

serious. As the Wall Street Journal says: "Even if Mr. Morgan had called upon President Roosevelt and had a long interview with him, there would have been nothing in such an incident that would be open to criticism."

Mr. Morgan in newspaper interviews has repeatedly said that he is supporting Mr. Roosevelt. No secret is made of the political alliance between the republican administration and the J. Pierpont Morgan interests. Why, then, should anyone criticize when Mr. Morgan confers with his favorite candidate for the presidency?

Of course the fact that Mr. Morgan is supporting Mr. Roosevelt does not tend to reassure the American people, because Mr. Morgan is a very shrewd man and is not in the habit of giving his support to candidates upon whom he may not reasonably depend in the event of their election.

Charming Candor

In referring to the presidential campaigns of 1896 and 1900 the republican organs are becoming wonderfully candid these days. For instance, in a recent issue of Harper's Weekly, it is said:

Our present, practical diagnosis of the situation is that the chief danger to the republican ticket lies in the big campaign funds utilized successfully by Mr. Hanna in 1896 and 1900. Each year more than five millions of dollars were raised and expended. A good many of these dollars went, of course, for literature, clerical and oratorical expenses, etc., but a very fair percentage must have gone to "workers." There is no such direct vote-buying nowadays as there was when Indiana was split up into blocks of five, but there is no doubt that many, many thousands of tried and true citizens, who incidentally have the privilege of voting, were paid pretty liberally for the time they gave to the service of the republican management in 1896 and 1900. Now every politician is awake to the danger of suddenly withdrawing rations previously supplied to this class of mercenaries. Resentment but mildly expresses their sentiment; revenge takes possession of their hearts, and is supplemented by a very practical determination to "teach 'em a lesson." How large the class is this year can not be estimated with accuracy by one not in possession of the private records of the recent campaigns, but it is pretty big and it is confined within the borders of states where every vote counts. There are two reasons why we consider that in this condition lies the chief menace to republican prospects. One is that there exists no common peril making possible the raising of so great a fund, and the other is that Mr. Cortelyou would not know what to do with it if he had it. Moreover, we do honestly believe that both he and his chief would rather be beaten than profit by unworthy agencies. So there you are!

Of course, this republican organ puts it very mildly when it says: "Each year more than five millions of dollars were raised and expended." We have it on the authority of Mr. Thomas W. Lawson, that eminent financier who also boasts of his devotion to the republican party, that in the republican campaign of 1896, within a few days of election, a "hurry-up call was made for \$5,000,000" and that the same was promptly contributed.

But it is more interesting to hear from a republican organ of the standing of Harper's Weekly, the confession that in 1896 and 1900 money was used so freely and so unscrupulously that the elements upon which the republican managers relied to win became addicted to the bad habit of expecting money before their enthusiasm is aroused.

It is interesting to read in Harper's Weekly the confession that while a good many of these dollars went for literature, clerical and oratorical expenses, "a very fair percentage must have gone to 'workers.'"

It is interesting to read in Harper's Weekly the plain admission that "many, many thousands of tried and true citizens who incidentally have the privilege of voting were paid pretty liberally for the time they gave in the service of the republican management in 1896 and 1900."

And then, referring to these "many, many thousands of tried and true citizens," Harper's Weekly points out that "now every politician is awake to the danger of suddenly withdrawing rations previously supplied to this class of mercenaries." According to Harper's Weekly, "these tried and true citizens" are liable to show resentment and to be revengeful when they are not paid money for their influence and their votes!

And after admitting the methods employed in

1896 and 1900, Harper's Weekly says: "We do honestly believe that both he (Cortelyou) and his chief (Roosevelt) would rather be beaten than profit by unworthy agencies." Harper's Weekly seems to pay a tribute to the republican candidate and the republican leaders of 1904 at the expense of the republican candidate and the republican leaders of 1896 and 1900. Does Harper's Weekly mean to say that the republican candidate for 1904 has a higher conception of political honesty than the republican candidate of 1896 and 1900 had? Does Harper's Weekly undertake to make it appear that the methods that were employed to the advantage of the republican candidate in 1896 and 1900 were such "unworthy agencies" that the republican candidate of 1904 would not tolerate them?

"Are we so soon forgotten" that editors who professed such devotion to Mr. McKinley now seek to advance Mr. Roosevelt's political fortunes by making it appear that Mr. Roosevelt would rather be beaten than profit by the "unworthy agencies" which these republican editors say were employed to win republican victory in 1896 and 1900?

