

AS GOOD AS HIS PARTY

A monument to the late Matthew S. Quay, for so many years the republican leader of Pennsylvania, is to be erected at Harrisburg. A writer in the Philadelphia Ledger (republican) suggests for the proposed monument the following inscription:

MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY.

The peerless leader and sagacious statesman. He never made a speech nor formulated a policy.

But

He understood better than any man since Webster and Clay the Art of getting cash for campaigns and votes for an election.

There was no "interest" he did not favor.

To the laborer, he offered work.

To the millionaire, more millions.

To the officeholder, office and more offices.

To the manufacturer, protection.

To the philanthropist, state funds for charity.

To the criminal, immunity from the law.

He thus bound the whole people to him, and established a political system the pride and glory of our state.

To illustrate their admiration of his character, and as an example for the youth of Pennsylvania, a grateful Commonwealth has erected this monument

on the spot where grew that plum tree he loved so well.

A very interesting inscription, indeed. It was offered in criticism of the methods of Quay, yet the Philadelphia Ledger overlooks the fact that much that is said in this "tribute" to the famous Pennsylvania politician may be said of the political party which the Ledger has so faithfully served.

The republican party understands "the art of getting cash for campaigns." It has favored special interests, promised "the full dinner pail" to the laborer, more billions to the billionaires and more shelter to the tariff barons. It has given immunity to several distinguished men guilty of crimes, and under the pretense of "defending the national honor" has built up, and continues to defend, a system that takes from the many in order to enrich the few, that oppresses the masses in order to pamper the classes; and with all of its wickedness and folly it continues to pose as "the party of God and morality!"

Surely "Mat" Quay was a fitting representative of such a party. Surely those who were the beneficiaries of his skillful services should not look lightly upon his memory.

"SWOLLEN" FORTUNES

In his speech at Washington Mr. Roosevelt expressed the opinion that it might soon become necessary to adopt an inheritance tax in order that the people might protect themselves against "fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits." Mr. Roosevelt did not use the words "inheritance tax;" he seemed deliberately to avoid the word, although the word describes his suggestion. While Mr. Roosevelt was approaching democratic ground he might have declared in favor of an income tax because, as one of the greatest authorities has written "the subjects of every state ought to contribute toward the support of government as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities—that is, in proportion to the revenue which they respectively enjoy under the protection of the state."

If Mr. Roosevelt's speech against "fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits" means anything at all it means the income tax, because, while the public would derive benefit from the inheritance tax only on one occasion—and in the event of death—the income tax would be of continuing and permanent service to the public.

But in his declamations against "fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits" Mr. Roosevelt might have gone still farther. He might have declared it to be the part of wisdom for those who stand for the public welfare to insist upon "locking the barn before the animal is stolen." He might have said that nearly all of these great fortunes have been "swollen beyond healthy limits" by reason of special privileges. He might have declared that the special privileges enjoyed by these men of "fortunes swollen beyond all healthy limits" must be withdrawn in order that equal rights may be given to all.

Mr. Roosevelt's halting declarations in favor of an inheritance tax and his declamations against fortunes "swollen beyond all healthy limits" are not entirely consistent with his opposition to tariff revision. And it is also true that at the

very time when Mr. Roosevelt was delivering this speech a house committee was holding so called hearings on the ship subsidy bill, while the advocates of that iniquitous measure were pointing with pride to the fact that Mr. Roosevelt favors the ship subsidy, and that several of the departments under the Roosevelt administration have officially indorsed the plan.

Mr. Roosevelt would undertake to put a check upon these swollen fortunes through an inheritance tax, and then he would make it possible for these fortunes to undergo the swelling process again through the infamous ship subsidy scheme.

"CAPITALISTIC OPPORTUNITIES"

The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat tells his readers that Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island has "capitalistic affiliation" and "openly consults with the men who control in that hazy yet positive element popularly known as 'the Wall Street crowd.'" This correspondent says that Mr. Aldrich "seldom takes any step in or out of the senate without consulting with his New York City connections," and that "he is related to the men who control Standard Oil, and has made millions in association with them."

Yet this correspondent says "he possesses the ability to apparently unite in common cause the incongruous elements of the senate and direct them along a common channel."

The Globe-Democrat is now admitting what has for years been charged by democrats. Maybe Mr. Aldrich's success is not entirely due to his ability. Maybe the elements of the senate which Mr. Aldrich controls are not so "incongruous" as some would have us believe. Certainly he is not the only member of the United States senate whose record and conduct justify the impression that he has "capitalistic affiliations."

TAKE THE PRECURSER

At a New York conference where socialists predominated a gentleman complained that the socialists had no working program, and suggested that they affiliate with the republican party and "after converting it to their views proceed to use it for the foundation of a new republic." The dispatch says that "excitement ensued" and this speaker took no further part in the proceedings.

There is small reason for any one to get excited about such a proposition. The republican leaders preach the doctrine that trusts and other combinations are part of an unavoidable evolu-

tion. Inasmuch as the republican party advocates a plan whereby property is concentrated in the hands of a few, it would seem to be particularly appropriate that when the republican doctrine has reached the limit of the people's patience, the socialists should take charge of the republican party which, according to eminent authority, is the precursor of socialism.

PERHAPS THIS WILL EXPLAIN IT

William E. Curtis calls attention to the interesting fact that on January 1, 1906, the price of beef cattle was the lowest since the Department of Agriculture began keeping a record. Then he points out the companion fact that beef prices were higher. This may prove a puzzle to those who were informed by the Garfield report that the packers were not making exorbitant profits, but perhaps a little study will reveal the secret of the puzzle. The profits the packers used to make before the days of the by-products may now be consumed by the expense of taking care of the aforesaid by-products. The Commoner does not offer this as a hard-and-fast solution of the puzzle, but it may be worthy of consideration. At any rate it seems to be about the only explanation to offer, considering the constantly increasing chasm between what the cattle raiser gets and the beef consumer has to pay.

WELLMAN'S PROPHECY

In the early part of December last Walter Wellman, Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, wired his paper that the republican leaders "feel that they can fix up the railroad rate question without having a big row within the party, and without setting the administration at loggerheads with the men who have been its chief supporters in the halls of congress. Curiously enough, the senate leaders, almost to a man, believe that the president will accept what they have to offer him. They think he is in a conciliatory mood and prepared to take what he can get."

At the time Mr. Wellman printed this statement Senator Long of Kansas, the gentleman who introduced in the senate what is known as the Roosevelt amendment was dodging his constituents who were calling upon him to see where he stood upon railway rate legislation. And the general public was really in ignorance of Senator Long's position until he appeared upon the floor of the senate as the champion of the amendment which proposes to give to the court the power to suspend the rate.

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