressive republicans in the house was against Cannonism. The democrats with some sixty majority in their favor, and with the aid of the progressive republicans thrown in, ought to have no difficulty in inaugurating a new era. They ought not to hesitate to root out Cannonism and establish representative government in the national house of representatives. They made a good start in the first session of the present congress when they put the speaker off the committee on rules, enlarged the committee, and provided for the selection of the majority and minority members of the committee by the caucus of their respective parties. This last change is the most important of all. The despotism of the speaker finds its tap-root in the fact that he appoints committees, and in so doing puts the members of the committees under obligations to him. He not only controls the majority through the committee appointments but he may even coerce the members of the minority party by threatening to withhold committee appointments.

The whole scheme is repugnant to the democratic sense of justice. The speaker ought to be a presiding officer rather than a boss. He ought to be in position to decide parliamentary questions upon their merits, not according to party exigencies. The committees ought to represent the wishes of the party, not the wishes of the man who may happen to be speaker. And the minority members of the committee should be free to represent their principles and their party without fear of the speaker and without expectation of favor from him. Champ Clark is just the man to lead in the inauguration of this reform. He led in the overthrow of Cannonism in the first session of the present congress; and the precedent established in the selection of the new committee on rules and in the selection of the Ballinger investigation makes it easy to extend the principle to the appointment of all the committees. If the democratic party will have the courage to inaugurate the

reforms demanded by the people, it can count on popular approval; if, after having loudly denounced Cannonism, it complacently adopts the more iniquitous feature of Cannonism, it will find the people as ready to rebuke it as they rebuked the republican party.

MOSES C. WETMORE

The death of Colonel Moses C. Wetmore, which occurred at St. Louis November 26, will be widely mourned. He was a Jeffersonian democrat in belief and in habit. The wealth accumulated by business ability and experience never turned his head; he remained to his death a friend of the people—a believer in their capacity for government as well as in their right to self government—and his simplicity and freedom from ostentation kept him in touch with the friends of earlier years.

He was Missouri's member of the national democratic committee and during the last campaign rendered efficient service as chairman of the finance committee.

His influence was always on the side of the producing masses as against the exploiting element and his death is an irreparable loss to the party at this time. In 1896 Colonel Wetmore went to Chicago a champion of Hon. Richard P. Bland, but since Mr. Bryan's nomination he has been his personal friend.

It was a source of great regret to Mr. Bryan that the train service was such that he could not reach St. Louis in time to attend the funeral. He has suggested that memorial exercises be held in honor of Colonel Wetmore on Jefferson day, and will be present if the suggestion is carried out.

SENATOR YOUNG

The general opinion with respect to the appointment by the governor of Iowa of "Lafe" Young to be Dolliver's successor is summed up in the following editorial in the Kansas City Times, a republican paper:

"Lafayette Young, editor of the Des Moines Capital, is one of the finest fellows in the world, a man of ability and integrity. But he does not represent the political views of a large majority of the members of his party in Iowa. There can be no question that the republican party in Iowa is progressive, and that its political faith was accurately represented in its two great senators, Dolliver and Cummins. For the governor of Iowa to appoint—even temporarily—such a standpatter as 'Lafe' Young, in the place of such a progressive as Dolliver must impress fair minded men everywhere as a disappointing exhibition of politics."

WHY?

The New Jersey court of errors and appeals has overruled the lower court's order, directing the four great beef packing companies to produce their books before a New Jersey grand jury. Dispatches say: "It is assumed that this decision will end the proceedings."

Why is it so difficult to enforce the law against the trusts? How does it happen that whenever they are brought face to face with their evils, some avenue of escape is provided?

GOVERNOR SHAFROTH

Governor Shafroth of Colorado is re-elected. A tribute to the man and a tribute also to the intelligence of the people of Colorado. His defeat would have been a reflection upon the state, for no governor in the United States has more fully earned a re-election.

The Job Session

The last session of congress has won the title of the "job" session because it is held after the election when many congressmen have been repudiated at the polls and when even those who have been re-elected feel less restraint because of the time that must elapse before another election. Every careful observer of congressional proceedings has noticed the tendency on the part of those in charge of questionable legislation to postpone action until the last session, and that tendency is even more marked when a party is going out of power. The democrats and progressive republicans must be on their guard during the session that convenes in December. The special interests, seeing that they will not be able to control the next congress, will do their utmost to realize on the investment that they made in the present congress. The ship subsidy will be pushed if there is a chance of carrying it through; the national incorporation of railroads is another scheme that may take on new life, and a Washington dispatch in the Chicago Tribune recently announced that Attorney General Wickersham was preparing a bill providing for the incorporation of the trusts. The dispatch says that the "big business interests are behind the idea of national incorporation."

If the democrats can prevent these and other objectionable measures from being passed at the closing session of the present congress, these measures may be killed for a generation. Every democrat and progressive republican should be vigilant during the remaining days of this congress.

REMEMBER 1804

The democrats are being asked to accept Wall Street leadership—not because of any democratic principle advanced but because Wall Street promises victory. Wall Street has promised victory before; it is not a new promise. In 1892 the democratic party won a victory on the tariff issue, but as soon as the election was over the Wall Street financiers demanded the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law and secured it by a shameless use of patronage and by the coercion that they know so well how to practice. And what was the result? A republican triumph more sweeping than any before since 1872—and more sweeping than any since, excepting 1904, when Wall Street again promised victory. The defeats of 1896, 1900 and 1908 were not as disastrous as the defeats of 1894 and 1904. The party is more radical now than in either 1894 or 1904. What stupid folly to think of winning a victory by retreat and surrender to Wall Street!

FORWARD, MARCH!

The democratic party must be progressive.
No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote.
Democracy must go forward and meet present day problems boldly in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson.
The democratic victory of 1910 is the result of fourteen years of democratic fight for reforms.
The party cannot retire now.
It must go forward.

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