

than it will be to secure, from a republican congress, a law that will protect the people from corporation imposition.

In his fight against rebates and discriminations, Mr. Roosevelt must go through the tedious process of obtaining the consent not only of the house but of a senate that is manifestly out of sympathy on this particular subject. We hope he will win, but whether he win or lose, we hope he will make the vigorous fight which his friends say he will make, and every good citizen will bid him Godspeed in his laudable undertaking.

But when it comes to the enforcement of the one law which the trust magnates fear, Mr. Roosevelt need not ask the consent of congress, he need not depend upon the whims of senators. All he needs to do is to instruct the attorney general to set the machinery of the department of justice in motion and to cause the arrest of everyone who has violated the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Every move the president has made in behalf of the people has won him new favor among those who have suffered for so many years because of the exactions of greedy men. If, in addition to asking congress to enact a law that will put a stop to rebates and discriminations, the president will bring to terms the trust magnates, those men who "conspire in restraint of trade," or, in other words, prey upon the necessities of the people, Mr. Roosevelt will have secured an enviable place in history and he will have won the gratitude of the countless thousands who have for so many years been wonderfully patient in the presence of outrageous wrongs.

### Stand By The President

Washington dispatches indicate that whatever may be President Roosevelt's individual opinion with respect to tariff revision, he has no disposition to force upon his party his tariff views. An Associated Press dispatch, under date of Washington, Jan. 10—a dispatch which seems to have been authorized—says "there is not the least prospect of differences so radical arising between the president and republican leaders in congress over the tariff question as to cause a split in the party." This Associated Press dispatch adds:

On another question, however—that of legislation, relating to the interstate freight rates of railroads—his mind is quite made up. He will fight for that legislation and fight hard. He hopes to secure from congress some definite action regarding that legislation at the present session, but if he does not he will bring the subject again before congress at the proposed extraordinary session and will urge with all his power the crystallization into law of the recommendations he already has made to congress on that question. The freight rate question he does not regard as one of expediency. He holds that it is a subject in which a great moral principle is involved, and one very near to all the people of the country. He regards it, in fact, as the paramount issue at this time.

It seems to be generally understood that Mr. Roosevelt is in earnest on the railroad freight rate question and in this good work he should have the hearty support of democrats, as well as all other good citizens.

Freight rate discrimination has been responsible for many business disasters. In another column of this issue The Commoner reproduces from the New York World dispatches from various correspondents of that newspaper showing specific instances wherein freight rate discrimination has resulted in serious pecuniary loss.

Commoner readers are invited to carefully read these extracts from the World. The headlines give a fair idea of the showing made.

For instance:

"Pennsylvania road kills three firms."

"Score of big firms ruined in Atlanta."

"Train of ruin in the city of Emporia, Kansas."

"Baltimore's export trade shriveling."

"Lincoln industries slowly strangled."

"Firm loses \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year."

"Ruin of Southern Steamship Company."

"Georgia's crockery business dead."

"Railroads squeeze Columbus concerns."

"Fort Wayne's Commercial interests injured."

"Progress of several Iowa firms halted."

"California fruit growers hampered."

"Millions of dollars lost to Mobile's trade."

Anyone who carefully considers the showing made by the World's correspondents must be convinced not only that it is high time the president moved in a strenuous way for reform on these

lines, but that he is entitled to the support of the people.

### Jackson Day Celebrations

Jackson day was celebrated at a number of places throughout the country and wherever the democrats assembled they were hopeful and determined. It is evident that the rank and file of the party, instead of being discouraged, are eager to begin the campaign of 1908. As January eighth—Jackson Day—came on Sunday, some of the banquets were held just before and some just after the eighth. Mr. Bryan was thus able to attend two Jackson Day banquets, one at Memphis, Tenn., on the sixth and the other at LaFayette, Ind., on the tenth. At both places the celebration was in charge of a local Jackson club. At Memphis, besides discussing the outlook, he answered the charge, made by one of the corporation papers, that the recent defeat was due to northern resentment against southern leadership, and he also dealt with the proposed reduction of southern representation. These questions have recently been discussed in The Commoner.

At LaFayette he took for his subject, "A Jackson Party,"—an abstract of his remarks at this place will be found below:

"Thomas Jefferson was both the founder of the democratic party and the greatest exponent of democratic principles. No one understood better than he the human heart and the influences that act upon it, and no one ever sympathized more fully with the common people. No one ever studied the science of government more profoundly or left so complete a chart for the guidance of those who may from time to time be in charge of the ship of state. He was the foremost constructive statesman of the Christian era, and his fame increases with the years. But while one great law-giver may supply a code of principles which will suffice for centuries, each generation must furnish some conspicuous example of courageous application of those principles, and Andrew Jackson, in whose memory we meet tonight, stands forth not only as the representative of his generation, but as the second great democrat, because he fearlessly enforced the political creed of Jefferson.

