

## President Wilson Says Democratic Party is on Trial

regular republicans were fighting for principles, how can they welcome back the progressives unless the progressives were merely having a little amusement when they wrecked the Taft ticket?

If last fall's controversy was purely personal the parties can exchange apologies and be bosom friends again; but if each side was fighting for a principle, a reunion is impossible unless changed conditions have eliminated the causes that created the division. What change has taken place? None. The issue between plutocracy and democracy is just as acute now as it was then—the only difference being that democracy has a champion in the White House who is, step by step, fighting the people's battle against special privilege. It is easy to understand how plutocracy, in alarm, should cry "Harmony! Harmony!" in the hope of making another stand against the people's cause; but can progressive republicans join them? They are bound to support President Wilson or raise a question as to their sincerity.

We do not need two progressive parties any more than we need two plutocratic parties. The progressives were right in helping the democrats to defeat the republican party; but can they now be brought to undo what they have done by helping a plutocratic republican organization to defeat a democratic party whose progressive president is realizing the hopes of those who elected him? Which will triumph—principle or policy—which?

### GOOD FOR SULZER

Governor Sulzer of New York believes that platforms were made to stand on as well as to get in on. He is fighting for the passage of a state-wide primary bill in accordance with the democratic platform pledge. In addressing a gathering of democrats he said:

"I say deliberately to you democrats that you have got to line up your representatives in the legislature to pass this honest, this just and this fair state-wide primary bill, to keep our pledges, or I will line up the people against you and your representatives for your failure to be true to our platform."

Good for Sulzer. He speaks the up-to-date language of 1913, and men of all parties are applauding him for his good efforts.

### WHAT ABOUT THE TAXPAYERS

So the industries affected by the tariff are to be heard in protest; well, what about the people who pay the taxes? Who is to plead their cause? Tariff hearings are very one-sided. Only the tax eaters have interest enough to justify them in taking trips to Washington to enter a protest; the tax payers are at home trying to make enough to pay the next assessment.

### THE PEACE PLAN

The peace plan which the president authorized the secretary of state to present to the representatives of foreign nations was presented by Mr. Bryan to a peace congress in London in 1906 and unanimously indorsed by it. It was afterwards indorsed at a peace congress in New York and later was partially included in the treaties negotiated by Mr. Taft.

### GOOD WORDS FOR THE COMMONER

P. H. Peters, Mich.—Please find enclosed check for \$3.00 for which please send The Commoner one year to each of the following five subscribers. I wish every democrat would take The Commoner; if so, there would not be any pursuing of strange gods by those who are at heart democrats.

J. D. Hill, Tenn.—It affords me a great deal of pleasure to forward you the attached list of ten subscribers to the paper. It took no argument and only a little of my time, as The Commoner is rapidly becoming a household word. Our people are realizing the fact that it is for them it is fighting, that it has their interests at heart, that its utterances ring true, and mean something, and they too are falling into line. No man on the American continent stands higher in the estimation of the law-abiding, Christian people than William Jennings Bryan and they can never forget the great battle he fought and won for them at the Baltimore convention last year. May The Commoner reach every home in this great country of ours is the sincere wish of your humble subscriber.

Following are Associated Press dispatches relating to President Wilson's trip into New Jersey: Newark, N. J., May 1.—President Wilson in two speeches here and at Elizabeth made good his promise tonight to return to his native home state to fight for the reforms which were pledged to the people while he was governor, but which failed of accomplishment since his departure for Washington. The president was greeted with cheers and enthusiasm as he faced the big crowds.

"It made all my pulse beat," said the president in his speech here, "to think that I was to come to this great county of Essex that wants to govern itself, but does not. I have come, therefore, not to speak to you but for you. I have exercised great self-denial about New Jersey. My contemplation in choosing a summer home was to pitch my tent where I used to. But there is going to be a contest for governor in New Jersey next summer and I did not want anybody to think I wanted to boss the job. I have no candidate for governor, but I am opposed to whomsoever is desired by certain gentlemen. I do not want to see any governor privately owned. I am going to New Hampshire next summer but New Hampshire is in telegraphic communication with New Jersey. Any one who wants to know what I think can learn by asking."

"But I want to say a few words about the democratic party. I want everybody to realize that I have not been taken in by the results of the last national election. The country did not go democratic in November. It was impossible to go republican because it could not tell which kind of republican to go. The only hopeful and united instrument through which it could accomplish its purpose was the democratic party. There were certain things which we wanted done, the country said, not certain persons elevated. There were certain things we want demonstrated, such as that the government of the United States can not be controlled by private interests. Now the democratic party is going to have a try at making these things successful and if not we are not going to have another try."

