

The Commoner.

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WALSH DOCTRINE

Several weeks ago the Chicago Chronicle, owned by John R. Walsh, referring to contributions to campaign funds said: "They are good or bad according to the motive with which they are given and the use to which they are put. The money used to defeat W. J. Bryan and the democratic party was obviously put to good use."

In the Chronicle's view it was of no importance that these particular contributions were stolen from the policyholders; and in the light of recent disclosures men whose eyes have heretofore been blinded now understand how the Chronicle happened to stand sponsor for that monstrous doctrine.

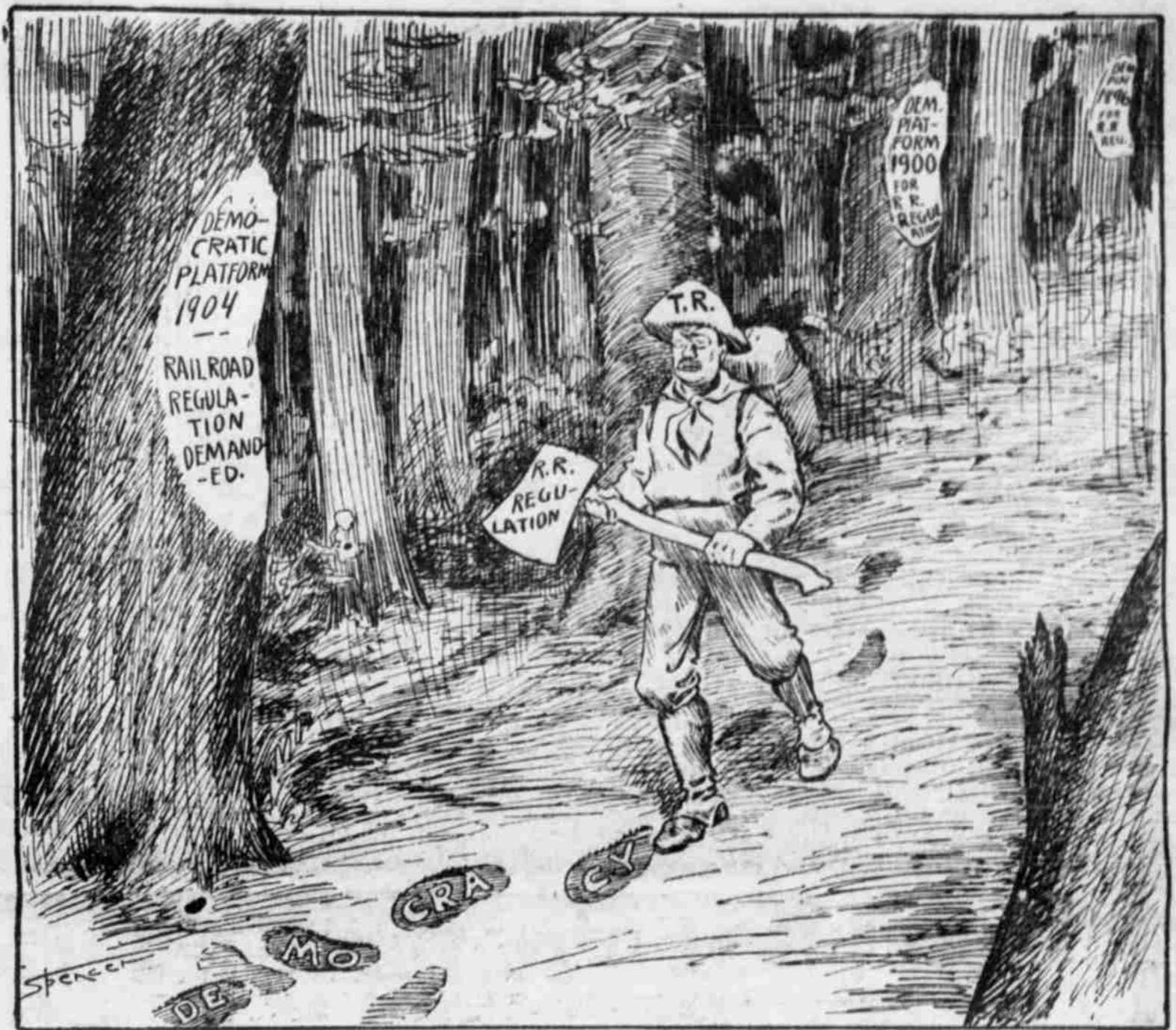
Carried to its logical conclusion the Chronicle's doctrine would mean that a Chicago bank-wrecker could purge himself of sin by contributing a portion of his ill-gotten gains to charity; and in the light of recent disclosures men who have heretofore been deceived will have no difficulty in understanding how it happened that the Chronicle took that view.

