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HIDING BEHIND INDIVIDUALISM

The corporation democrats have commenced their crusade against what they term radicalism and, as was expected, they hide behind "individualism." They are very much afraid that thrift will be discouraged and that individual independence will be lost in public ownership. In so far as this argument is advanced by those whose sympathies are with the corporations it is unnecessary to answer it, because those who want to act with the corporations will act with them, no matter how often or how completely their arguments are answered; but for the benefit of those whose sympathies are right it may be well to draw a distinction. The democratic party believes in encouraging and protecting the individual but today the individual is being run out of business by the private monopoly. It is in the interest of the individual that the democratic party is trying to restore competition where competition is possible and it is in the interest of the individual that the democratic party favors public ownership where competition is impossible. Those who use individualism as a cloak for their arguments in favor of monopoly only mock and deceive the individual.

Private ownership of municipal franchises has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. It has produced extortion and corruption. Public ownership of the public utilities of a city is the only remedy and the growth in sentiment in favor of it is tremendous. Before long only those who are pecuniarily interested in taking advantage of the public will favor the sale of municipal franchises.

APPRECIATED

A republican, commenting on The Commoner, says that he would rather read it than all other papers combined because he feels that he is getting the truth of the matter. Such an endorsement is appreciated. There ought to be no difference about the facts however much people may differ about the conclusions to be drawn from them.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

The Supreme Court of the United States, by a vote of five to four, decided the New York ten-hour day law unconstitutional. It is an exceedingly important decision and will be discussed in these columns when the full text of the decision and dissenting opinions is obtainable.



TRYING TO PUT HIM TO SLEEP

Judge Parker Talks on "Fads"

Judge Alton B. Parker, in his Jefferson day banquet speech, delivered at New York on April 13, took occasion to cast some reflections upon the intelligence of the rank and file of the party. He referred to free silver as a "fad," which means if it means anything, that in his opinion, those who favored it were lacking in what Mr. Cleveland describes as "sanity." He says:

If we are to deal effectively with these various issues, whether in opposition or in power, it will be necessary to have a real party with real followers, attached to real and recognized principles. It is not enough that it shall have a collection of fads—many of them useless and some of them dangerous and opposed to the historic position of our organization. We have already had too many of these because it is safe to assert of a policy that if it is radical it is not democratic; if it is democratic it is not radical.

It is necessary for us to remember that we have principles and traditions of our own and that every departure from them has landed us in defeat. Nor can we take anybody else's policies, ready made, however strong may be the outward clamor. They must square with our own principles. What may seem to be popular demands are sometimes not popular but mere momentary crazes which sweep over the community only to sink faster than they rose. For many years, in certain parts of the country, the politicians in both parties kept their ears so closely to

the ground that they heard the rumble of a greenback movement but it always brought defeat whenever this sound was given a voice.

We found the same thing true on a larger scale and with greater and more permanent loss, when we took up the silver question. And yet, of all single questions thus far in our history presented as party issues this was the most seductive. It had some warrant in history and made appeal to many forces in our politics. It had also the great advantage of being championed by an honest and patriotic man, who was and is perhaps the most persuasive political orator known to our history. And yet it swept our party out of power in every northern democratic state, and they have remained in the republican column ever since, while the two border states which then turned against us for the first time have been retained by small and inconclusive majorities.

He admits that the silver issue was "seductive" and that it had "some warrant in history," but he describes it as a "fad." A recollection of the disastrous results that followed the sending of his gold telegram ought to have led him to keep silent on this particular question. Even a convention pledged to him (and pledged when he refused to let anyone know where he stood on the money question) refused to endorse the gold standard, although urged to do so by those who had charge of his forces. When, after his nomination, he repudiated the platform and injected his opinion on the money question, a question