

A UNITED STATES SENATOR.

"Who will be the next United States senator from Nebraska? From what party will he come? What combination will be formed to elect him?"

Just now such questions are being asked by thousands of politicians great and small. The answers have yet to be developed.

□ The situation is this: A senator must be elected by the legislature which assembles at Lincoln the first Tuesday in next January. Three parties will be represented in the next legislature, but no one of them will have a majority. A senator can only be elected in one of two ways:

1. By a combination between two of the parties.

2. By one party winning over enough members from another by corruption or persuasion to make a majority.

Undoubtedly the first move of the republicans will be to attempt to corrupt enough independents to elect a republican. They will have thousands of dollars and the state patronage to use for this purpose. But they will fail ignominiously. To say anything else would be to insult the faithful, noble men chosen by the independents. They are men who are making this fight for principle, and the republican party has not money enough to buy them.

The scheme of the democrats will be to get the independents to assist them in electing a democrat. They will be able to offer a most alluring bait to the independents. They have the federal patronage of the state. They would doubtless be willing to barter half the federal patronage of Nebraska for a senator. But they too will fail. To men who are in the reform movement for office rather than principle, a post-office or a land office will be a big temptation. But if we understand the temper of the honest independents of this state, there isn't federal patronage enough in the United States to bribe them into betraying their cause; and the man who would propose such a thing will be spotted by the people as a weak stick if not a traitor. Such a move as that would mean death to the independent party.

This reform movement was not born to die. It may receive defeats, and set-backs, it may lose some of its members who joined its ranks for office, or because they thought it was popular. But the great rank and file of the people's party consists of honest intelligent men who are in this fight for principle, and for justice. "The dog returneth to his vomit, and the sow to her wallow," but such men never return to the corrupt parties from which they came.

Already the republicans boastfully claim that they have "crushed out the calamity party." And they will repeat the claim in every nook and corner of the state. They will use it for all it is worth to win back the weak-kneed. But they misjudge the men who are in this fight. If the democratic party with no vital principle can survive complete defeat for twenty years in succession, surely the people's party with all its intelligence, and devotion to principle can outlive three partial defeats.

There is every reason why the independents should make a supreme effort to elect a United States senator from Nebraska. The people's party will hold the balance of power in the next senate. They already have two senators and will elect one in Kansas and another in Nevada. They may elect

senators in two or three other states. It is certain at any rate that neither of the old parties will have enough senators to control that body. The independents will be in a position to dictate the organization of the senate and to control legislation to a large extent.

The independents in the coming Nebraska legislature can either elect a senator or force the two old parties to combine for the election of a republican or a democrat. All that is necessary is for them to stand solidly and persistently together.

The independents will go into the coming legislature under conditions widely different from those which encompassed them two years ago. Then they were in a majority in both houses. The work of reform they had laid out was a stupendous undertaking. They had a combination of desperate and unscrupulous politicians to fight. They were held responsible for all that was done.

In the coming legislature they will be in a minority. There is no hope for the passage of any reform measures. As a party, the independents cannot be held responsible for what is done or left undone. All that can or will be expected of them is to stand together and vote solidly for the principles of their party whenever opportunity offers.

Two years ago, when the legislature met, "the contest" was the first thing that came up. It stood in the way of legislation. The old party press and the leaders of the demo-republican combine immediately raised a terrible howl that the independents were delaying legislation. They were in a desperate hurry to begin the work of reform. They couldn't wait to hear the contest tried. This howl loudly and persistently kept up did much to prevent the success of the contest. But now the "tables are turned." It is now the time of the independents to howl about delay, and to clamor for good legislation.

The election of a senator will be the first thing to come up. It may take one day, or it may take the whole session. It matters not a whit to the independents. They can rest assured that no good legislation will be passed any way. The corporations have a clear majority in both houses.

The election of a senator is the only thing of any importance that will be accomplished, so it matters very little how much time it takes.

The independents may also rest assured of this fact: that the democratic members will not assist in the election of a republican senator. The whole power of the national democratic organization will be exerted to prevent that. The democratic party has too much at stake to permit such a thing if it can be prevented. That the republicans will help the independents to elect a senator is out of the question. The situation is thus reduced to two alternatives: Either the republicans must join with the democrats to elect a senator, or the democrats must join with the independents. Already a move is on foot for the election of J. Sterling Morton under the former alternative. The assertion is made by some that a bargain was entered into before election that Morton was to be made senator as a reward for assisting in the defeat of Van Wyck for governor.

