

been forced into war against his will and in defense of high principles are the things that make timid men brave and make brave men more courageous.

A few years ago we were congratulating ourselves that the "hip pocket" had gone out of style. We were congratulating ourselves that men were growing farther and farther away from the practice of carrying firearms. But here we have a national organization whose purpose it is to place a rifle in the hands of all the young men of the land and to teach them that the all important thing to learn is to shoot and hit the thing he shoots at. An organization upon which this great duty devolves is to ask congress for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 per year in order that it may be able to thoroughly inoculate the American public with the virus of war.

An Absurd Statement

Secretary Shaw is a very interesting speaker, but he occasionally makes some very absurd statements. In a speech recently delivered at Indianapolis, Mr. Shaw denied the right of congress to investigate the executive departments of the federal government. He said that the executive departments have welcomed congressional investigations "as a matter of amity" and "not because the constitution expressly authorizes such investigation."

Mr. Shaw added:

I fancy it would cause a great commotion if the chief executive should send a demand for a copy of defeated bills in congress and for the correspondence between congressmen and their constituents with reference thereto, implying thereby that there was something wrong. I fancy it would be a subject of comment if either of the two co-ordinate branches of the government should send to the supreme court for the files in a given case, and should ask for the correspondence between members of the supreme court and supposed parties in interest, with the implied insinuation that those high officials were believed to be corrupt.

This is indeed a strange statement coming from a member of the cabinet. The Milwaukee Journal commenting upon this remarkable statement hits the nail on the head when it says: "A schoolboy, taking his first lessons in civil government, who should make such a statement would be sent to the foot of his class in disgrace. The executive departments of the federal government are creatures of congress. They exist by the suffrage of the legislative department. They are executive departments, but they are not the executive and are not clothed with his prerogatives. Congress can not abolish the office of president. It may, at will, abolish the office of secretary of the treasury. That, however, would be too heroic a remedy to work riddance of Shaw."

Of The Mob

The Detroit, Mich., Tribune is responsible for the statement that Prof. Barrett Wendell of Harvard university recently said: "It should be the duty of this society to work in such a way that the American may again assume his old position at the front. A mob made up of all the lower classes is surely in the majority at the present. Abraham Lincoln was certainly of the mob but he outgrew his class."

Is injustice done Prof. Wendell when it is taken for granted in the light of his remarks that the Morgans and the Rockefeller are really representative of "the American" while the millions of people upon whose necessities the trust magnates prey come under the designation of "mob?"

We incline to the opinion that the Chicago Record-Herald states the case well when it bluntly admits "That Lincoln belonged to the mob we all know, but he called it the plain people, not the lower classes."

Alone In The Fight

The New York World is very much incensed because Mr. Bryan is on the stump in behalf of the democratic ticket. The World asks:

Does the national committee think the election of a democratic president next month will be greatly promoted by the speeches of a man who confesses his lack of sympathy with the democratic ticket by declaring that "when the election is over I want to renew the fight for economic reform"—meaning "for populism?"

In the first place, it is strange for an editor who claims to be a democrat to concede to popu-

lism a monopoly upon the championship of "economic reform."

Perhaps Mr. Bryan's efforts to aid in the election of the democratic ticket will not be productive of great results. Every one, however, may do his part and every little helps.

It might be said that the election of a democratic president will be as greatly promoted by the efforts of men who have ever supported democratic principles and democratic candidates as by the efforts of a newspaper editor who, while professing strong antipathy toward the trust system and undying devotion to public interests, deserted the party to which he claims to belong during two presidential campaigns and contributed his efforts toward the election of a national ticket confessedly the ticket of the trust magnates.

It is difficult to believe that the World editor expects the democratic ticket to be elected by his solitary vote. That vote, although admittedly a very important one, is not sufficient to elect the democratic ticket.

Of course democrats generally concede to the editor of the World the privilege of issuing daily instructions to every one connected with the democratic campaign, from the nominees to the humblest attache at committee headquarters. But the plain every-day democrats should, at least, not be denied the privilege of doing their humble part to aid the great man upon whom the management of the New York World devolves and around whom—so far as concerns the present national campaign—this homely world of the solar system seems to revolve.