"A Strange Tale"

The Chicago Inter Ocean, republican, pretends to be very indignant and all because of "a strange tale that comes from Washington."

According to this story, H. H. Rogers, the trust magnate, recently visited Mr. Roosevelt and explained that the supreme court's decision in the Northern Securities case had caused him and his associates "grave apprehension." According to this "strange tale" Mr. Rogers said that he heard the administration contemplated some action against the steel trust. He wanted to know whether Mr. Roosevelt had any such intentions.

The Chicago Inter Ocean tells the story and comments upon it in this fashion:

Then Mr. Rogers tried to convince the president that it was "impracticable" for the United States Steel and other consolidations now to obey the law. He hoped the president would reconsider his determination, especially if he expected to succeed himself as president. The president answered that he had not discretion, as he must enforce the law.

"Then there will be war," Mr. Rogers is said to have exclaimed, rising from his chair. "War or no war," answered Mr. Roosevelt, "the law shall be no by-word."

Such is the strange tale that comes from Washington—a tale that would be incredible were it not known that the man who asked the insulting question represented those who have on other occasions displayed a similar impropriety of conduct, and were it not known that the men who made the impudent threat have not hesitated in the past to attempt similar insolent dictation.

We have but to remember the famous Rockefeller telegram to the senate. Attempts were made to shuffle off responsibility for that upon the folly of young Mr. Rockefeller, but whatever its source its arrogance was seen to be typical of the attitude of the men now said to presume to threaten the president of the United States.

That these men should have presumed to ask that insulting question and to make that impudent threat is therefore by no means incredible. There is one point, however, that these gentlemen would do well to remember. When they threaten war unless they can have immunity from the laws they threaten more than Theodore Roosevelt. They threaten the president of the United States and through him they threaten the whole American people.

They would do well to remember what is the fate of those who challenge the American people to war.

It is difficult to believe that the Inter Ocean is really as mad as it pretends to be. Even if this Washington story were true is it in the least surprising that these trust magnates who provided the republican party with an enormous campaign fund in 1896 and again in 1900 should conceive the idea that they had a right to make demands upon the party that had won victory and victory upon trust funds?

The American people must remember that these same men undertook to dictate to the voters of this country in 1896 and 1900. Then such publications as the Chicago Inter Ocean told us that these men represented the "business interests" and that thoughtful men would be guided by their counsels.

The Inter Ocean's "Strange Tale" will, however, create many smiles. J. Pierpont Morgan, H. H. Rogers and their associates are not apt to

differ upon a question of politics. The idea that Mr. Rogers is seriously alarmed because of any contemplated action against the steel trust is absurd when we remember that J. Pierpont Morgan has declared in favor of Mr. Roosevelt' election and that the New York Sun and Harper's Weekly, both under Mr. Morgan's control, are giving cordial support to Mr. Roosevelt. Only a few days ago, Mr. E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific railroad announced: "It is all going one way. No one wants to put the republicans out."

Is it not, then, just as absurd for these republican papers to undertake to make it appear that the trust magnates are arrayed against Mr. Roosevelt as it is for a republican organ to pretend to be indignant because a trust manipulator is said to have demanded at the hands of republican officeholders fulfillment of the pledges, direct or implied, made to the trusts when they provided the republican party with its campaign funds?

Income and Outgo

In his letter of acceptance, Mr. Roosevelt said: "As conclusively shown by the bulletins of the bureau of labor, the purchasing power of the average wage received by the wage-worker has grown faster than the cost of living, and this in spite of the continual shortening of working hours."

The wage-workers of the country are doubtless prepared to tell Mr. Roosevelt that this is one case where figures prevaricate.

The workingmen and the housewives need no ponderous table of figures to know the facts in this connection.

The average man today finds it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. Wages have not generally increased while the cost of living has enormously increased.

The trust system operates on the one hand to keep down the wages of the laborer and on the other hand to put up the cost of living. The experience of the past two years shows that the trust magnate is determined to take advantage of every opportunity given him under republican administration.

A Great Campaign

Those who believe in the public ownership of railroads, in an income tax, in the election of federal judges for a limited period, in the municipal ownership of public utilities, in the election of senators by popular vote, in the public ownership of the telegraph system, in the battle against private monopolies, may aid in carrying on a great educational campaign on these lines by taking advantage of The Commoner's special subscription offer.

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