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ROOSEVELT VS. HARRIMAN

On another page will be found the main points of the controversy between the president and Mr. Harriman. As the correspondence raises a question of veracity, The Commoner presents both sides without comment. Whatever the facts may be, it is quite evident that the republican party had the support of the railroads in 1904, and it is also evident that the railroads felt that they were unfairly treated when the administration which they helped into power turned upon them, and without authority for so doing in the republican platform demanded railroad regulation. The predatory corporations have so often overreached the public and so often deceived the people that no great sorrow will be felt because in one instance they did not get the goods that they paid for. However, Mr. Carnegie is authority for the statement that the railroads ought to be satisfied with the treatment they have received, and from the manner in which they run to Washington for protection it is quite certain that they would rather risk the president and a republican congress than to risk the rate regulation which the various states are attempting. Those who believe in a straightforward, open fight for the reforms which the people need, will find some amusement in the row that is now on between the financial interests that supported the republican party and the officials which were the beneficiaries of this financial support—and the public will be the wiser. When it is all over there will be an increasing number who will believe with the democrats that a party should not accept contributions from those who have pecuniary interests to serve and who only give when they think that they have a secret mortgage upon the party aided.

PUBLICITY

The man who said that he would rather walk forty miles than write a letter can find interesting confirmation of his views by calling upon President Roosevelt and Mr. Harriman. Senator Depew will not thank either Mr. Harriman or President Roosevelt for drawing him into the lime light. Where oblivion is bliss, 'tis folly to be prominent. The fact that the president and Mr. Harriman slightly differ as to the exact language used at their conference does not lessen the political value of the contribution which Mr. Harriman made upon the basis of his understanding of the conversation. If the president will demand the names of the men who upon Mr. Harriman's solicitation contributed a quarter of a million to the campaign fund, the public will be in better position to judge of their disinterestedness. If Mr. Harriman's controversy with the president helps to make the latter more resolute in the advocacy of strict railroad regulation, the public will after all be the beneficiary. When republicans fall out over private conversations, the democrats get their dues.

THE NEW SAINTS



“Many editors have done outrageously, but thou excellest them all.”

THE SOUTHERN CANDIDATE

There is considerable talk just now of a southern candidate for the presidency, and there is no reason why a southern candidate should not be considered upon the same basis as candidates from the northern states. The time has passed when the sectional argument is effective. In the St. Louis convention of 1904 Mr. Bryan insisted that Senator Cockrell, though a confederate soldier, would poll more votes than the northern candidate whose position upon public questions was in doubt or whose position, if known, was out of harmony with the opinions of the members of his party.

By all means let the southern statesmen be considered; let them stand side by side with their northern brethren and let the choice fall upon the man who, no matter where he lives best represents the aspirations of the party and best reflects the desires of democratic voters. No candidate should be urged merely because he comes from the north or the south, or from the east or from the west. Local pride is a very much overestimated asset in a campaign. Comparatively few decide public questions on that basis. New York and Indiana being doubtful states, for many years claimed the candidates on the ground that local popularity would turn the elections, but it has been found that the movements which elect or defeat candidates are wider than state boundaries.

The New York Sun is the latest champion of a southern man and its desire for a southern candidate is based not upon his fitness to serve the people but upon his conservatism, and the meaning which the Sun gives to the word conservatism is well understood. It insists that the south should present a candidate who is opposed to Rooseveltism. Roosevelt having acquired popularity by the endorsement of several democratic doctrines—such

as railroad regulation, trust prosecution and an income tax—the democratic party should at once repudiate these things which have given the president popularity and seek the support of the financiers whom the president has offended. This was the very argument that was made at St. Louis in 1904. We were told that the president was very unpopular with Wall street and that a safe and sane candidate who had the confidence of the business element would be able to finance his campaign in Wall street and win an easy victory. The party tried it and that bait will not serve again.

Let southern candidates be presented upon their merits. Let them be brought forward as champions of democratic ideas and they will find the north ready to listen. Papers like the Sun have overworked the conservatism of the south. Gov. Hoke Smith, of Georgia, won his campaign by attacking railroad influence in politics and by demanding regulation. Governor Cromer won his fight in Alabama along the same lines. Governor Campbell, of Texas, made speeches in favor of railroad regulation which would brand him as an anarchist according to the Sun's definition of anarchy. Here are three recent victories in three prominent southern states which tend to show that the masses of the south are no more willing to be ridden by the corporations than are the masses of the north. There are many democrats in the south who would poll the full democratic strength of the north, but papers like the Sun do not mention them, for such papers have no more interest in a southern man who is really democratic than they have in a northern man who is democratic, because such papers are the organs of predatory wealth. Their praise damns any man upon whom they lavish it and their opposi-