

Charles E. Hughes was the man who should be nominated by the republicans for governor of New York. Who is Charles E. Hughes? With one accord the administration press exclaim: "He is the man who probed the insurance scandals to the bottom!"

But the answer is incorrect. He did not probe them to the bottom. He inserted his probe only deep enough to make the republican party managers wince, and then, heeding a broad intimation that it was time to quit, he withdrew the probe. And then he was nominated for governor by the men who winced when he sunk the probe part way into the insurance mess.

Why did Mr. Hughes fail to put Cortelyou and Bliss on the stand?

How did it happen that the president made his "muck rake" speech at the very moment when Cortelyou and Bliss should have been summoned?

Why was the investigation practically dropped after the president's "muck rake" speech?

And how can the nomination of Mr. Hughes, made in the face of all these circumstances, be explained?

The voters of the state of New York in particular, and the voters of the republic in general, are entitled to hear frank answers to these questions.

THE COLORADO CAMPAIGN

Alva Adams, who was elected governor of Colorado two years ago and was robbed of the office after a juggle of the legislature, was again nominated by the democrats for the office. The convention which nominated him threw off the shackles of the corporations and took a firm stand on the side of the people. Colorado, like other states, finds itself at the mercy of monopolies under existing conditions, and the democratic party through its platform and the candidates nominated thereon have pledged the taxpayers that these conditions will be remedied. The men nominated upon that platform are a guarantee that the platform pledges will be carried out and the corporations compelled to loose their throttle hold upon the industries of the state. The railroad combine, the smelter trust, and in Denver the local franchised corporations, all have long had the state at their mercy. If the citizens are to find relief from existing conditions they must turn from the party that profits by these conditions to the party that is pledged to give relief to the people. The democratic ticket, made up of men determined to act for the whole people, offers the voters of Colorado their only opportunity for securing relief. The election of Governor Adams and the whole democratic state ticket should be assured without question. And when elected the honest voters of Colorado should see to it that the will of the people is not again overturned as it was two years ago when Governor Adams was denied the office to which he was honestly elected and the office given to a man who was not even a candidate for it.

IN MASSACHUSETTS

Under the leadership of George Fred Williams, the democrats of Massachusetts are making a determined fight for the election of John B. Moran, the democratic nominee for governor.

Mr. Moran is now the district attorney at Boston and in that office he has won an enviable reputation.

"GIVE, GIVE"

The New York World says: "There never was a secretary of the treasury who nursed Wall street so tenderly as Secretary Shaw. If it runs short of ready money he deposits more government funds with the banks; if they purchase gold abroad he makes advances on it free of interest. And yet when he releases \$26,000,000 for their benefit they express disappointment because it was not \$40,000,000. It is the old story of the horse leech's daughters over again. Wall street cries, 'Give, give!'"

And somehow or other the New York World is always found fighting Wall street's battles on election day.

CALAMITY!

The Washington correspondent of the Terre Haute (Ind.) Gazette declares it to be President Roosevelt's belief that the election of Hearst would be a national calamity. It is quite certain that numerous republican leaders were convinced that it would spell calamity for the administration to put Cortelyou and Bliss on the witness stand in the Armstrong investigation.

Important To Nebraska Voters

Lysle I. Abbott, democratic nominee for attorney general in Nebraska, has issued the following statement:

"The republican state central committee is sending out over the state a letter containing quotations from the speeches made by Norris Brown, candidate for United States senator, and George L. Sheldon, candidate for governor upon the republican ticket. These statements are to the effect that the railroads of this state are extorting annually \$3,250,000 from the farmers of the state on charges for hauling wheat alone; that the same rate of extortion applies to all other commodities hauled by the railroads, and that the total sum thus annually taken from the farmers' pockets by the extortionate railroad rates reaches the enormous sum of about \$20,000,000. During the past six years, while the republican party has been in absolute control in this state, all of which time Norris Brown has been serving in the office of attorney general and a part of which time Sheldon has been a member of the legislature, this unlawful extortion has been going on. During this period of six years, according to the assertions made by both Brown and Sheldon, the railroads have robbed the citizens of this state of approximately \$200,000,000. These orators predicate their right to be returned to office upon the above state of affairs.

"In 1893 a fusion legislature passed the maximum freight rate law under the provisions of which freight rates in this state were very materially reduced. The railroads at once enjoined the state authorities from enforcing the law and upon the case made by the then attorney general, a republican, an injunction was issued. The injunction went upon the ground that the reduction of rates was so great as to prevent the railroads from earning a fair return upon their investment. This case was taken to the supreme court of the United States where the judgment was affirmed. The supreme court of the United States, after saying that upon the case presented to it the injunction would have to be granted, qualified its opinion with the following significant language:

But it may be added that the conditions of business, so far as railroad corporations are concerned, have probably changed for the better since the decree below, and that the rates prescribed by the statute of 1893 may now afford all the compensation to which the railroad companies in Nebraska are entitled as between them and the public. * * * In that event, if the circuit court finds that the present condition of business is such as to admit of the application of the statute to the railroad companies in question without depriving them of just compensation, it will be its duty to discharge the injunction heretofore granted, and to make whatever order is necessary to remove any obstruction placed by the decrees in these cases in the way of the enforcement of the statute.

