

organization as soon as the conventions meet, and democrats who sympathize with plutocracy will of their own accord withdraw from the party and become republicans. The republicans who favor reform will be crowded out of their party by the "stand-patters" and corporation bosses. The re-alignment is going on now and by 1908 the democratic party will be the outspoken champion of all the reforms which are consistent with the democratic principle, "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Campaign Contributions

Congressman Bourke Cochran introduced on the first day of the present session a resolution and a bill dealing with campaign contributions. The resolution provides for the appointment of a commission to be composed of judges, senators and members of congress to take testimony and report upon contributions made to the various campaign committees during the campaigns of 1892, 1896, 1900 and 1904. It is not probable that the republican party will permit the passage of any such resolution. The amount of money raised in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 was so large and the expenditures of the campaign were on such an enormous scale that there is little danger of the republican leaders permitting an investigation into the facts.

Mr. Cochran's bill, however, being in line with the president's recommendation, may have more chance of passage. The Cochran bill provides that each contribution above fifty dollars shall be made public within three days after its receipt. The press reports did not clearly indicate whether the contributions should be reported by the donor or by the campaign committee. It would be well to require the donor to file a report with the postmaster of the town in which he lives, the same to be forwarded by the postmaster and the nearest United States court. The donation should be made known at once and to provide against the possibility of having the donations made just at the close of the campaign it would be well to make it unlawful for contributions to be made so late in the campaign as to prevent the publication of the same several days before election. If, for instance, the notice of the contribution must be filed within three days after it is made, the law ought to prohibit the making of contributions within ten days of the election. It might be even better to have a longer time.

The campaign committee has established headquarters and should file a weekly report of its contributions and disbursements during the campaign. The contributions above fifty dollars should be stated specifically; the contributions below fifty dollars could be stated in a gross sum and the same rule could be followed in reporting expenses.

Now that the president has put himself on record in favor of some such law the democrats should join with him and seek to secure the very best law possible upon the subject. Mr. Cochran is to be congratulated upon having taken the initiative, and whether his bill or some other bill is adopted the democrats should insist upon immediate consideration of the subject. Some of the republican leaders will probably object to such legislation, but the democrats and the active friends of the president should together constitute a majority.

Speaking of Arbitration

The length to which partisan organs will go in their adulations of party leaders is well shown by the New York Tribune's recent reference to President Roosevelt's arbitration record. The Tribune is a thick-and-thin republican organ that seems actually to believe that the seasons, the crops, the weather, and other like things in nature, are due wholly and solely to republican administration.

Recently Lord Lansdowne of England incidentally remarked that "arbitration has become the fashion," and the Tribune, overlooking no opportunities to flatter the president, added with a partisan smirk that Lord Lansdowne's remark "might have been truthfully supplemented by adding, 'a fashion set by President Roosevelt.'"

Students of our republic's history will be surprised to learn that President Roosevelt has been administering the affairs of the government for 121 years, yet if the New York Tribune is correct in saying that he set the fashion of arbitration, he must have been president in 1783, for in that year a treaty was concluded with England and it contained an arbitration clause. According to the New York Tribune, Theodore Roosevelt was

president in 1814, else how comes it that an arbitration clause was included in the treaty of Ghent. If Theodore Roosevelt set the "fashion of arbitration" he must have been president in 1871, for in that year the Alabama claims were submitted to arbitration, notwithstanding the fact that every school history informs us that a somewhat famous soldier named Grant was president at that time. And according to the same New York authority Theodore Roosevelt was president in 1872, else how comes it that the San Juan boundary dispute was submitted to arbitration.

There may be some excuse for the Tribune's error in regard to the date last mentioned, for if we remember aright the name of San Juan has cut quite a figure in the fortunes of Theodore Roosevelt. But it is doubtful if the people of the country will submit to having the school histories changed to make them agree with the New York Tribune's idea of American arbitration history.

