

through the indorsement that President Roosevelt gave him, but can he hold this vote when he comes face to face with the economic questions which press for solution? With a republican senate and a republican house controlled by what Mr. Roosevelt calls reactionaries, how can he escape conflict either with the republican leaders or with the republican voters of the Mississippi valley?

The democratic party, on the contrary, is in sympathy with the growing demand for remedial legislation; its platform outlines the reforms which must be secured. The reactionary republicans will, in all probability, put their party on record against these reforms, and by that record it must be judged in the next campaign. The democratic party is, therefore, rowing with the tide, for the tide is onward. In its fight for the purification of politics, it is on the side of the majority; in its fight for a nearer approach to popular government, it is on the side of the majority; in its fight for the overthrow of private monopoly and the restoration of competition, it is on the side of the majority. In its demand for real and thorough tariff reform, it is supported by public sentiment; in its insistence upon effective railroad regulation, it has the people behind it; in its effort to secure greater protection to bank depositors, it is the champion of the majority.

Already the republicans are wrangling among themselves over tariff revision, and they will wrangle still more as they come nearer to the time for action; while the democrats, recognizing the responsibility of their position, and strong in the confidence that they feel in the righteousness of their cause, are prepared to wage a winning fight against an opposition already panic-stricken. It is more than possible—it is even probable—that the house of representatives to be elected in 1910 will be democratic. With that democratic body sending remedial measures to the senate, the issues of 1912 will be clearly drawn, and the republican party will be put on the defensive.

New Leaders of the Democracy

With several new democratic governors in the states where the reform element is strongest, and with the prospect of a democratic congress to formulate the issues of 1912, there is every reason to believe that a number of strong leaders will be developed, and that from these a democratic candidate can be selected who, by the aid of events and with a united party behind him, can win a national victory for democracy and inaugurate the reforms, the advocacy of which has given to the democratic party its wonderful vitality and its increasing strength.

The heart of the democratic party is sound; the spirit of the masses in the party is unbroken. There is, to be sure, certain work necessary to be done, but it is work that is possible and work which is quite certain to be done.

Democratic Newspapers Needed

First, the organization of democratic clubs—there ought to be a permanent democratic club in every county, especially in the contested states. These clubs should circulate literature and encourage discussion.

Second, there ought to be a democratic paper in every county, especially in the states which are pivotal. Weekly papers can be started with but little expense; they furnish the largest amount of literature at the lowest price, and there are few communities in which the democrats are so poor that they can not establish a democratic weekly. As soon as these democratic weeklies get the democratic voters educated up to the importance of subscribing for democratic dailies, it will be possible to increase the number of dailies in the great cities, and thus give to the party a newspaper representation which will enable it to present its principles and its policies to the public.

No one need for a moment think that the democratic party is dead, or doubt that the republican party will find in it an adversary worthy to be considered. It is the reform party of the country; and it not only stands for reforms, but is strong enough to give to the reformer a reasonable prospect of seeing his hopes realized. The stars in their courses are fighting for democracy, not only here, but everywhere, and by fidelity to democratic principles and to the people—whose only hope of securing justice is to be found in the application of democratic principles to every department of government—the democratic party will earn a victory, and, earning, will win it.

Editor's Note—Mr. W. C. Brown, who was senior vice president of the New York Central

in November last, and who is now president of that railroad, makes the following comment on the statement attributed to him above: "This story had its origin in some newspaper office in Omaha. It was telegraphed all over the country, and was promptly denied by me at the time it appeared. There was not a road in the New York Central system that had placed an order for equipment, or for anything else, contingent on the result of the election, and I have never made the statement referred to by Mr. Bryan."

KEEP PEGGING AWAY

Mr. H. V. Harris, Los Angeles, Cal., sends to The Commoner a copy of the circular letter signed by wholesale merchants and protesting against the Payne tariff bill. Mr. Harris says:

"This self same issue was bravely fought in our last national campaign and we lost. So long as the present administration is in favor of robbing the people and absorbing the spoils, would it not be well, if possible, to induce all representatives to assist the administration in carrying out this heinous tariff so that the people will have an opportunity to learn who their oppressors are? We love you for what you have endeavored to do and many of us did all we could. It is better to do right even though, apparently, we appear to lose. When such injustice as this is asked of us we hear ourselves saying: "What might have been."

The temptation to "let the oppressors have their own way" may readily be understood. But so long as man is his brother's keeper so long must those who see the evil in proposed legislation speak in protest and in behalf of those who are too blind to understand the situation. However discouraging the contest may seem, however hopeless a task the effort to make the majority of the masses see the facts that are so plain to many of us, it is the duty of men like Mr. Harris to fight these evils every inch of the way. Let it be understood also that men who fight evil for the sake of good do not need reward in the shape of office or political prestige. They have their reward in the very effort they make.

STOP THE GAMBLING

For years efforts have been made to induce congress to do something by way of putting a stop to board of trade gambling in food stuffs. The efforts of these men have been unavailing. They have been sneered at by public officials who were presumed to represent the people. Manifestly, gambling on the board of trade is

of no benefit to the public from any standpoint. It is, on the contrary, a detriment to public interests and it imperils the happiness of men and women generally while it jeopardizes the integrity of those who indulge in the sport. Countless suicides are chargeable to this evil. The penitentiaries are filled with men who lost their honor in the bucket shop and the lessons are writ so large upon every public highway in America that it is strange the American congress has not long ago used its power to blot out the death-dealing machine known as the board of trade gambling pit.

Those who have, for so many years, ignored the importance of this question are now brought face to face with its iniquity. All over the country the price of flour is being increased and the price of bread in the larger cities is being run up almost to the prohibitive point so far as concerns the poor. Bread bakeries in many of the cities are being closed. The situation is so grave that it would not be tolerated two days in a monarchy and yet this evil is not only permitted but is actually defended in this republic.

Secretary Willson is right when he says that this situation is due to gambling, to the scheming of a coterie of men who are trafficking in the food of the people. Congress has it within its power to crush this institution. The Louisiana lottery flourished for years until the American congress denied to it the use of the mails and the telegraph, then the Louisiana lottery died. Congress should make the same sort of attack upon board of trade gambling. It should act promptly in defense of the people.

Already men, women and children have suffered, but their suffering will not be in vain if, as a result, the gambling pit shall be destroyed.

DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER MEN ATTENTION
Here is a fine opportunity for some good pushing democratic newspaper man:
Marion, Kan., April 10, 1909.—Editor The Commoner: The democrats in one of the best towns in Kansas want a high-class democratic newspaper man to start a democratic daily paper. The local democrats will furnish a considerable share of the necessary capital. Will you be kind enough through The Commoner to ask newspaper men who are available to write me?
H. S. MARTIN.
Chair. Dem. State Cen. Com.
Marion, Kan.

Why Not "Lock the Stable Before the Horse is Stolen?"

A timely reply to a famous business firm that was an enthusiastic supporter of the republican ticket and is now a vigorous objector to republican legislation:

Marshall Field & Co., of Chicago, as well as other business firms are calling upon their patrons to assist in the defeat of the republican tariff law. This firm has sent a large number of circulars to various sections of the country. The following correspondence between Marshall Field & Co. and C. L. Welsh & Co., a mercantile company of Blandinsville, Ill., will be particularly interesting at this time.

C. L. Welsh & Co., Blandinsville, Ill.—Gentlemen: In sending you the enclosed pamphlet we call your attention to a subject which we believe vitally affects your business interests and is of great importance to your customers. In the interest of domestic manufacturers, the ways and means committee of the house of representatives has incorporated in the proposed tariff bill largely increased rates upon cotton hosiery and women's leather gloves. These advances can only be defeated by concerted action, and we, therefore, urge upon you the importance of wiring or writing to your congressman and senators at Washington; protesting against the action that has been taken. All the large newspapers of the country have taken a stand against this action and doubtless your local editors would be glad to publish the facts we are sending you.
Yours very truly,
MARSHALL FIELD & CO.

C. L. WELSH & CO.,
Dry Goods, Carpets, Shoes,
Cloaks, Millinery
Blandinsville, Ill., April 1, 1909.

Marshall Field & Co.,
Chicago, Ills.

Gentlemen: Your letter and request, in regard to our using our influence with our representative against the proposed Payne tariff bill, has been received. We, of the common people, are sorry to state that we would have very little influence with the present administration.

Furthermore the people had a chance to elect real tariff reform candidates only last fall and rejected them. We do not believe any intelligent voter thought the successful candidates were for revision downward, therefore they are only getting what they voted for.

While we voted for the real tariff reform candidates and are heartily in sympathy with that policy, yet we believe in majority rule and do not think we should do anything to thwart the will of the people as expressed at the polls, even should we have that power.

Should the pending bill prove as bad as you seem to think, the people can elect officials, who will quickly repeal it at the next election. And we earnestly hope you will use your great influence before, instead of after the election, against the special privilege corporation candidates.

Respectfully,
C. L. WELSH & CO.