

## HERO OR LAWBREAKER?

Because John D. Rockefeller gave thirty-two millions to the "cause of education" and gave it through the "general education board" the New York Tribune thinks it all "indicates Mr. Rockefeller's determination to seek the greatest good to the greatest number of his fellow citizens."

But who ever doubted Mr. Rockefeller's determination to put aside all thought of self? Some may even think it an insult to intelligence that the Tribune deems it necessary to remind its readers of Mr. Rockefeller's disposition to forget himself in his anxiety to provide for the welfare of his fellows.

But the Tribune throws some light on Mr. Rockefeller's latest contribution when it says:

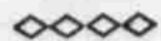
"We doubt very much whether the Gallic war or the Russian campaign was conducted with one-half the thoroughness that marks the operations which Mr. Rockefeller carries on through the general education board. Many persons may feel that the strategies of the board, some of which will presumably force weak and ill placed schools to the wall, are cruel, but no wise educator will share that feeling. The country is overrun with petty, inefficient colleges granting worthless degrees and deluding their students into thinking themselves cultured. There is frightful waste of money and effort due to lack of intelligent co-operation among institutions. Being very long even the bereaved friends of the exterminated colleges will rejoice that a great industrial captain was willing to spend a fortune in bringing order out of chaos."

So, then, Mr. Rockefeller is to apply to educational institutions the same system he has applied to business institutions, a system described by John D. Rockefeller, jr., in his more or less famous "American beauty" illustration. According to John D. jr. in order to produce one beautiful rose it is necessary to pinch off all the smaller roses. And now according to the New York Tribune Mr. Rockefeller, intends through his millions contributed to the general education board, to eradicate the smaller colleges and to confine the pursuits of higher education to those larger institutions that are to be strengthened with the Rockefeller millions. And right here it is important to remember that one of the conditions of the Rockefeller gift is that John D. Rockefeller, sr., and John D. Rockefeller, jr., are to control in the distribution of the Rockefeller funds.

Does any one imagine that any institution will share in this fund if the members of its faculty make bold to criticize the system whereby Rockefeller's accumulations were made possible? Is it not reasonable to believe that the teachers in the colleges which are aided through this Rockefeller fund will refrain from criticizing the Rockefeller methods? Is it not reasonable to believe that the young men and young women who attend these colleges and hear the name of Rockefeller lauded because of his keen anxiety for the "cause of education," his "great love for his fellows" and his "determination to seek the greatest good to the greatest number" will conclude that John D. Rockefeller is a good citizen and that his life was devoted to the service of society?

Yet only a few months ago this mighty patron of education was skulking through the highways and the byways of unknown regions hiding from officers of the law who were anxious to serve upon him writs commanding him to appear in a court of justice and tell the truth!

The sum of thirty-two million dollars must be enormous; indeed it is so great that the minds of men cannot comprehend it. But with all of its immensity, it ought not be large enough to cover the multitude of sins for which the man who gives it to the "cause of education" is responsible, and with all of its power it ought not be strong enough to destroy the living fact that civilization will have failed whenever vice can be transformed into virtue by the contribution of money and the habitual law breaker is lost sight of in the lionized hero because he has poured into the laps of educators part of the enormous sums of gold he has taken from a people whose laws he has brazenly defied and whose substance he has systematically plundered.



## NO TARIFF REVISION

The fact that it seems to be generally agreed that there will be no tariff revision at this session of congress should provide food for those republicans who, having no ax to grind, are chiefly concerned in the public welfare. Why are we not to have tariff revision? Is it because public interests or public sentiment does not demand it? There is abundant testimony, even for one who does not take the democratic view of the tariff question, to show that public interests demand tariff revision, while the very earnest and renewed appeals made by republicans all over the country in favor of revision of the tariff ought to convince

even those who are usually non-observing that such revision would be clearly in line with present day public sentiment.

The republican party must certainly be a well disciplined organization else the stand-patters of this period would not advance a proposition when, we make bold to say, is controverted not only by the opinion of the rank and file of republicans but has been publicly repudiated by some of the most distinguished republican statesmen and editors.

In this day the trusts find in the tariff larger shelter than they ever before enjoyed, and the American public feels more keenly than at any other time in history the impositions due to an enormously high protective tariff. Even the men who framed the present tariff law had no idea that the American people would long tamely submit to those rates, and we have it on the authority of Senator Dolliver of Iowa that Mr. Dingley explained that many of the rates in his tariff bill were purposely placed high in order that they might be used in bringing about reciprocity with other countries. But now republican leaders refuse to make any serious moves in behalf of reciprocity, and at the same time they insist upon maintaining the exorbitant rates.

In 1888 John Sherman, then a member of the United States senate, said: "Whenever this free competition is evaded or avoided by combination of individuals or corporations the duty should be reduced and foreign competition promptly invited."

In 1891 Senator Plumb of Kansas objected to the McKinley tariff bill because, as he said: "There are dozens of lines of manufactures covered by the terms of this bill, which are controlled by trusts," and Senator Plumb added that the best way "to start out trying to reduce the exactions of trusts" was to "cut down the shelter behind which trusts are created."

Several years ago the Iowa republican convention and the Idaho republican convention adopted in their platform planks demanding "any modification of the tariff schedule that may be required to prevent their affording shelter to monopoly." Even in Connecticut a republican convention held several years ago declared "any schedule import duties are found that have notoriously perverted from their true purpose to the inordinate enrichment of corporations, monopolistic in fact or in tendency, we look to a republican congress to apply in its wisdom the needed corrective without impairing the principle of protection."