The Arkansas Returns

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat reviews the Arkansas election returns and declares that "there are good reasons for believing that Arkansas will be in the republican column in 1908." The election seems to have turned the head of the editor of the Globe-Democrat. He bases his prediction on the fact that the democratic majority was 55,000 in 1896, 36,000 in 1900 and only 13,000 in 1904. To be sure Arkansas would go republican in four years if the rate of decrease continued, but when the situation is understood the republicans will find no encouragement in the prospect.

In 1896 the democratic party made its fight upon an economic issue. In 1900 the paramount issue was imperialism and everybody recognizes that that issue, while involving fundamental principles of government, did not arouse the enthusiasm that an economic issue does. This year while imperialism was again an issue the party's position on economic questions was such as to discourage many of those upon whom the burden of the battle has rested in recent campaigns.

In 1908 the democratic party will again be a progressive party; without abandoning its position on imperialism it will urge economic reforms; it will arraign plutocracy as now illustrated by republican policies and there will be no doubt about the response that will come from Arkansas.

Not only will Arkansas roll up her usual democratic majority, but Missouri will return to the fold and the democratic masses everywhere will testify to their fidelity to democratic principles.

Reducing Wages

The Boston Post comments editorially upon the fact that the Fall River manufacturers have issued a statement in which they declare that they can not run their mills without reducing the pay of their operators 12 per cent, and the employes reply that they can not live upon the wages if reduced. There was a reduction of wages in 1903 and the employes claim that the new reduction will bring the wages of many of the factory workers down to \$7.50 a week. The Post points out the hardship which will be visited upon the wage-earners and asks "does not such a condition look to degeneration?" It declares that it would be better to bid farewell to the cotton industry altogether than to retain it at such a cost. And yet the republican party has nothing to promise in the way of relief. Such a reduction coming just after an overwhelming republican victory is an indication of the nature of the blessings which the republican party is promising to the wage-earners. These men are declared to be the beneficiaries of a high tariff system; they are warned to vote the republican ticket because of the prosperity brought to them by republican laws. How long will the republican party be permitted to vote hundreds of millions of dollars a year to the manufacturers without giving the laboring man any means of securing his share of the benefits?

Garvin's Splendid Race

Governor Garvin of Rhode Island came within about six hundred votes of re-election, although his state gave Roosevelt some 16,000 plurality. Governor Garvin is a democrat and a reformer and he would have been elected by a large majority but for the republican national landslide. He is not out of politics—a man who has shown the

strength he has and who has his high ideals of public office must still be a power in politics.

The democratic party is fortunate in the fact that it is developing strong and popular leaders in so many of the states. It is a good omen for the future.

Plato's Philosophy

A reader of The Commoner calls attention to the following from Plato:

"Until philosophers are kings, and the princes of this world have the spirit and power of philosophy, and political greatness and wisdom meet in one, cities will never cease from ill—no, nor the human race, as I believe—and then only will our state have a possibility of life, and see the light of day."

It is not necessary that philosophers should be kings, but it is necessary that those who hold official position as representatives of the people should have enough of "the spirit and power of philosophy" to know that truth is omnipotent and that right is might. Then they will cease to expect good to come from compromise with evil or from the surrender of high ideals.

A Missourian's Way

A very busy man, living in Missouri, sends to The Commoner a letter in which he says: "I have not much time to devote to the advancement of democratic principles; and yet I deem it my duty to do whatever I can in that direction. Sometimes I feel that I would like to write to every American citizen and tell him what I believe to be the duty of every man in the presence of the very serious public problems confronting our people today. Of course, such a thing is impossible. But I find in every issue of The Commoner that the views I entertain are set forth so clearly and so forcibly that I can do no better than to aid in the effort to increase the circulation of your great paper. I shall, therefore, avail myself of your special subscription offer and shall do my part to persuade my neighbors to subscribe for The Commoner. I am sure that if everyone who feels as I do will undertake to obtain a few subscribers for your excellent publication, it will, at a very early date, have the largest circulation of any American publication."

The above is a sample of the communications received by The Commoner every day. Every one who believes in the principles advocated by The Commoner may aid in the good work if they will but avail themselves of the special subscription offer.

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