"During all the time complained of by Norris Brown, he was in the office of attorney general, either as deputy or as principal, and during all that time the above language of the supreme

court of the United States stood upon the shelves in his office. During all of this time he had within his hands the absolute power to remedy the conditions of which he now complains. During part of this time Mr. Sheldon had it within his power by a resolution of the legislature to compel Mr. Brown to act.

"Not only did the republican party, through its agents, fail to meet the emergency when it arose but it went further and deliberately opposed any attempt upon the part of others to remedy the evils of which they now complain. J. A. C. Kennedy, a democrat member from Douglas county, introduced in the house in 1903, house roll 421, entitled:

A bill for a joint resolution instructing and directing the attorney general to commence appropriate proceedings to enforce the provisions of article twelve (12) chapter seventy-two (72) of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1901, said article being entitled 'Maximum Freight Rates.'

"Mr. Kennedy struggled with the railroad committee of the house, of which Mr. W. T. Thompson, the republican candidate for attorney general, was a member, to have this bill reported for action. He was unable to secure any report until about the sixtieth day of the session, when it was placed upon the general file. Upon the sixty-first day of the session, April 3, 1903, Mr. Kennedy moved that the above bill be placed at the head of the sifting file. Mr. W. T. Thompson, the republican candidate for attorney general, moved to lay Mr. Kennedy's motion on the table, and when Thompson's motion came to a vote it was lost by a vote of 30 to 47, Thompson voting in favor of his motion. Mr. Kennedy's motion to place house roll 421 at the head of the sifting file then came up for action and was opposed upon the floor of the house by Mr. Thompson, who then and there stated that the house had no time for the consideration of the measure and for that reason he was opposed to its being placed upon the sifting file. Following the lead of Mr. Thompson the house defeated Mr. Kennedy's motion and the bill.

"If you care to verify the record you can do so by referring to page 949 of the Nebraska House Journal for the session of 1903 and for a synopsis of the speeches made upon this occasion I refer you to the Lincoln Evening News of April 3, 1903, where upon the front page you will find a scare head reading as follows: 'Anti-railroad men make last stand. Minority in house attempts to force maximum freight bill to front and suffers defeat.' You will find that: 'Thompson opposed any consideration of the bills on the ground that the time was too short to give them proper consideration.' And again: 'Morsman, Thompson and Wilson led the fight against the bills, asserting there was no time for their consideration.'

"I think it is a fair question for any voter to ask himself whether any relief can be secured by re-electing to more important positions men who have thus failed in their duties to the public when the opportunities were presented to them in their humbler capacities."

IOWA DEMOCRATS REMEMBER

Commoner readers in Iowa should appreciate the importance of getting to the polls every democratic vote in the Hawkeye state.

It seems that the republican managers count upon a large democratic stay-at-home vote, on the theory that Iowa is not regarded as debateable ground. But in the opinion of many well informed men Iowa is debateable ground, and if a full democratic vote is cast for Claude R. Porter, the democratic nominee for governor, on November 6, there are prospects for Mr. Porter's election.

Mr. Porter served eight years in the Iowa legislature—four years in the lower house and four years in the senate. He has a good record, having made a consistent fight for the public interests. Mr. Porter is entitled to the vote of every democrat. He stands for everything which has won for his opponent, Governor Cummins, the admiration of democrats and republicans. But he occupies advanced ground, which Governor Cummins has not taken. Where Governor Cummins might appeal to some democrats on some things, Mr. Porter can appeal to democrats on all principles, and his election would mean the removal

of Iowa from the control of the republican party. This fact in itself should commend Mr. Porter's candidacy to Iowans, regardless of political prejudices, for it is not well that any state remain in the undisturbed control, for a long period of years, of any particular political organization.

Democratic leaders in Iowa assure The Commoner that with a full democratic vote registered for Mr. Porter, his chances for election will be excellent. Every effort is now being made to bring a full democratic vote to the polls. This desirable result can not be accomplished by circulars nor by newspaper appeals. It can be accomplished, however, if every democrat who is impressed with the opportunity at hand will urge upon his careless neighbor the importance of going to the polls.

It is to be hoped that every Commoner reader in Iowa will constitute himself a committee of one to see to it that every one of his neighbors votes on November 6. If every Commoner reader will pass the word along the line, there are many reasons for believing that Claude R. Porter will be elected governor of Iowa.