

A "PERMANENT ELECTIONEERING ENGINE"

Democrats everywhere will find great encouragement in the results of the recent elections. But hotly contested as these elections were, and gratifying as the result must be to those who have for so many years, and in spite of great discouragements, kept the faith, this was but the beginning of the serious and desperate effort the American people must engage in if they intend to obtain relief. They need relief not only from bossism in municipal and state politics, but from corporation domination of political affairs.

There is today a "Nick Biddleism" which differs from the "Nick Biddleism" of Jackson's time only because it represents schemes which Nick Biddle would not have had the hardihood to plan, even had he not been confronted by a Jackson.

The tactics of the "Nick Biddles" today are similar to those of Jackson's day. If one would refresh himself as to the incidents of Jackson's service in the White House, he would be reminded that while there may be a difference in degree between the wicked schemes of the present time and Jackson's day, there is marked similarity in the methods employed in both instances in the effort to fasten the shackles upon the people.

In his address to the cabinet, September 18, 1833, Jackson described some of the methods adopted by the representatives of the bank in order to bring public sentiment to its side, or at least to control the majority of votes in the election. That this bank had made extensions of loans so as to bring as large a portion of the people as possible under its power and influence was a fact pointed out in this address; and it was also said that "it has been disclosed that

some of the largest loans were granted on very unusual terms to the conductors of the public press."

According to Jackson:

"Having taken these preliminary steps to obtain control over public opinion, the bank came into congress and asked a new charter. The object avowed by many of the advocates of the bank was to put the president to the test, that the country might know his final determination relative to the bank prior to the ensuing election. Many documents and articles were printed and circulated at the expense of the bank to bring the people to a favorable decision upon its pretensions. Those whom the bank appears to have made its debtors for the special occasion were warned of the ruin which awaited them should the president be sustained, and attempts were made to alarm the whole people by painting the depression in the price of property and produce and the general loss, inconvenience, and distress, which it was represented would immediately follow the reelection of the president in opposition to the bank."

Jackson added: "He (the president) met the challenge and willingly took the position into which his adversaries sought to force him and frankly declared his unalterable opposition to the bank as being both unconstitutional and inexpedient."

The methods referred to in this address by President Jackson are the methods that are resorted to by the representatives of special interests whenever the people appeal for relief. Great literary bureaus are constructed for the purpose of influencing public sentiment, newspapers are brought under the control of these interests, debtors are warned of the ruin which awaits them should any plan intended to protect public interests be carried out; and in various ways, in

this day, as in Jackson's time, attempts are made to alarm the whole people by painting the depression in the price of property and produce and the general loss, inconvenience and distress which it is represented would immediately follow any executive or legislative act to which the representatives of these special interests do not heartily subscribe.

In one of his messages Jackson said that he had unquestionable proof that the Bank of the United States was converted into a "permanent electioneering engine;" and he referred to the efforts of the bank to control public opinion through the distress of some and the fears of others.

The special interests of today have a "permanent electioneering engine."

In his farewell address, Jackson warned the American people against the money trust. He reminded them that it would require "steady and persevering exertions" on their part to check the spirit of monopoly; he warned them that "so many interests are united to resist all reform on this subject that you must not hope the conflict will be a short one nor success easy." He congratulated himself that his humble efforts had not been spared "to restore the constitutional currency of gold and silver;" he told the people that in spite of all that had been done "enough yet remains to require all your energy and perseverance;" and he assured the people that "the power, however, is in your hands and the remedy must and will be applied if you determine upon it."

The evils against which Jackson struggled are more pronounced in this day than they were in Jackson's time; and—as clearly shown in the results of the recent election—today, as in the days of Jackson, the power is in the people's hands, and the remedy will be applied if they determine upon it.

ARE THE PEOPLE POWERLESS?"

