

required some courage on the part of a republican president to repudiate his own platform and borrow from the platforms of his opponents and he is entitled to credit for it. Some of the so-called democratic papers refuse to say a good word for the president because these papers do not believe in railroad regulation, trust prosecution, the income tax and arbitration, but nearly all democrats do, and by commending the president on these subjects they help to convince republicans that democratic ideas have virtue in them.

What democratic speaker has converted as many republicans to democracy as the president has? If the democrats abandoned democratic reforms merely because the president endorsed them they would simply turn over the democratic platform to the opposition. The president has made it impossible for republicans to oppose the democratic party on railroad regulation, trust prosecution, income tax and arbitration, and it would be ungenerous to refuse to recognize the great service he has rendered.

But in commending the president when he is democratic, Mr. Bryan does not overlook the bad things said and done. His military spirit, his desire for a large navy, his leanings toward centralization, his silence on tariff reform, his refusal to urge the direct election of senators, and his failure to make railroad regulation and trust prosecution effective—all these have been criticized.

Peter Cartright was once asked if he was sanctified and he replied "yes, in spots." The president is democratic in spots and, while the spots are not large enough or numerous enough, democrats are justified in calling attention to the spots and admiring them. The popularity which the president has won has been won by his democratic spots and this popularity ought to be a lesson to both democrats and republicans. It ought to convince democrats of the folly of running away from radical democracy, and it ought to teach thousands of young republicans the wisdom of taking the people's side on public questions.



A BILLION DOLLAR ASSET

During the month of August, 1902, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald (republican) sent to his newspaper this dispatch:

"It was not a democratic campaigner, but a western republican who said to your correspondent: 'I see President Schwab of the steel trust has made public an estimate of the value of the various assets of that great corporation, \$700,000,000 for ore mines, \$300,000,000 for steel plants, \$200,000,000 for transportation facilities, etc. But I am surprised that Mr. Schwab with his keen business acumen, should fail to include one of the most valuable of all the assets of the United States steel corporation. This is a device which shuts out all foreign competition. It is a scheme which compels foreign manufacturers of steel and iron who want to sell goods in the American market to stand a handicap of 40 per cent before they can do so. How much this asset is worth to the steel trust it would be very difficult for an outsider to estimate, and for that reason I should like to see President Schwab's figures. I venture the assertion that he would not rate it a penny less than \$1,000,000,000. Probably the fact that this asset is on the federal statute books under the name of the Dingley law led Mr. Schwab to leave it out of his long, imposing list of the property and resources of his corporation.'"

What party provided this trust with this valuable asset, an asset that Mr. Schwab would probably not rate a penny less than one billion dollars? The republican party.

What has the republican party received in return for the maintenance of this valuable asset? Generous campaign contributions.

If this valuable asset is worth not a penny less than \$1,000,000,000, from whose pockets does this immense sum come? From the pockets of the people.

This Record-Herald dispatch attracted, at the time, general attention; there was then in the republican party considerable tariff revision sentiment. Nearly five years have elapsed, but in the meantime nothing has been done to interfere with the steel trust's Billion Dollar Asset, alias The Dingley Bill.

Why should a statesman like Senator Hopkins have the effrontery to promise revision "after

the presidential election?" Why should newspaper editors who know the hollowness of that promise parade it, as worthy of consideration, before their oft deluded readers?

Why should the American people give their votes to a party that would provide so valuable an asset as tariff shelter to a handful of men and at the expense of the people?



HOPKINS ON THE DINGLEY RATES

Senator Hopkins of Illinois recently held a conference with Mr. Roosevelt at Oyster Bay. After that conference Senator Hopkins announced that "the conclusion was reached that no tariff revision should be undertaken until after the next presidential election."

"It would be suicidal to the republican party," the senator added, "to undertake a revision of the tariff during the next congress. After the presidential election I believe it will be the duty of the republican party to revise the tariff and that it will be done."

Mr. Hopkins remarked that he believed such an argument would appeal to and be accepted by the republican revisionists in all parts of the country.

In this connection an editorial which appeared during July, 1905, in the Ohio State Journal (republican) will be interesting. The Boston Transcript had referred to Congressman Lawrence of Massachusetts saying: "He is on record in favor of tariff revision and yet is a good protectionist." The Ohio State Journal added:

"Revision and protection are not incompatible terms. The New York Tribune, 'founded by Horace Greeley,' strongly advocates revision. The Dingley act was passed eight years ago, and the country has outgrown it. SENATOR HOPKINS, WHO WAS ON THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE, WHICH REPORTED THE BILL, SAYS THAT IT WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DINGLEY DUTIES WERE MADE HIGHER THAN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, BECAUSE IT WAS EXPECTED THAT RECIPROCIITY TREATIES WOULD REDUCE THEM. The New York Tribune sustains this view by declaring that 'the law was faulty from the beginning.' With such authorities testifying to the inherent faults of the act, the persistency in opposing a revision on some items is unfriendly to the cause of protection itself. Revision does not call for one-step backward. It only insists upon carrying out the principle upon which the Dingley bill was enacted, viz., that some of the duties were fixed high in order to reduce them in the attainment of reciprocity. That reciprocity did not materialize, in the way anticipated, does not lessen the duty contemplated by the framers of the law. They fixed some rates high in order to reduce them. That was eight years ago. All hope that congress, at the coming session, will enact the proper revision, and thus fulfill the purpose of the law, and sustain the views of President Roosevelt."

So it will be seen that in July, 1905, the Ohio State Journal said: "All hope that congress at the coming session will enact the proper revision."

"The coming session" began in December, 1905, but nothing was done.

Another session began December, 1906, but nothing was done.

And now we are informed that nothing will be done at the session to begin in 1907, because to do anything in the way of tariff revision then would be "suicidal to the republican party."

Yet the Ohio State Journal tells us that this same Senator Hopkins, who, while a member of the lower house was on the ways and means committee, which reported the Dingley bill, declared that "it was well understood that the Dingley duties were made higher than should have been, because it was expected that reciprocity treaties would reduce them."

But the republican party has dodged reciprocity even as it has dodged tariff revision; and the enormous rates provided in the Dingley bill—admittedly "higher than they should have been"—are to remain undisturbed because it would be "suicidal to the republican party" for congress to do justice to the consumers of the United States by revising the tariff at least to the end that the shelter provided by the trusts be destroyed.

And according to the New York Tribune

"the Dingley law was faulty from the beginning;" but it will not do for this act of injustice to be remedied because to remedy it would be "suicidal to the republican party!"

And why suicidal?

Would the people complain if the republican party should destroy the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff?

Would the people complain if the republican party reduced the tariff at least to the point which in the opinion of ultra-protectionists like Nelson Dingley, Senator Dolliver of Iowa and Senator Hopkins of Illinois is the limit of protection enacted with any idea apart from the cold-blooded purpose of using the taxing power of the government to filch from the pockets of the people in order to put money in the purse of men who provide campaign funds for the republican party?

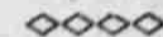
If to revise the tariff before the election would be "suicidal to the republican party" why not suicidal after the election?

The republican party will not revise the tariff before election because its leaders want the money and the influence of the tariff barons in the effort to elect a republican president in 1908. And after the election, should the republican party be victorious, some one will be deceived. The party will fool either the trusts or the people. Did anyone ever hear of a generous contributor to republican campaign funds being a victim of misplaced confidence? Even Harriman—after all the noise and bombast that was made—has been given an immunity bath; and even Harriman's \$250,000 contribution to the republican party was not given in vain.



SIMPLE

The Baltimore Sun gives the American citizen something to think about when it says: "The president has been 'trust-busting' for seven years, and if any private citizen in this whole broad land has received any benefit from his exertions—if the price of any one trust-made article has been reduced by the 'trust-busting' which has so delighted the country—then the market reports do not disclose the fact. Naaman, the Syrian, rejected the prophet's receipt for curing his leprosy because it was too simple. It was only to wash and be clean. He demanded something spectacular. He wanted Elisha to come out to him and stand and call upon the name of the Lord and strike his hand over the place. And so the real cure of the monopoly that is afflicting the country is too simple to impress the public. What is monopoly? It is the absence of competition. Then why not, in the name of reason and common sense, take down the bars and let competition enter? A great fine may be imposed upon the Standard Oil company. But what will that avail? It will simply result in a higher price for oil, and so the people will lose instead of finding relief in that kind of 'trust-busting.' If the sugar trust is exacting an unfair price for sugar, why not let the German refineries compete with them? If the tobacco trust maintains high prices why not let Cuba compete with it? This is not only too simple, but it would be too effective. The people who are standing pat on the tariff do not want the trusts curbed."



A COMPLAINT

Thread six cents? O, my; O, my;
Everything is awful high,
And the things you have to buy
Cost the most.
Papers tell of bargains great;
Seems like almost tempting fate
Not to buy them at such rate
As they boast.

Vegetables, steaks and fruit,
Any price that it may suit
They may charge, we'll not dispute.
But for thread!
We should rise up in our might,
Women should, and make a fight
For what we consider right,
As we've said.

Never did we want to vote;
Never, never did we quote
Those who did, or even note
Their desire.
But when they our rights defy—
Those who make thread prices high—
Then we've got to, or they'll fly
Them up higher.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.