

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 5. No. 20

Lincoln, Nebraska, June 2, 1905

Whole Number 228

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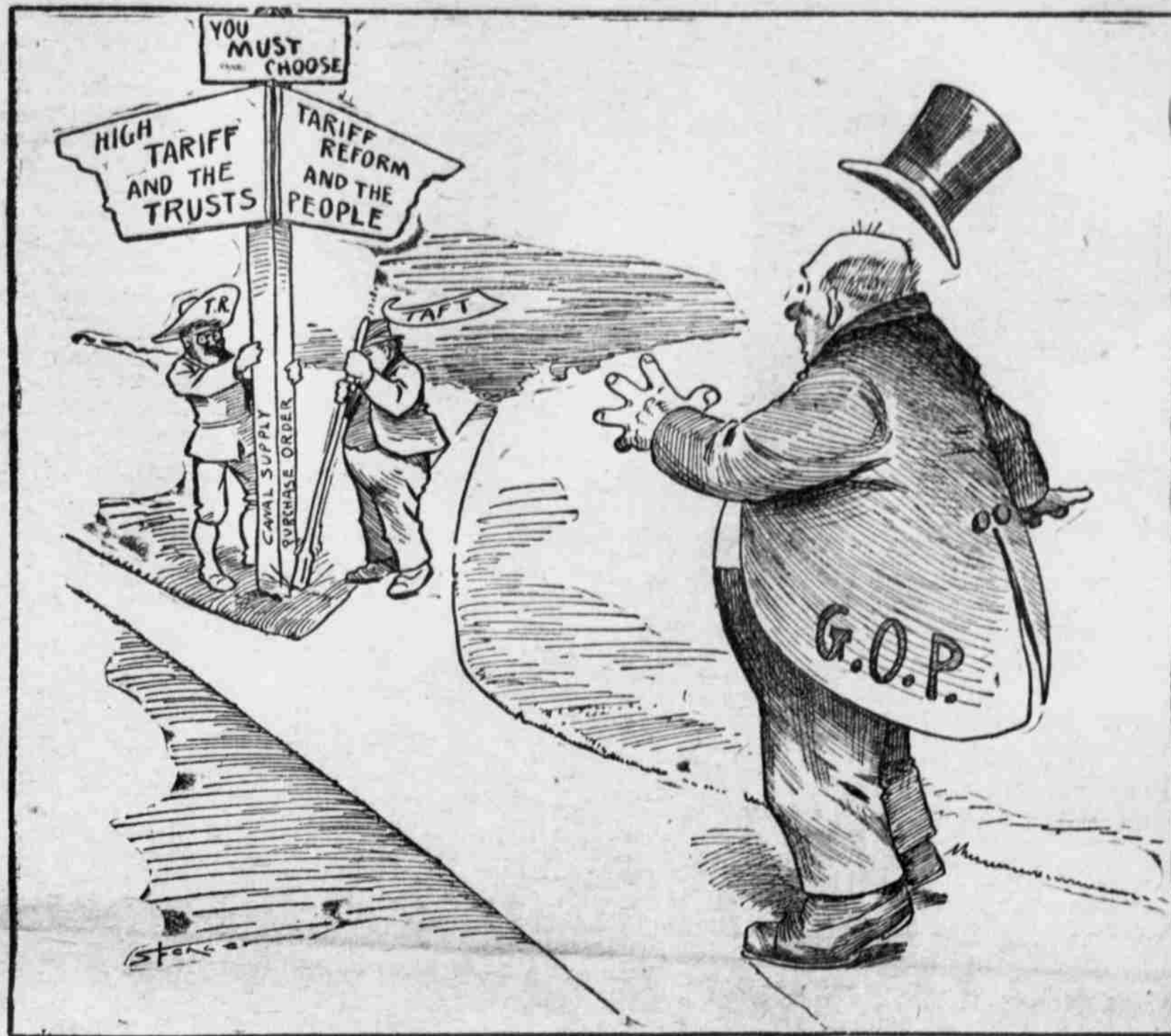
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MAYOR WEAVER'S GREAT VICTORY