Recently The Commoner printed an editorial entitled "Are the People Powerless?" Charles W. Bowne of Mica, Washington, referring to that editorial says that "Under our present system of government the people are powerless unless our officials are men who are strong enough and great enough to use their means to protect the people." Then Mr. Bowne describes in plain Anglo Saxon a plan that might be followed with advantage to the people: "If President Roosevelt were to withdraw the money now held by a few favored banks; if he were to kick out of office every official, high or low, who turned a favorable ear to monopoly; if he proceeded against every monopolist who breaks the law, just as he would against any other criminal; if he broke, upon the wheel of public opinion, as he might do, every senator and every congressman who upheld monopoly and assisted in robbery and if he perpetrated a few other little practical jokes upon the system, as he might do, the officers and members of the system would hardly be in condition to meet the president after the first round. They might manage to save a night shirt apiece out of the wreck of their fortunes, but the water in their stocks wouldn't serve as a chaser after the morning dram, and as wind and water is their principal stock in trade, they would be practically out of business. I would like to see a president who would do things to the trusts, just as Andrew Jackson did them to the banks. Few men even have the opportunity to prove that they are great, and few of those who do reach that point, are great enough to withstand temptation. Christ refused the earth and received an everlasting crown; Caesar refused a crown but was suspected of wanting it; Napoleon did not wait to have it offered to him; Washington was wise enough to know that his fame would be greater and more lasting if written in the hearts of the people as the father of a republic than if written upon the pages of history as Washington I., King of America. Roosevelt should not miss the opportunity of having his name written with that of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, in order to see it mentioned flatteringly by the press of today, and that he may bask in the smiles of those who are rich and strong."

BY THE ENEMY

The Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal, a republican newspaper and a "stand patter" on the tariff question says: "Senator Foraker is against railroad regulation, and will introduce a railroad

regulation bill in the senate this winter. Senator Elkins is opposed to railroad regulation and will also introduce a rate regulation bill in congress. D. M. Parry, who led the rebaters' convention in Chicago has a railroad reform proposition, and Senator Depew, Kean and Aldrich are yet to hear from. If we must regulate rates, these gentlemen seem to say, by all means let us leave the matter to the enemies of rate regulation."

Why should a republican "stand-patter" on the tariff question object when it is proposed that railway rate regulation be trusted to the enemies of rate regulation? Have we not been repeatedly told by republican newspapers, among which the Lincoln Journal is conspicuous, that the matter of tariff reform must be left to the enemies of tariff reform?

THE CHANDLER BILL

In 1901 the republican congress had an opportunity to pass a bill prohibiting corporations from contributing to campaign funds. Mr. Chandler, then a United States senator from Vermont, introduced in the senate February 2, 1901, a bill which was referred to the committee on privileges and elections. This bill was unanimously reported by the committee, but died March 4, 1901, when Mr. Chandler left the senate. Members of the committee at that time were Messrs. Chandler, Hoar, Burrows, Pritchard, McComas, Caffery, Pettus, Turley and Harris of Tennessee.

This bill was as follows:

"A bill to prohibit corporations from making money contributions in connection with political elections.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that it shall be unlawful for any national bank, or any corporation engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, or any corporation organized by authority of any laws of congress, to make a money contribution in connection with any election to any political office. It shall also be unlawful for any corporation whatever to make a money contribution in connection with any election at which a representative in congress is to be voted for or with any election or attempted election of a United States senator. Every corporation which shall make any contribution in violation of the foregoing provisions shall be subject to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, and every officer, stockholder, director, or employe of any corporation who shall consent to any contribution by the cor-

poration in violation of the foregoing provisions shall be subject to a fine of not exceeding one thousand dollars."

WORK FOR JEROME

Mr. Jerome has a right to be proud of his victory in New York. Entering the contest as an independent candidate, he stirred up such enthusiasm among the voters that the republican candidate retired in his favor, and Mr. Jerome was elected by a substantial plurality.

It will not do for Mr. Jerome to recline upon his laurels. There is important work for his office, and during the campaign he promised that he would do that work.

Those insurance officials who are responsible for the frauds recently exposed should be arrested and prosecuted. Long ago this duty should have been discharged, and now that he has received such a flattering compliment at the hands of the people, Mr. Jerome owes it to himself and to the public to proceed against these insurance magnates. These proceedings should be promptly commenced and vigorously pushed.

THE PRONUNCIATION THEREOF

The Buffalo Evening Times says: "Someone tells us that 'svoboda' is the Russian cry for 'liberty.' Now let someone tell us how it is pronounced." It is pronounced "visionary" by a lot of eminent gentlemen interested in exploiting the Philippines. It is pronounced in a whisper by eight millions of people who fought for it for years only to find themselves farther away from it than ever after welcoming their future rulers as allies and friends. It is pronounced "non-sense" by gangsters interested in retaining control of opportunities for plundering the people. Time was when it was pronounced just as it is spelled in English.

A DEMOCRATIC MEASURE

During the Ohio campaign Senator Foraker said: "The proposition to give the power of making rates to the interstate commerce commission is a democratic measure. It is in the democratic platform. The republicans refused to put that plank in their platform."

The people of Ohio appear to have taken Senator Foraker at his word. They have, by an overwhelming majority, endorsed the democratic measure.