The late Governor Mount of Indiana in a public speech delivered in 1899 expressed similar views. Former Senator Washburn gave out in 1899 a number of newspaper interviews in which he said that republicans who had the welfare of their party and their country at heart must call a halt upon their party's tendency to connect itself with trusts and must insist that the tariff shelter enjoyed by the trusts be destroyed.

The Chicago Record-Herald, the Minneapolis Journal, the New York Commercial Advertiser, the Portland Oregonian, the Hartford Courant, the Dubuque (Iowa) Times, the Philadelphia Ledger, the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, the Rockford (Ill.) Republican, the Keokuk (Iowa) Gate City, the Indianapolis News and the Chicago Tribune—all republican papers—long ago and repeatedly demanded the removal of tariff duties from commodities controlled by trusts.

In 1901 Representative Babcock of Wisconsin delivered a number of public speeches and gave out a number of newspaper interviews in all of which he said that the consumers must be protected; that it was impossible to defend a tariff policy which simply inures to the benefit of those who may secure the control of a commodity, and that the interests of the party as well as the interests of the public demanded the destruction of the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff.

The Chicago Tribune went so far as to say that the most of the fortune amassed by Andrew Carnegie "came out of the pockets of his countrymen through the operation of unequal laws," and that Mr. Carnegie should never forget that he made his money "through the undue favoritism of the government of the United States."

Such opinions as these were long ago and repeatedly expressed by republican statesmen and republican editors. It is true that "wise men change their views," but will any one seriously contend that in the light of present day conditions the views of these gentlemen have been changed? Would any of them care to explicitly repudiate the sentiments they expressed as hereinbefore outlined? We know they would not. We know that the conditions against which they indignantly protested ten, fifteen and twenty years ago have so multiplied that they have become well nigh unbearable; we know that the sentiment, even among the rank and file of the republican party, is so pronouncedly in favor of tariff revision that a number of republican politicians who have never been charged with an undue disregard for their

own political fortunes have made bold to demand tariff revision, at least to the extent of destroying the shelter which the trusts find in the republican tariff law. Yet in the face of these facts we are told that there is no probability whatever that there will be tariff revision. What is the explanation? It is that the rank and file of the republican party have lost all control over their organization; that the special interests which republican party leaders have so long and so faithfully served have secured such perfect control over the party that no amount of publicly expressed indignation can disturb that control. It means that the republican party is wedded to its idols.



## THE CHICAGO PLATFORM

Recently The Commoner said that "the radicalism of 1896 has become the conservatism of 1907," and added: "The Chicago platform, denounced and laughed at by many, has so grown in favor that a republican president has won his greatest popularity by the adoption of principles and policies described in that platform."

Commenting upon this statement the Sioux City, Iowa, Journal, a republican paper, says:

"Mr. Bryan on numerous occasions has manifested his desire to advance himself in good society, but it is still doubtful whether President Roosevelt is willing to admit the association as broadly as Mr. Bryan chooses to declare. To say that the radicalism of 1896 has become the conservatism of 1907 is on the whole an exaggeration; and so far as the attitude of the democratic party in 1896 is concerned, as a matter of fact, it is disposed of with a sneer, for even Mr. Bryan himself, the calamity cry being unseasonable, is disposed to take hold of something new.

"Everybody remembers, whose memory extends to that period, that the Chicago platform of 1896 declared the money question to be paramount to all others at that time. The plausibility of the declaration was supported by the scarcity of money, induced by the prostration of all business enterprises and the fear induced by democratic threats against the stability of all values reckoned in money. Whatever else was mentioned in the platform had subordinate place. It is unlikely that President Roosevelt, or the congress coe in the faith him, has at any time found a Bryan's campaign platform of 1896. Mr. Bryan against all forms of that year was directed reached conclusion that, and he readily bankruptcy or individual industries out of were antagonistic to the welfare of the common people."

The Journal does not accurately describe either the Chicago platform or the campaign waged by the men who defended that platform. It speaks the republican language of 1896 when, so we were then told, the voice of the republican orator was the call of national honor, but as we have since learned was—something else.

The democratic campaign was not directed against "all forms of solvency;" it was directed against the moral bankruptcy for which republican leadership stood sponsor; it was directed against the forces of monopoly of whose continued and enlarged impositions even those who were apologists in 1896 are now making grievous complaint.

It is true the Chicago platform did say the money question was, at the time, paramount; but that statement or that fact did not and does not lessen the importance of other principles and policies to which the platform was committed.

During the campaign of 1896 the republicans sought to give the impression that all there was to the democratic platform was an impossible proposition described and disposed of by the phrase, given with a sneer, "16 to 1." Throughout the campaign the republican leaders sought systematically to keep the money question from becoming paramount in the public mind and to give prominence to "the 16 to 1 question" which, as interpreted by republican leaders, meant whatever the ignorant or poorly informed man might conceive, provided it meant a vote with the party whose campaign fund was derived from the monopolists.

Just as the Journal and other republican papers sought to convey the impression that "16 to 1" was the alpha and omega of the democratic platform in 1896, so now they are quite willing to leave the inference that the Chicago platform in its essentials dealt with the money question. Even so, and the Chicago platform's critic is likely to be embarrassed. The logic of the platform was the quantitative theory of money and today well informed men of all political parties, even many scholarly gentlemen who went to great pains to secure argument against the quantitative theory in 1896, admit the correctness of that theory. Nor can we forget that the proposition to create an