

the party. It was the republican party's Wall Street connections that led to the progressive movement in the republican party, and Wall Street is much less popular in the democratic party than in the republican party. A democratic congress must keep step with the spirit of the time and lead public sentiment to the reforms upon which the people have agreed. The democratic party must everywhere urge the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people; the democratic party must in all sections fight the trusts and carry out the democratic platform demanding legislation which makes it impossible for private monopoly to exist. The democratic party must make a sincere effort at real tariff reduction. It goes without saying that the party must redeem its pledge to overthrow Cannonism and establish representative government in congress.

Let the democrats but be faithful to the promises made by the party and the presidential election of 1912 will bring an abundant reward, but retreat would be as impolitic as it would be unrighteous. The democratic party has no reason for existence except as it is the champion of the whole people in their fight for justice and equality of opportunity. After a decade and a half the party has been gaining strength by its fidelity to the interests of the common people. It has been sowing the seed and cultivating the crop. The harvest is now ready.

RATIFY INCOME TAX

The income tax amendment to the federal constitution is before the states for ratification. Several states have already acted favorably, and if all the legislatures that meet this winter ratify the amendment it will be adopted. Legislators when not pledged in advance are more or less influenced by public opinion—let that opinion be expressed at once. Below will be found the form of a petition; the readers of *The Commoner* are urged to begin AT ONCE and secure signers to this petition and send it to their senators and representatives in the state legislatures. Let no time be lost:

"We the undersigned citizens and voters in the _____ legislative (or senatorial) district in the state respectfully urge you to vote for the ratification of the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States authorizing congress to levy and collect an income tax."

WHY NOT ACT, THEN?

The United States department of justice has issued a statement declaring itself in favor of jail sentences for corporation officials found guilty of violating the anti-trust law and opposed to the infliction of fines. This particular statement was brought out by the fines imposed upon the officers of the window glass trust.

If the department of justice is in earnest, all it need do is to proceed against the countless combinations that are violating the law, causing the arrest and prosecution of responsible officials.

The department has dilly-dallied for so many years with the anti-trust law that prosecutions under that statute have come to be regarded as farces. If the department really means business, it need not waste time issuing "statements." Action speaks louder than words.

A DEMOCRAT IN DEFEAT

The following interview, given by Mayor Dahlman to a World-Herald reporter on learning of his defeat is characteristic of him. He said:

"It looks much like Aldrich to me, and I guess it's about all over. I made the best fight I could and I had a fair show, and I have no sore spots for anybody. The issue was plain and the people have spoken plainly enough. I still hold to the opinion which I held when I entered the campaign and if I had another fight to make on the same issue I'd make it in the same way.

"My personal defeat is trivial. The principle involved is most important. The future happiness of me or my family did not depend upon my being elected governor at all. Neither Mrs. Dahlman nor myself will feel at all keenly the defeat.

"I am glad to see Hitchcock elected, and wish him success. I'm glad to see the democracy so triumphant in sister states. I feel a deep sense of gratitude to the many friends who supported me, and for the uniform kindness shown me throughout this remarkable campaign. It was a great experience and I met in every part of the state so many splendid men and women I feel that it is an exceptional privilege to be privileged to form so many friendships and know

so many people who are really worth knowing. Nebraska is a great state and the honor of being the standard-bearer for one of the great parties in such a state is a rare privilege, indeed.

"Be assured I shall harbor no ill-will against the opposition. This is a free country and this may not be the last time that we shall be called upon to settle questions much discussed in this campaign."

Mr. Dahlman made as good a fight as any one could have made on that side of the question. He is a sincere opponent of county option and his county endorsed his stand by over eight thousand majority, but the people of the state differed from him and elected the republican candidate, Hon. C. H. Aldrich. Mr. Dahlman accepts the defeat like a man; he has lost no friends. Even those democrats who, like Mr. Bryan, were unable to endorse his position regretted that they were compelled to withhold their support.

THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE

The Baltimore Sun—it supported Mr. Taft two years ago—has suddenly developed a passionate desire to do something for the democratic party, but like most of the papers of its kind displays ignorance of the principles of the party and proposes an undemocratic plan for helping the party. It wants a conference of leaders—on the aristocratic theory that the leaders do the thinking for the people. The value of the proposed conference will depend entirely upon the representative character of those participating and that will depend upon the personnel of the committee which invites the conferees. What kind of a conference is likely to assemble at the suggestion of a paper which helped to elect the present republican president? If it makes up its committee, as it probably will, largely of reactionaries—some of them conspicuous for the support of republicans in the past—what influence will such a conference have? For whom, except themselves, will the conferees speak?

The democratic idea is that power comes up from the people—the source of power; the aristocratic idea is that power comes down from the few to the many. The democratic theory is that the people think for themselves and select men to act for them. The whole tendency of the times is to get back to the people and away from the bosses.