"What the democratic party most needs today is to be animated by the spirit of Andrew Jackson as it approaches pending problems. It suffered overwhelming defeat last November, and the prime cause of that defeat is to be found in the fact that it lacked this spirit. It can not hope either to win or to deserve success until it becomes in reality a Jackson party, and, like Old Hickory, is ready to take the people's side of every question without stopping to count the cost or to measure the prospects of immediate success.

"When General Jackson was informed that the British had landed just below New Orleans, he replied, 'By the eternal, they shall not sleep on American soil,' and although he was awaiting reinforcements he harassed the enemy so constantly for the next two weeks that in the final struggle he won an easy victory over an exhausted foe. When the president of the United States bank, Nicholas Biddle, attempted to threaten him with the statement that he, as the head of the bank, had the power to defeat him or to re-elect him, he answered, 'If you have that power, you have a sight more power than any man ought to have in this country,' and he proceeded to strip the head of the bank of that power.

"I know of no other plan of campaign today which is so consistent with our principles, or which offer so much of hope for the party and the people as the plan followed by Jackson. Taking our stand upon the principle, 'Equal rights to all and special privileges to none,' we should declare that wherever and whenever that principle is attacked we shall resist the attack immediately and continuously, until that principle is applied without question in every department of the government, national, state and city.

"No one is wise enough to foresee what issues the next campaign may present, or to estimate their relative importance. No one has authority to state the party's position in advance of the next convention, but we can all, as democrats, resolve that to the extent of our influence we will insist that each issue shall be honestly met, and that the platform shall express the sentiment of the voters, as that sentiment is ascertained at the primaries. Those who believe that the democratic party should be 'a party of the people, by the people and for the people,' should organize for the purpose of carrying their views into effect, and this organization should pledge its members

individually and collectively, to oppose by every means within their power all efforts to corrupt the party in its party meetings, or the people at the polls.

"We can on such occasions as this exchange views and thus inform ourselves as to the questions which are under consideration. As a private in the ranks, with neither the power nor the desire to substitute my opinion for the opinion of any other person, I shall take advantage of this opportunity to call attention to certain questions which in my judgment demand consideration.

"The party's position on imperialism has been stated in two national platforms, and I do not see how the party can recede from that position. Colonialism is antagonistic to the principles of a republic, and we can not stand before the world as the representative of the doctrine that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and at the same time declare for the permanent holding of distant islands under a government resting purely upon force.

"The party's position upon the trust question is the only correct one. That a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable ought to be accepted as an axiomatic truth, and a sincere belief in that truth will lead our party to favor legislation both civil and criminal, which will effectively protect the public from the evils of private monopoly.

"The party's position in favor of tariff reform can not be abandoned without conceding the right of the government to tax those who consume the products of protected industries in order to enrich the owners of those industries. It is suggested that we are to have a tariff commission to investigate and report upon tariff revision, but as that commission will necessarily report in favor of a protective tariff or a revenue tariff, the question must at last be fought out in congress, and the commission will simply delay action, without materially affecting the result. The tariff can not well be considered without considering the income tax, for no general reduction of tariff can be made without either a large decrease in the expenses of the government or the establishment of an income tax.

"The party's position upon the labor question is the only one consistent with the party's purpose. No matter whether the laboring man appreciates what the party does for him or fails to appreciate, the party must insist upon the protection of the rights of the wage earner. There is no fixed laboring class in this country, and ought to be none. The children of those who work with their hands today may be the leaders in business and in the professions a generation hence, and the offspring of those who now labor with their heads may engage in manual labor. The government can not be made or administered in the interest of a class. It must protect each citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and guarantee to each citizen a just share of the joint product of that which he helps to bring into existence.

"And what of finance? The gold democrats blamed the silver plank for the defeats of 1896 and 1900. I hope that no one will attempt to make silver the scapegoat again. The platform adopted last July was wholly silent upon the money question, Judge Parker declared himself unqualifiedly for gold, and nearly every silver democrat prominently identified with recent campaigns supported the ticket in order to secure the other reforms for which Judge Parker stood, and yet the party polled a million and a quarter less votes than it did in either of the two preceding campaigns. While the increased production of gold has increased the volume of money, and brought in part the relief that bimetallicism would have brought to a larger degree, yet some phase of the money question is always before the country, and the irrepressible conflict between the money power and the masses can never be safely ignored. Even now, there is a measure before congress, the object of which is to convert about six hundred million silver dollars into promises to pay gold, and this is but a step in the plan to retire the silver dollars and leave gold the only standard money. When the plan is complete, legislation will have destroyed all the benefits which we have derived from the increased production of gold. Aside from the metallic part of the money question we have to meet the issue between government paper and bank paper, and the party can no more take the banker's side of this question than it can take the manufacturer's side of the tariff question or the trust magnate's side of the question of private monopoly.

"While members of the democratic party are dealing with national questions they must also deal with state and municipal questions, and the