The president applied his reference to the national election to the state situation, indicating that if the democratic party in the state did not redeem its pledges, including jury reform, the people might try another political party in the next election.

Mr. Wilson declared that when the democratic party in New Jersey three years ago had come into power everybody wondered "if the old gang would run it, but it did not."

The speaker said that when he was preparing to go to Washington from the governorship he was told that "the old gang will come back."

"I did not believe it," he continued, "until I saw it. Once more that bulky form of the gentleman who used to lead the New Jersey legislature appeared on the very floor of the legislature; that great system with a big snake-like S; that sneaking whispering system established itself in Trenton."

The president used a quantity of adjectives to describe the "gang" and charged that the system had been so corrupt as to permit grand juries to indict at strategic moments and "they can withhold grand juries from indicting when all is quiet, and you know that the mastery of certain gentlemen in this state would be impossible if the things they did were subject to the dispassionate judgment of grand juries."

The president was unsparing in his attack on the eleven assemblymen from Essex county, who were opposing jury reform.

"It is a disgrace," he said, amid applause, "to the judicial system of the state and the union, and I come here to protest as a representative American citizen that these things should not be allowed to exist."

Great crowds made frequent interruptions of applause and demonstrations of approval greeted the president when he put on his "war paint," as he described it, and campaigned in earnest to have the power of drawing juries taken from the sheriffs and placed in the hands of non-partisan commissions. He also pleaded for the calling of a constitutional convention and pointed out that it no longer was regarded as a radical procedure to change constitutions in the United States.

His two speeches were filled with satirical characterization of what he called the "old gang

in New Jersey," but he made it clear that his fight for apparently a local matter was made for the rank and file of the nation.

"I was sure," he said at Elizabeth, "that I would have to come back to speak words of criticism, but I must say it is familiar to have the war paint on in New Jersey again. And it is not singular that we would always have to be fighting to get control of our own affairs. We want to redeem the jurisprudence of this state not only of the suspicion, but of the stain that men are not equally treated in these courts of law."

Jersey City, N. J., May 2.—President Wilson tonight interpreted the fight in New Jersey for jury reform and constitutional revision as a part of the struggle of the American people to obtain through the democratic party equal justice to all and special privileges to none. Though he made no reference to legislative policies pending in Washington, the president indicated that the protests being voiced against the tariff bill were those of the special interests and not the masses.

"Some of my fellow citizens and some of their colleagues in Washington city," he said, "now think that they are hearing the voice of the people of the United States when they are only hearing the part that has become vocal by moving down to Washington and insisting upon its special interests."

"As I sit in my office in Washington there are windows only on one side of the room, and those windows look upon the park and the Potomac river and the shores of Virginia on the other side, and I can not see Washington from those windows, though I sometimes think I can, because Washington behind me is seething with special representatives of little things which are almost storming at the doors of this office itself, whereas out here are the cool, large spaces of the United States. And I would rather hear the whispers coming in at these windows here than the strident arguments coming in at those doors."

The president had spent a strenuous day fighting for the reform which he came to New Jersey to advocate. In the last speech of his trip tonight applause and expressions of approval interrupted him frequently, as he assailed the influences in the state which he claimed were managing the populous country for private purposes. The president early in his remarks referred to the incidents in the legislative conference during the noon hour when Assemblyman McDermott openly defied him and fired such a series of questions at Mr. Wilson that Acting Governor Fielder intervened to prevent an embarrassing situation.

"Your very generous reception of me tonight," remarked the president, "makes me feel very much more comfortable than I did this forenoon, for example, in another part of the city, where the tender sensibilities of one of the assemblymen from this county led him to conclude it an affront to his personal dignity that I should, without his invitation, have come into the county over which his influence so beneficently presided. You do not make me feel that I come with so cold a welcome and to face so direct a rebuke. I wish that you might do two opposite things tonight. I wish that you might forget that I am president of the United States because I come here as a Jersey man fulfilling all promises that I made to Jerseymen; and yet I want you to remember that I am president of the United States, because it is the business of the president to see to it wherever he can that the people get what they have a right to expect, for I am not the servant of the democratic party. I am the servant of the people, acting through the democratic party which has now undertaken some of the most solemn obligations that a party ever undertook, for it has stepped forward in a moment of universal disappointment and said: 'We pledge you our honor as men and as patriots that you shall not be disappointed again.'

"This is the situation in which the democratic party finds itself and in the midst of this situation there are particular promises which the democratic party, for example in New Jersey, has given the people. One of the things which has made thoughtful men in this country uneasy is that criminal justice was touched at its sources by perverting political influence and that when a man stood in with the sheriff's office he was safe from prosecution and when