

ferent schools of thought and different views on public questions, for truth is born of conflict.

Besides weeklies devoted to national politics there ought to be weeklies in every state devoted to the discussion of state issues so that the voter can by taking papers on both sides keep himself informed in regard to the act of officials and the policies of parties.

## Amazing Credulity

While in Chicago a few days ago I met a republican business man of Ohio who became confidential enough to say that the harshest criticism he had heard against me was that I charged for the campaign speeches made during my candidacy in 1896 and 1900. The following dialogue ensued:

"Did you ever hear any one say that I received pay for speeches made in support of my own candidacy?"

"Yes; they said that you charged a certain amount at each place and refused to speak unless the money was paid."

"And was there a republican in your community who could be convinced that a candidate for the presidency was so indifferent to his success that he would refuse to advocate his own election unless he was paid for each speech?"

"It seemed inconsistent, but all the republicans in my neighborhood believed it, and I did myself."

It was a new revelation of partisanship that surpassed anything that had before come to my knowledge. I had heard the charge made occasionally and had answered it each time by saying that I had never at any time or place received any sum whatsoever for speeches made when I was a candidate for office, but the charge seemed so absurd that I never thought a denial necessary to enlighten an honest republican. It was only made that democrats might be armed to meet the accusations of dishonest republicans who gave circulation to the criticism without themselves believing it.

The committee, I am informed, sometimes raised the money for the special train by collecting contributions along the line. It was necessary to do this to meet the railroad charges, and I thought it much better than asking for or receiving a free train, but it never occurred to me that any person of any party could distort this into a money-making scheme on the part of the candidate. The fact that I have found one intelligent republican who credited the story has led me to refer to it again, although the facts were stated in a former issue of *The Commoner*.

## The Recrudescence of Addicks.

Those who profess to believe that the ambition of Hon. "Gas" Addicks has been successfully thwarted, and that he is no longer a factor in the Delaware senatorial scramble, should study a little deeper into the situation. Considering his many professions of determination to purify politics and curb the activity of officeholders, President Roosevelt is creating considerable curiosity by his actions in Delaware politics. W. H. Byrne, United States district attorney for Delaware, resigned his office to become the candidate of the Addicks faction for congress. He was soundly trounced by his democratic opponent, despite his support from Addicks and the administration. No sooner was Byrne and his Addicks support defeated than the president hastened to reappoint him to the office he resigned to accept a congressional nomination.

It is only natural that the Addicks faction should point to Byrne's reappointment as an indorsement of Addicks and his senatorial ambitions, and they are doing so in a manner calculated to convince many and worry those who insist that

the president has no use for men of the Addicks stripe. The explanation that the president only returned to Byrne what he had laid down is puerile. "Southern officeholders," asserts the Providence Telegram, "have been roughly separated from the pie counter for activity no less pernicious."

The Delaware senatorial situation is developing some very interesting features, as well as some very noisome scandals.

## A Correction Made.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat of November 19 contains a special dispatch from Indianapolis which states that Mr. Bryan sent out ten or fifteen thousand personal letters to democrats in Indiana just before the late election "urging them to do all in their power to insure the defeat of the democratic ticket, state, county and township." It is not true that Mr. Bryan sent letters to democrats in Indiana urging them to defeat the ticket. The Commoner criticised the action of the democratic state convention in ignoring the Kansas City platform and pointed out that it was bad politics, not to speak of the principle involved, to alienate faithful democrats for the purpose of conciliating the men who are opposed to the party's national platform. Just before the election *The Commoner* took occasion to criticize democrats in New York who attempted to use Mr. Bryan's name for the defeat of the state ticket, and stated that he did not presume to advise the democrats what to do in case the state organization repudiated the national platform. He considered it a question which each voter should decide for himself after duly considering the relative importance of state and national issues. The result in Indiana shows that the attempted harmony was a one-sided affair, and proves anew the folly of attempting to strengthen the democratic party by compromise with the republicans or by evasion of issues.

## The Salt Trusts Enjoined.

Judge Morrow, a California federal judge, has granted a temporary injunction against the salt trust, preventing its doing business on the ground that it is an illegal combination in restraint of trade. The principle laid down is an important one, and if sustained by the supreme court will have a wide influence on the trust question. The court says that the contracts involved in the case "belonged to the same general scheme of the Federal Salt company to strangle all competition, and it is evident that all form part of one general combination or conspiracy."

The court also insists that it is authorized to "look behind mere contracts and see the entire transaction so that the real effect is within the purview of a court of equity."

A private monopoly is not only indefensible and intolerable, as stated in the Kansas City platform, but it is an outlaw, and has always been held to be against public policy, and yet it has been impossible to get the republican leaders to recognize the principle involved. They talk about "good monopolies" and "bad ones," and promise to regulate "bad monopolies," but they fail to plant themselves upon the sound principle that no person or corporation has a right to monopolize a branch of business or the production of an article of merchandise.

## President Mitchell's Testimony.

President Mitchell of the miners' association in giving testimony before the commission was on the witness stand for more than four days, and it is safe to say that no witness ever strengthened his cause more by his demeanor. He not only showed himself master of the subject, but he displayed a

presence of mind and a quickness of intellect that were as surprising as they were gratifying. He was thoroughly questioned by Mr. MacVeagh, one of the most distinguished lawyers of the land, and Mr. MacVeagh attempted to intimidate as well as to confuse him, but Mr. Mitchell was more than a match for the counsel of the coal operators, and Mr. MacVeagh was compelled to admit that he had made an admirable witness.

Mr. Mitchell denied that the labor organization taught or believed in anarchy, and brought forth facts to show the lawful and legitimate purposes of the organization.

After Mr. MacVeagh was through with him other representatives of the mine owners took him in hand, but they were no more successful in their effort to worm out of him admissions prejudicial to his cause.

## A Word as to Advertising.

The readers of *The Commoner* will notice that less space is devoted to advertising matter than in most papers; they will also notice that the advertisements which appear in *The Commoner* are of such a character that the paper can be read by the children as well as adults. It may be added that trust advertisements are carefully excluded. These restrictions have very considerably lessened the income from the paper, but they ought to make the paper itself more acceptable to those who appreciate a clean and wholesome sheet. The editor desires to thank the readers for the encouragement and support which they have given to advertising patrons. In some instances the returns have been phenomenal and one advertiser well pleased increases the patronage.

The financial standing and business methods of all applicants for advertising space are investigated and only those accepted who have a reputation for fair dealing and whose goods have recognized merits.

In corresponding with advertisers always mention *The Commoner*.

## They Can't be Serious.

The New York Tribune complains that editorial pages are too much devoted to news items and witty paragraphs and not enough to serious and dignified editorials. How does Whitelaw Reid, the publisher of the Tribune, expect the paid representatives of great corporations to write serious and dignified arguments in favor of republican policies? And how could even republican papers refrain from witty paragraphs when Whitelaw put on his knee breeches and sat down on the king's doorstep to wait for the coronation?

## Why Not North.

The collector of internal revenue in Alabama played a conspicuous part in the exclusion of negro delegates from the republican convention of that state. Mr. Roosevelt removed the collector from office and caused to be made public this statement:

Neither the administration nor the republican party of the north will stand for the exclusion of any section of our people by reason of their race or color, when in other respects such persons have complied with the laws and are eligible under the law to full and free participation in political action and are of a high standard of personal character.

Many republican papers commend the president for the "bravery" he displayed in removing this federal officer. But it may not be out of place to suggest that for more than a year Mr. Roosevelt has been in a position to show his friendship for the negro and his devotion to the