Mayor Weaver, of Philadelphia, has just won a great victory for good government. The corrupt republican machine that is in control of the city of Philadelphia undertook to give to a local gas company a long lease of the city gas works on terms which would yield to the gas company a profit of many millions. The citizens were aroused and entered a protest, but the city council was deaf to all appeals. Then the ministers held a public meeting and offered prayers for the mayor. The influence brought to bear upon the mayor was such that he determined to antagonize the machine, and with the encouragement of the various reform bodies, the ministers and the newspapers, he made such a stand against the boodlers that the gas company was compelled to abandon the lease and drop the fight, giving as a reason that public opinion was against the company. Seldom, if ever, has there been in this country such a signal triumph for honest municipal government. Mayor Weaver is the recipient of congratulations from all over the country, and The Commoner delights to join in tendering greeting and commendation. But while Mayor Weaver is receiving the largest share of attention, we should not overlook those who organized the fight and so strengthened him as to enable him to overcome a council full of grafters, and back of the mayor and back of the movement there will be found some courageous spirit who initiated the protest and whose enthusiasm inspired others. This person, whoever he may be, ought to be crowned with the city's approbation and with him those who joined in making the protest a success. What has been done in Philadelphia can be done elsewhere. In fact, Philadelphia is notoriously the worst governed city in the United States, and when it is shown that even in Philadelphia conscience can overcome money, there ought to be a revival of hope in every other municipality.

ASSET CURRENCY

Mr. Rush C. Lake, assistant attorney general of Missouri, has been quoted as saying that the recent bank failure at Waverly, Mo., was worse in proportion to the size of the bank than the Bigelow embezzlement. Banker Lewis seems to have taken between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, while the bank's deposits only amounted to \$70,000. Attention is called to this at this time merely for the purpose of asking the advocates of an asset currency to consider what would be the value of bank notes based upon assets if the assets could be carried off in a valise at any time.



The Parting of the Ways

LAWSON CHARGES FRAUD

The "frenzied" financiers have accused Mr. Lawson of making threats without carrying them out, but they will have to admit that his article in the June number of Everybody's Magazine is specific enough. He charges Rogers, Stillman and Rockefeller (William) with a deliberate fraud of gigantic proportions. He not only charges the fraud but he gives names, dates and details. He declares that they endorsed his prospectus and paid for its publication; that they agreed to protect the stock from a decline and that they in violation of good faith, put in a bid of their own after the other bids were opened.

Now what have Rogers, Stillman and Rockefeller to say to this? Will they admit that they were engaged in a swindling operation involving millions? Will they deny it and sue Lawson for libel?

The National City bank of New York City is the largest bank in the United States, and James Stillman is its president. The bank discharged one of its vice presidents a few weeks ago when the Munroe & Munroe investigation showed that he was in a syndicate organized to boom certain stock by "wash sales." Will the bank discharge its president now that he has been exposed?

Mr. Rogers is the moving spirit in Standard Oil; will his participation in the "crime of the Amalgamated" excite the wrath of John D.? Or will the senior Rockefeller regard it merely as proof of Rogers' fitness for the position he now holds? Lawson has "made good." What a sorry spectacle our great financiers present! Scarcely one of them of prominence but what has been shown to be connected with some dishonest scheme. These are the men who talked so loudly about "national honor" in 1896; these are the men who think that they have a vested right to control the federal treasury and dictate the financial policy of the government; these are the men who stand behind the trusts and the railroads, today and resent any attempt on the part of the public to protect the people.

The shipbuilding trust investigation, the Munroe & Munroe investigation, the Equitable scandal, the railroad rate controversy, the Bigelow failure, the Tarbell articles on the Standard Oil, the Russell articles on the beef trust, the Steffens articles on municipal corruption and Lawson's articles on frenzied finance—what side lights they throw on plutocracy! They all contribute to the education of the people and prepare the way for the triumph of Jeffersonian democracy.

OFFERING DEMOCRATIC REMEDIES

The republican administration recommended that the interstate commerce commission be given power to fix and control railroad freight rates. That was in accordance with the democratic platforms for at least three presidential campaigns.

The republican commissioner recommended that "corporations engaged in interstate commerce

must show clean hands before doing business outside of the state of their origin" and must obtain federal license. That was the plan recommended by the much abused Kansas City platform.

The republican administration has, with respect to one trust, directed the enforcement of the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust