

stitution, declaring: "The people of these United States are the rightful masters of congresses and courts, not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the constitution."

On the question of capital and labor, Mr. Lincoln was very explicit. He said:

"Monarchy itself is sometimes hinted at as a possible refuge from the power of the people. In my present position I could scarcely be justified were I to omit raising a warning voice against this approach of returning despotism.

"It is not needed nor fitting here that a general argument should be made in favor of popular institutions; but there is one point, with its connections not so hackneyed as most others, to which I ask brief attention. It is the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor, in the structure of government. It is assumed that labor is available only in connection with capital; that nobody labors unless somebody else owning capital, somehow by the use of it, induces him to labor.

"Labor is prior to and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the highest consideration. No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty; none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned. Let them beware of surrendering a political power which they already possess, and which, if surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost."

In one address, in defending himself from the charge of warring against capital and antagonizing the rich simply because they were rich, Mr. Lincoln said:

"I do not believe in law to prevent a man from getting rich; it would do more harm than good. So while we do not propose any war upon capital, we do wish to allow the humblest man an equal chance to get rich with everybody else. When one starts poor, as most do in the race of life, free society is such that he knows he can better his condition; he knows that there is no fixed condition of labor for his whole life. I am not ashamed to confess that twenty-five years ago I was a hired laborer, mauling rails, at work on a flat boat—just what might happen to any poor man's son. I want every man to have the chance in which he can better his condition, when he may look forward and hope to be a hired laborer this year and the next, work for himself afterwards, and finally to hire men to work for him. That is the true system."

One statement made by Abraham Lincoln in his famous speech delivered at Alton should be kept before the people by every advocate of popular government. On that occasion, Mr. Lincoln said that there was one issue that would continue in this country, "when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent." He explained:

"It is the eternal struggle between these two principles—right and wrong—throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, and will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says, 'You work and toil and earn bread and I'll eat it.' No matter in what shape it comes, whether from the mouth of the king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor, or from one race of men as an apology for enslaving another race, it is the same tyrannical principle."

The "poor tongues" of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas are silent; but the issue continues, and the American people are face to face with that issue at this time. The common right of humanity is now contesting with the divine right of kings. It is plutocracy against democracy. The few says to the many: "You work and toil and earn bread and I'll eat it." In this shape it comes; and even though Abraham Lincoln had not given us the assurance, intelligent men know that in whatever shape such a doctrine is presented, whether from the mouth of the king who seeks to bestride the people of his own nation and live by the fruit of their labor or from a handful of men, who because of special privileges obtained under the law seek to enslave the masses of the people, it is the same tyrannical principle.

ADDRESSED TO BRITONS

BUT

VALUABLE TO AMERICANS

"Every grain of freedom is more precious than radium, and the nation that throws it away is the most wanton of prodigals." --- David Lloyd-George in House of Commons.

WHERE DO THEY STAND?

There are at least five candidates for senator in the state of Mississippi and only one of them has taken the people into his confidence to the extent of stating his position upon the questions with which he must, as senator, deal. Democrats everywhere must appreciate the folly of electing men to office without understanding their attitude on vital questions. Mississippi democrats ought to write to every candidate for United States senator now seeking election at the hands of the Mississippi legislature, asking him for a statement of his views. It will not do to elect a man to the United States senate or to congress simply because he happens to be an agreeable gentleman. The people need real democrats, men who understand the gravity of the situation and who will work and vote for the public interests rather than for special interests.

Ask the Mississippi candidates for senator to give an explicit statement of their position on the tariff question. Do they endorse the tariff plank of the 1908 national democratic platform? Do they believe that a platform is a pledge and that it must not be violated? Do they believe that all conspiracies in restraint of trade, all monopolies, are bad trusts? Do they understand that monopoly has no rightful place in our system of government? Are they opposed to ship subsidy, to national incorporation, to the central bank? Do they favor the income tax? Where do they stand upon the various questions that are dear to the hearts of freemen?

Let every reader of The Commoner in Mississippi call upon the candidates for senator for a statement of their views.

"MORALIZING THE LIQUOR BUSINESS"

The directors of the California State Brewers Association recently met in San Francisco for the purpose of "considering measures to place the liquor business upon a higher plane." They resolved, therefore, to cultivate among liquor dealers "the due observance" of all national, state and local laws and regulation. Referring to these resolutions, the San Francisco Star demands some proof of the seriousness of the California brewers. The Star also throws out this significant hint:

"There are certain laws in regard to corruption of voters and legislators, apart from the laws made to regulate the liquor traffic. There are laws against the bribery of jurors and against political intimidation of voters and candidates for public office. Let the brewers remember these laws and cease their continual violation of them. That will help to moralize the liquor business."

JUST LIKE A SENATOR

Mr. Hedley, general manager of a public service corporation in New York, was asked by a committee of citizens to give the public certain relief. His reply was: "I will study the situation and then do as I please." How would Mr. Hedley do as the republican candidate for United States senator to succeed Mr. Depew? He certainly talks like a stalwart republican.

"NOT A PRECINCT"

The New York World prints this Washington dispatch:

"The president was jarred today by the word brought from Kansas by Editor Henry J. Allen of Wichita and announced at a dinner in New York that Taft today could not carry a township in the Sunflower state. Likewise Mr. Taft was jarred by Senator Dolliver, who made a

similar report as to Iowa. The only comfort that has come to Mr. Taft in the last thirty-six hours is that his federal incorporation bill has made a hit with the big bosses of the senate and is likely to be reported favorably."

If Editor Allen and Senator Dolliver had told the people the truth as to the source of Mr. Taft's campaign funds, and his close affiliation with special interests, the republican presidential ticket would not have fared much better in 1908 than it would if the election should take place tomorrow.

REPUBLICAN PROSPERITY ITEM

Here is a republican prosperity item printed in the want ads of the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal:

WANTED—Somebody to give employment to young, bright, well educated lady, trained nurse. She can give massage and Swedish movement. Can do typewriting, stenography, and bookkeeping. Splendid housekeeper, good musician and expert proofreader and reporter, used to newspaper work. A few more talents can be furnished when required. Send answer to "B. N. O." 642 So. 28th.

It would seem that such a talented woman would have no difficulty in obtaining employment with the "grand old party" turning out prosperity at the old stand.

"WE TRY TO PLEASE"

A Washington dispatch to the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal, republican, says:

"Republican members of the house are becoming alarmed at their inability to shape up matters for the coming congressional campaign in a manner upon which the two factions in the house can agree and at the same time please the president."

It is also becoming plain to many old fashioned men that the republican party will find it difficult to "shape up matters" so that they will suit the rank and file of the republican party and at the same time please the president.

IN OLD VIRGINIA

William Hodges Mann was inaugurated, February 1, governor of Virginia. In his inaugural address he put himself on record as regards the liquor question, which it is thought will be the feature of his administration, by saying: "I simply reiterate my steadfast opposition to the saloon and my confidence in the people of Virginia, who have the right to settle this question as to them shall seem best."

In old Virginia, too! So it seems that, after all, the democratic party is not necessarily the whisky party.

FROM OLD MISSOURI

Clinton, Mo., February 1, 1910.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—Dickinson elected to congress in Sixth Missouri district by more than 3,700 majority. Thanks to The Commoner for its help.

PEYTON A. PARKS,
Chairman Democratic Committee.

Five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner for \$3---60 cents each