That Criminal Clause

A Berwick, Pa., reader writes: "To settle an argument in regard to the criminal clause of the anti-trust law, will you please let me know if such clause has been repealed. Enclosed find clipping from the New York American."

The clipping enclosed is an editorial from which this extract is taken:

What is the "legislation enacted to increase the effectiveness" of the enforcement of the laws against the predatory trusts to which President Roosevelt refers so ringingly?

Is it the last, signed by him, by which the anti-trust law was emasculated by having stricken from its provisions the only section of which the men who engineer the great robbing trusts are afraid—the provision providing imprisonment as the penalty for forming and maintaining combinations in restraint of trade?

That is the only legislation enacted under Mr. Roosevelt on the trust question, and who is there that doubts that it was at the instance of the trusts themselves that the captains of piracy were freed from the only menace the law held for them?

The writer of the article referred to undoubtedly acted under misapprehension.

As has been repeatedly stated by The Commoner, the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law is on the statute book just as it was originally enacted.

The reason so many people rest under the impression that the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law was repealed is that in the law—an entirely different statute from the Sherman anti-trust law—where it was sought to prohibit rebates and favoritism on the part of railroads the clause providing imprisonment as the penalty, was repealed and a fine, without imprisonment, was substituted.

As the writer of the editorial referred to says the men who engineer the great robbing trusts are afraid of the provision providing for imprisonment as the penalty for forming and maintaining combinations in restraint of trade. They are not, however, afraid that that law will be enforced under the Roosevelt administration. They have every reason to believe that that most effective weapon will never be used so long as the republican party remains in power.

The Killing Department

Speaking before the international congress of military surgeons, Maj. Louis L. Seaman said:

"The Japanese authorities permitted our government to send five military attaches to accompany their army in the field. Was a surgeon or a quartermaster or a commissary officer detailed? No. They represented the life-saving and life preserving departments, and were omitted. The killing departments got the appointments, and today Japanese officers are laughing in their sleeves at our senseless failure to have representatives on what they consider their three vital points, whilst the only weak, almost burlesque feature of their

army, its cavalry, is considered of sufficient importance to be worthy of special study."

What did Major Seaman expect of an administration that is devoted to war? Does not Major Seaman know that if the administration had sent to the Japanese army representatives of "the life-saving and the life-preserving departments," the administration's chief might be regarded as "a weakling." Of course, "the killing department got the appointment," as "the killing department" takes precedence at all times and under all circumstances in the Roosevelt code.

Frank J. Morgan

Frank J. Morgan, one of the best known democrats in this state, died recently at his home in Plattsmouth, Neb. Mr. Morgan had a host of friends among men of all political parties. He was one of Nebraska's best citizens and a better democrat than he never struggled for the public interests. No truer words were ever uttered than when, in paying a tribute to Mr. Morgan, the World-Herald said: "Frank J. Morgan had a wide acquaintance throughout the state of Nebraska; and yet everyone did not know the fine characteristics that endeared him to those who knew him well. Those who did know him will have no hesitancy in saying that 'if everyone to whom he did some loving kindness were to lay a blossom on his grave he would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers.'"

A Changed Man

The New York Commercial, a paper that is presumed to be supporting the republican ticket, says: "The appointment of Robert J. Wynne, first assistant postmaster general, to succeed the late Postmaster General Payne, pending the appointment of Mr. Cortelyou to the postoffice portfolio, is a sort of application of civil service principles with a long string attached thereto. It is not the kind of action that would have been predicted of Theodore Roosevelt a dozen years ago; but it is not likely to awaken much criticism, because Mr. Cortelyou's fitness for the position, both in the matter of ability and of fidelity to the public interests, can not be seriously questioned. The incidents, however, will serve to convince many people that the present tenant of the white house is not missing many points in the fine game of politics."

The Theodore Roosevelt of today is doing many things which would not have been predicted of the Theodore Roosevelt of a dozen years ago.

Lend a Hand

Every reader of The Commoner is invited to participate in the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence by increasing its circulation. To this end a special subscription offer has been arranged.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

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