The independents could ask nothing better than the consummation of such a deal. It would mean death to the republican party in this state. The rank and file of the republican party are intelligent men, and are sincerely devoted

to their party. They will never endure to be sold and turned over to the democratic party. They would flock to the independent standard by the thousand.

On the other hand if the democrats see fit to combine with the independents for the election of a senator under conditions that will not compromise the independents in any respect, the new party will have made an immense gain and lost nothing.

These are the plain cold facts of the situation, and the sooner they are understood and realized by the independent members-elect, the better it will be for the party.

HAND OF THE MONEY POWER.

It is very difficult for the members of either old party to explain the results of the late election. At first view they seem surprising and incongruous. In the eastern and central states there was a regular land-slide to democracy. With a free-trade platform, democracy triumphed in the strongholds of protection. In Connecticut, New Jersey and New York with their thousands of factories; in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois with factories and mines; in Wisconsin and Michigan with mines and lumber, all enjoying the benefits of protection, the party of protection was signally defeated.

On the other hand in Minnesota and Iowa, Nebraska the Dakotas and Kansas, agricultural states which have to bear the burdens of protection while they enjoy none of its blessings, the party of protection was signally successful.

The politicians of both old parties have been wont to explain all things by means of the tariff. Whether prosperity or adversity come to an individual, a class, a section or a party, the tariff was in some way made to receive the credit or bear the blame. But the result of this year's election is taxing their explaining power to the utmost.

To the populists, the explanation is easy. Their persistent claim has been that there is a greater issue than the tariff; that there is a force more potent in affecting the prosperity of the country and the success of political parties than either the organized forces of protection or free trade. That force is known as THE MONEY POWER. Like Providence, the money power "moves in a mysterious way its wonders to perform." But it moves with such power and adroitness as to accomplish just such results as we see today.

There are many reasons why the money power preferred to see Cleveland elected instead of Harrison. He is fully as radical an upholder of the gold standard. His election means that the "free coinage heresy" will be effectually stamped out of the democratic party. It means a revival of interest in the great sham battle over the tariff.

The money power probably did not make any special effort to elect Grover Cleveland. That was not necessary. It simply left Harrison to his fate. It would have taken a supreme effort and an immense sum of money to elect Harrison.

For the money power to have made this effort, and spent this money for that purpose would have been a very foolish and dangerous piece of business. It would have arrayed the democratic party solidly on the side of the people, and that would have meant the overthrow of the gold standard.

The desperate efforts of the gold standard men to prevent the passage of the Bland bill by the present congress, and to secure the nomination of Cleveland at Chicago were exceedingly significant. They indicated that the money power was about to make a change of tools. It feared longer to trust its fortunes to the republican party. It desired to make sure its control of democracy. Having done this, it left the republicans to wage a hopeless warfare for continuation in power, and to meet an overwhelming defeat.

On this theory the success of the republican party in the western states is easily explained. Having dictated the nominations and policies of both old parties, the money power left them to fight their battle in the older states, while it turned its attention to the states in the west and south where the new party was a threatening factor. In the south it assisted the democracy to overthrow the rising people's party. In the west the democratic party was in a hopeless minority, and could not be used to advantage. Hence the money power was constrained to use its old tool, the republican party. But it used every effort, and with a large degree of success, to prevent the democrats from falling in line with the reform movement.

It should be borne in mind that the plutocrats, the men who run this country, have no politics. They care nothing for politics. At all times and under all circumstances, their party is the party they can use to the best advantage. At the present time they can use the democratic party to the best advantage in the nation, and the republican party to the best advantage in Nebraska. Hence the results of the late election.

Such is American politics today, and so will it continue till the people realize its farcical character.

When the masses of the people see that the democratic party is no longer democratic, and the republican party no longer republican, but that both old parties are merely tools in the hands of a rich, powerful and selfish class, then will there be hope of a successful political revolution.

RENEW your subscription.

NOW is the time to begin the campaign for next year.

THE democrats of Omaha had a grand jollification Tuesday night.

NEXT year the independents will greatly increase their strength in Nebraska by gaining control of county governments.

EDITOR THOMPSON of the Genoa Banner was a caller at this office on Tuesday. He says the independents of Nance county are in the fight to stay.

THE populists have a very small majority in the next Kansas legislature; therefore Senator Peffer's colleague after the 4th of next March will be a populist.

THE supreme council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union meets at Memphis, Tennessee, November 15. The people of the north await with much interest the explanation the alliance men of the south will have to make of the results of the election, and the stand they will take for the future.