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much a business man as the man who goes upon the board of trade and bets upon the price of grain. The miners who go down a thousand feet into the earth, or climb two thousand feet upon the cliffs, and bring forth from their hiding places the precious metals to be poured into the channels of trade, are as much business men as the few financial magnates who, in a back room, corner the money of the world. We come to speak for this broader class of business men. You come to us and tell us that the great cities are against us. We reply that the great cities rest upon our broad and fertile prairies. Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms, and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

Unless we wholly mistake the purpose of the interests to which we have referred, it is their purpose in the immediate future to secure control of both the republican and democratic organizations, and thus dictate the legislation and the policies of the government. It is equally certain, in our estimation, that both of those organizations are willing to be controlled and the prospective candidates most spoken of at the present time, both from motives of policy and from long association with the moneyed and corporate interests as well as by their natured bent, are ready to take a nomination on terms of subserviency to those interests. In more common but less accurate phrase, in both the parties the "conservatives" are in power.

Those interests construe the recent elections to mean that. The New York Nation, the organ par excellence of the narrow definition of business interests, the mouthpiece of those who believe that "He that hath, to him shall be given," in commenting upon the elections in New York and Ohio congratulates its readers upon the entire absence of anything like Bryanism from them. It is of course by no means certain which of the two parties will be accepted by the so-called business interests as the one for their alliance; their natural ally is the republican. But with the leaders of both bidding for their support the advantage is distinctly with them.

The carrying out of this program pre-supposes several things which may not happen. It is assumed that President Taft will be the republican nominee for re-election in 1912 and that among the democrats the conservative element will be in control—both of which appear likely at the present time. It is also postulated that Mr. Taft will have learned nothing and forgotten nothing at that time—in other words, that he will continue to be a reactionary and a Bourbon—and that the democratic organization can lead into the conservative camp the radicals of 1896—a most unlikely thing, we are certain.

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Between these two lines of "conservatives"—and between which there is not a particle of antagonism in principle—there are now some millions—and two years hence there will be more—of voters, who will not bow the knee to Baal, who will decline to accept the narrow definition of business interests, who will not let party names beguile them into giving their votes where the trust of government will be abused, and who will insist on laws passed for the benefit of all and administered impartially.

Just how these votes shall be put in a condition of cohesion for use, at whose call they shall be mustered for political service, what name their organization shall take, if they are turned out of doors by the present organizations—all these are matters of uncertainty. But if a righteous cause shall now fail for want of organization, leadership or name, it will be the first time in history.

That the heaven is working in the popular mind is apparent. If it has the power, the vitality, that it ought to have, it will leaven the whole lump. People will not go back to the narrow conception of business interests and then agree that government is to be carried on for them principally. There is not a hair's breadth of difference in principle between that view and the "mudsill" theory of government propounded by Hammond and his South Carolina school of politicians before the war. There, as now, labor was to be the mudsills of the structure of society, serving the function of burden-bearing but not being admitted to a participation in the benefits. When the people once got a chance at that doctrine they killed it, once at the ballot-box and then shot it to death with musketry. It is the old plea defined by Mr. Lincoln in his debate with Judge Douglas—"It is the same principle, in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, 'You work and toil and earn bread, and I'll eat it.'" It was resisted then and it must and will be resisted now.

When the resistance comes to be organized, old associations and party names will count for very little. Calling a party "conservative" where the purpose is not to conserve the welfare of all but to force the aggrandizement of a few, will deceive no one. The issue of equality in the enjoyment of common right is in process of forging for decision in 1912.

We welcome any convert to, or advocate of so plain a principle and hope we may have grace enough not to put the least obstacle in the path of any toward so desirable an end.

People who believe as we do in the definition of what the real business interests of the country are, will look with anxiety if not suspicion on any leader whom the so-called "conservatives" may make haste to O. K. When they begin to call a man "safe and sane," the people had better be looking about for their own safety. We do not understand that the late elections were in any sort an approval of their views; they were, rather, by condemning Taft, a repudiation of them and they, as well as the president, may lay the lesson to heart.—Akron (Ohio) Times.

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