OUT-POPPING THE "POPS"

Bent Murdock, editor of the Eldorado, Kans., Republican, and Frank McLennon, editor of the Topeka State Journal, are both republicans of the most approved machine school—and yet!

Mr. Murdock and Mr. McLennon agree that there is no reason in law or in justice why the supreme court should step in and declare "unconstitutional" any law duly enacted by a state legislature and approved in regular form by the governor. "Will some technical court judge be so kind," plaintively asks Mr. Murdock, "as to point out a clause in the Kansas constitution, or a law on the Kansas statutes, that authorizes, empowers or permits a judge or a court to declare a legislative enactment unconstitutional?" And then Mr. McLennon just as plaintively wails out this question: "Why shouldn't the people have what they want? Is it the province of the court to step in and say that they shall not have it?"

The Commoner refers to this discussion for the purpose of recalling to the memory of a million or two of people a few remarks that were wont to be made a few years ago by republicans, and being in their nature a severe condemnation of the "pops" for their strictures upon the courts. The spectacle of such faithful and partisan republicans as Bent Murdock and Frank McLennon "out-popping the pops" is one calculated to bring a smile to the faces of the old-time leaders of the populist movement in the west.



"The Blazed Trail," or "How Democracy is Following Roosevelt."

NEW YEAR'S GREETING

On the first day of the year the average man "puts on the dauntless spirit of resolution"—resolution that in all too many instances of frail human endeavor is burdened with the mental reservation of "committing the oldest kind of sin in the newest kind of ways."

Some one has written that "good resolutions are a pleasant crop to sow. The seed springs up so readily and the blossoms open so soon with such a brave show, especially at first. But when the time of flowers has passed, what as to the fruit?" And the methods of obtaining "the fruit" were pointed out by another when he wrote, "The nerve which never relaxes—the eye which never blanches—the thought which never wanders—the purpose which never wavers—these are the masters of victory."

At this threshold of another year, let us extend to one another the greetings of the season.

First, here's to the maker of good resolutions. When "the time of flowers" has passed may he be able to congratulate himself that he has ever kept in touch with "the masters of victory."

Here's to the hoarder of wealth who has steeled his heart against the appeals of the distressed. May he often be inclined to pity and loosen the strings of his well-filled purse.

Here's to the business man whose life is crowded with perplexities that seem to overwhelm him. May he find relief in the charity of his creditors, in the prosperity of his customers and in the bounteous crops of this new year.

Here's to the parents whose thoughts are centered upon a vacant chair and a new-made grave. May they find balm in Gilead in the

tender memory of the little one that came and went away.

Here's to the mother whose head is bowed in grief because of the deeds of a wayward child. May her love and devotion find full recompense in the reclamation of the wayward one.

Here's to the poor whose pocketbook and coal bins are empty; and to the rich who imagine that they are not their brother's keeper. May the coal bins soon be filled. May the pocketbooks soon be replenished. May the poor become richer while the rich become wealthier by the cultivation of generous impulses.

Here's to the gray-haired men and women. In this new year may their juniors display a better appreciation of their rights, more anxiety for their welfare and make ample provision for their declining years.

Here's to the employer of men and women and children. May he become more considerate of his employes. May he understand that the laborer is worthy of his hire.

Here's to the burden-bearer in every clime. May his burden grow lighter and may his strength increase.

Here's to the president of the United States. May the president and the members of his family be preserved from sickness and distress, and may his official acts be controlled with an eye single to the public good.

Here's to the United States of America. May they become the greatest of all world powers, not because of the strength of their army and navy, but by the force of good example. May this nation "return to the fountain whose waters spring close by the blood of the revolution." May it have a new birth of freedom and assert