This is a poor time to sound a retreat. The Baltimore Sun conference will not only fail to represent the rank and file of the party but it is apt to MISREPRESENT them, for men who would attach importance to the recommendation of such a conference would prove themselves out of harmony with the controlling influences in democratic politics. The policy of our party is announced by conventions, composed of delegates selected for the purpose AND GENERALLY INSTRUCTED. Conventions may be more representative than congress, for in congress only districts having a democratic majority have a voice. But the democrats in congress, though representing only the democratic districts, will come much nearer reflecting the real sentiment of the party than any conference selected as the Baltimore conference will be.

If the conference indorses the last democratic national platform it will be gratifying, but it will add little to the binding force of that platform; if it ignores it, as it is quite sure to do, it will simply prove that it is dominated by those who were not in sympathy with that platform when it was written and whose chief ambition now is to devitalize the party creed.

However, the conference may serve one useful purpose—it may bring the Wall Street democracy out into the open and give the democratic democrats a chance to learn something of the influences which are at work to secure control of the next democratic national convention. About fifteen months after the Baltimore conference adjourns the real conferences will begin—they will be held in the PRECINCTS. When these conferences speak—and not before—we shall know the party's program for 1912.

THE NEBRASKA VICTORY

The democratic party has won a victory in Nebraska. It has elected a United States senator, the first democrat ever elected to the senate from Nebraska. The Oregon plan would have assured the election of Mr. Hitchcock even if the legislature had been republican, but as it is democratic, he would have been elected without the Oregon plan. Three democratic congressmen have been elected in the districts represented by democrats in the last congress. Mr. Latta increased his majority in the Third dis-

trict, Mr. Lobeck succeeds Mr. Hitchcock in the Second district, and Mr. Maguire won a signal victory in the First against Mr. Hayward, who is secretary of the republican national committee. Mr. Sutherland would have been elected in the Fifth district but for the fact that his opponent, Mr. Norris, gained distinction as a progressive republican.

The defeat of Mr. Dahlman, the democratic candidate for governor, cannot be construed as a democratic defeat, for while he received the primary nomination, it was by the aid of republicans who entered the primary because they agreed with him on the liquor question. His fight was not conducted along the lines of the state platform and party lines were not drawn upon this office. He received a large number of republican votes and lost a large number of democratic votes—being defeated by some fifteen thousand.

But for the liquor question the democratic party would have swept the state. Nebraska's democracy has been doing pioneer work since 1894 and would have been in position to take advantage of the revolt against the republican leaders but for the fact that the liquor question overshadowed all other state issues. It will not destroy the party, however, in future campaigns. It is probable that county option will be secured through the legislature elected on November 8; but even if the measure falls to pass, the initiative and referendum will be submitted, and when that is adopted the people can act upon such questions as they like without the injection of such questions into partisan politics.

The democrats of Nebraska have no reason to feel discouraged; on the contrary they have reason to face the future with confidence. They are thoroughly united upon national issues, and with the disturbing local issues removed, will present a united front to the enemy.

Count Nebraska in the progressive column.

LOTS OF FUN

New York newspapers are having great sport with Theodore Roosevelt and they are entitled to some of it because Theodore Roosevelt has had his fun with the New York newspapers. But, after all, it will occur to a great many thoughtful men that these newspapers might devote some of their attention toward a serious effort to prevent the special interests from wrecking the democratic party even as they have wrecked Mr. Roosevelt's party.

Mr. Roosevelt is an interesting character and he has his faults to be sure; but there is more serious work at hand for the American press than dissertations on Roosevelt. It is the work of perpetuating popular government and that is no child's task, either, in this day.

CHARACTERISTIC

Referring to Mr. Bryan's objections to the so-called "democratic conference" at Baltimore, Major Hemphill, editor of the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, says: "In view of Mr. Bryan's doubt upon the subject, we are inclined to the opinion that the proposed conference would be a very fine thing for the party."

That is the trouble with Major Hemphill's opinions generally. He forms them upon personal hatred rather than upon calm reasoning. That is one of the reasons why the major's opinion is of no real service to the democratic party.

"NOT A WORD, NOT A WORD"

The good Dr. Lyman Abbott devotes several pages of the current issue of the Outlook in telling his opinion of the election results. But the Outlook readers search in vain for the opinion of the "contributing editor," and the contributing editor's opinion, rather than that of the good Doctor Abbott, is what the public would just now like to read. But to interviewers and to correspondents generally, the contributing editor says, "not a word, not a word." Perhaps, after all, it is just as well.

ROGER SHERMAN HOAR

The democrats remember with appreciation the gallant fight made against imperialism by the late Senator Hoar, and will rejoice to know that Roger Sherman Hoar, a relative of the venerable senator, has been elected state senator in Massachusetts, as a result of the recent democratic landslide. He is a bright young man of twenty-three and bids fair to sustain the reputation of the distinguished families whose names he bears.