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MOLLYCODDLE

In defending his department from the charge of inactivity, Attorney General Bonaparte says: "The work of the department increases every day, and I do not believe it has ever received more zealous and faithful attention than it receives now from the officers and employes of the department, with the exception, of course, of the attorney general himself. I do not indeed consider it any part of the department's duty to furnish a liberal daily supply of headlines for newspapers, and the department is not administered with that laudable end in view."

What can the attorney general mean by "a liberal daily supply of headlines for newspapers?" Does he mean to intimate that other departments of the Roosevelt administration are operated with that end in view? If he does mean that Mr. Bonaparte might as well pack his grip and prepare to join the mollycoddles.

LINCOLN'S DEMOCRATIC MAYOR

Mayor Francis W. Brown, who for two years past has held the office of chief executive of Lincoln, has been re-elected. Mr. Brown is a democrat, and while Nebraska's capital city is republican on a partisan vote, the democrats of the city are feeling quite jubilant over Mayor Brown's re-election. While Mr. Brown's victory is largely a personal one, still the vote shows a very material gain in democratic strength. It need scarcely be added that Mr. Bryan is enjoying the election returns. Mayor Brown was one of the leaders of the movement which took a Nebraska delegation to New York to meet Mr. and Mrs. Bryan on their return from abroad, and as the readers of The Commoner will remember, the mayor presided at the Lincoln reception. The Commoner proposes the health of Mayor Brown, Lincoln's democratic executive.

WHAT ABOUT THE "FOREIGNER?"

Speaker Cannon addressed the Illinois legislature recently, and in the course of his remarks said: "You will recollect that in the session of congress that was lately adjourned, we appropriated for public service for the coming twelve months upwards of \$900,000,000. And this vast sum is gathered up by indirect taxation that most of us fail to realize we pay when we do pay it. Every time we smoke a cigar we pay the tax. On most articles that we get from abroad we pay the tax."

But heretofore Mr. Cannon and other republican leaders have told us that "the foreigner pays the tax."



"IS THIS REFORM, MY LORD?"

REPUBLICAN ADVICE

It is interesting to read the advice which republicans are now giving to the democrats. It recalls the early months of 1904. The democratic party was at that time the recipient of a great deal of unsolicited advice from republicans, and it was all along the same line. The democrats were assured that their defeats were attributable to radicalism and that they could strengthen their party by a return to conservative doctrines. They were not promised victory, of course not, but the republican editors were so anxious to have a strong, virile organization to fight that we were assured that the republican party was becoming careless because it had no effective opposition and that it would really be good for the country to have the democratic party almost, but not quite, strong enough to win a victory. It would keep the republican party on its good behavior, make it careful about its conduct, etc. This kind of advice was given in unstinted measure, and it was followed. We had an eminently respectable candidate; he had the confidence of the business interests, and his campaign was conducted upon thoroughly conservative lines, and then the republicans sat back and laughed at the success of their scheme as they counted up a majority almost too large for figures.

Now the same game is being tried again. The republican editors are again pleading for the democratic party; they are weeping over its supposed decrepitude. Well, it is bad enough for the republican editors to advise us. There is possibly some excuse for them. The president is not taking their advice in the management of the republican party, and they feel that they are entitled to advise some organization, but it is adding insult to injury to have advice from General Charles H. Grosvenor—"the sage of Athens," as the Cincinnati Enquirer calls him. The Enquirer found him at the Sinton hotel. He

picked out a democratic candidate and gave him a boost. Here is a sample of his advice:

"There is no way under heaven and among men whereby this country will trust the democratic party again with power in all the branches of the government, until there is a radical reformation in the principles of the party and the personnel of its leaders. What good would come of carrying the southern states for a democratic candidate in 1908 with such accidental victories in other states as might possibly occur? The great body of the electorate is dead against the democratic party as it stands today, and it must have a guarantee of principle and not a guarantee of opportunity.

"How is a better result to be brought about? A republican of unflinching faith in his party, and a lack of faith in the democratic party, ought not, perhaps, to give any advice, and surely his advice will not be counted as of any value by our democratic friends. Nevertheless, it would be the part of wisdom for the democratic party to turn its back upon the past, with a single statement to the people of the country as follows: 'We have tried a number of experiments and they have failed. We will now retreat from the disorder of the skirmish line, which has been so fatal to us on so many occasions, and fall back to the interior line of democratic ideas, principles and history. We will demand that the politics of the ancient democracy, so far as they are applicable today, shall be adopted as the cardinal principles of latter day democracy. It shall have those fundamental ideas reiterated, the abandonment of which has led us so far into the wilderness of defeat and demoralization. We will enact a platform embodying democratic principles; we will adopt democratic ideas upon every living topic of today's politics and we will ask the people of this country to retrace their steps from