

talked Greek to them. He ran in the country districts—no large cities—and the farmers are not prepared to hear about currency, but they do like to hear about protection.

In the Tenth New Jersey congressional district James D. Manning ran against Allan L. McDermott. Manning, in 1896, voted for Bryan, and McDermott did not. Manning ran as an independent democrat indorsed by the republicans, and McDermott as the candidate of the democratic machine indorsed by the local political boss. The machine was for Bryan in 1896 and 1900, but in the off years it has been for the offices, for "tariff reform," for the "gold standard." The machine has believed in supporting the Chicago and Kansas City platforms in presidential years, but not in the off years. In 1900 McDermott supported Bryan, but not the platform. He had to support Bryan then, because he was running on the same ticket with him for congress. This year he came forward again as a candidate for congress, appointed to run by the local political boss; and Mr. Manning, who had always been a consistent democrat, came forward as an independent. Inasmuch as Manning received the indorsement of the republicans, we had an interesting campaign here in Jersey City and the northern end of Hudson county opposite New York city. McDermott was elected, but by a reduced plurality. He ran behind his ticket by about four thousand. If we could have elected Manning, there would have been at least one Bryan democrat in congress, sent there by the aid of republicans. It is an infernal shame that McDermott was elected and goes to congress again. No man talked and wrote worse in 1896 about Bryan and the Chicago platform than McDermott although he was a member of the convention that nominated him and adopted the platform. He was not only a member of the convention and chairman of the New York delegation, but he was a correspondent of the New York World and employed to write up the convention and its candidate, and in doing so he described the candidate and platform as follows:

"The Chicago convention has nominated a 'populist' on a platform favoring repudiation and a rotten currency and the protection of anarchists in their evil designs and doings. The man who is willing to stand upon that platform must be either a trickster, or at heart a villain. The convention was from start to finish a libel on the democratic party. The candidates will be defeated if the people of this country are brave enough and intelligent enough to deserve self-government. The election of Bryan would result in unparalleled distress and misery. From now until November the fight will be between honor and dishonor, truth and falsehood, patriotism and anarchy. The man who,

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understanding this platform, votes for its candidate will be unfit for American citizenship. Names are nothing. Partisanship must be cast to the winds. Anything is preferable to this half hatched egg of national dishonor."

Although, according to Mr. McDermott, Bryan was a "trickster or villain," and a "half hatched egg of national dishonor," in 1896, and although Bryan stood on the same platform in 1900 (with the Spanish war issues added) as in 1896, and although he was the same man personally in 1900 as in 1896, yet McDermott was willing to stand on the same platform with Bryan in 1900, as a candidate for congress, and did so stand, and was elected—elected, because he could not be defeated without injuring the national ticket. McDermott was therefore willing to be elected by Bryan's help two years ago, and was so elected, but he ought not to have been elected this year and he would not have been elected if it had not been for certain local issues, which drew the minds of the people away from national politics. I firmly believe that if James D. Manning could run against Allan L. McDermott alone, Manning would be elected. I believe that if we could have an election here today for our member of congress, and that if we had nothing else to think about except the comparative merits and demerits of the two men, the district would send James D. Manning to congress, and yet we shall have to be represented or misrepresented by Allan L. McDermott. As the issue shaped itself, we could not discuss tariff or money; or trusts, except to deny that the high price of domestic meat was due to the tariff duty on foreign meat.

New Jersey elected seven republican congressmen out of ten and would have elected eight, had it not been for an unfortunate nomination in one of the districts. It was done, although Grover Cleveland came out, after his retirement of ten years, and lectured the people in favor of "tariff reform." He would have spoken in favor of a gold standard; but he thought this was not prudent. Free trade and free coinage of gold (without free coinage of silver) go well together, because they each have a tendency to reduce this country to the level of England. Free trade and free coinage of gold constitute Mr. Cleveland's political philosophy, and it must have been a great self-denial for him to speak in favor of the one without speaking in favor of the other.

Tom Johnson was defeated in Ohio by 100,000. This shows that the people of Ohio don't have much faith in (free trade and) the "single tax." If Mr. Johnson would substitute an income tax for his single tax, he would do better. We can tolerate Johnson's free trade, if he would put some kind of internal tax with it, that looks like support of the federal government. Johnson's single tax may support the city of Cleveland, but the people of Ohio don't think that it will support the state government; and, if it will not support the state government, it will not support the United States government. Mr. Johnson's defeat cannot be attributed to free coinage of silver. Perhaps it would be well for "Tom," if he would take up the money question and study it, so that he can be either on the wrong side or the right side of it. This is one of the questions, of which a public man cannot be ignorant. If Mr. Johnson would study the money question as much as he has studied Henry George's Progress and Poverty and theory of taxation, he would probably come out on the right side of all political questions.

William R. Hearst, of the New York American, was elected a member of congress from one of the New York city districts. Here is a man who stands for the income tax and who may be of great use to the country. Like Mr. Tom Johnson he doesn't know much about the money question, but he knows enough to stand for the income tax. He believes in free trade of all trust-made articles. We can go with him in his free trade business, provided he will give us the income tax first. He took the ground in his paper, that the high price of domestic meat was due to the tariff duty of two cents a pound on foreign meat. We think he is wrong here, but we can forgive this error, if he will give us the income tax, before he inaugurates free trade in meat.

Mr. Hearst is pounding the coal combine every day in his paper. He did more than any other man to reduce Odell's plurality in New York. He has commenced suits against the coal barons, and it begins to look as if he would have them in jail before he gets through with them. Roosevelt will be compelled by Hearst, if by nobody else, to move against the trusts. With

such men as Hearst after him, the president will have to act. He can no longer shut his eyes to the great trust evil if he were so disposed, and I do not believe that he is so disposed. He has, now, everything to gain and nothing to lose by moving onto the greatest of all trusts—the coal combine. Public opinion is now ripe for crushing the monopolies, and woe to any president who now halts or shows the least indisposition not to make a liberal use of the Sherman law. In the present state of public opinion, and in view of certain facts, which have recently come out, it will not do for the president to say that the constitution must be amended before he can act, or that the constitution must be amended before congress can act, by making new laws. We can all see, now, that, if the Sherman law is not broad enough to enable the president to suppress the trusts, congress will broaden the law, and do it without waiting for the people to amend the constitution and that there cannot be any excuse for the president's holding back.

Everything indicates, now, that "trust regulation" is out of politics or will soon be. It seems that we require no new laws, and that all that is required is strict enforcement of the laws we have on the statute book. If this is so, then our politics will be narrowed down to the old, old questions of currency and taxation.

The politics of New Jersey has recently become somewhat similar to that of Nebraska—I quote from the Jersey City Evening Journal as follows:

"The Nebraska delegation in the Fifty-eighth congress will be composed of five republicans and one democrat. The fact that is of special interest to Jersey City in this connection is that Congressman Mercer, chairman of the committee on public buildings, is the one republican congressman who was defeated in Nebraska this week. He was vanquished by the fusion combination.

"Mr. Mercer, as head of the committee on public grounds and buildings, visited Jersey City in April, 1900, and saw things that caused him to become an advocate of a new Jersey City postoffice building.

"Congressman Mercer's term in congress will end March 4 next, and before that date is reached he will have had an opportunity to round out his useful career by helping to crown with success the long drawn out fight for a new federal building in Jersey City. "The new postoffice bill ought to be passed at the coming short session of congress without fail."

In Nebraska a "fusion combination" consists of Bryan democrats and populists (as we understand it); while in New Jersey a "fusion combination" consists of Bryan democrats and republicans. This was illustrated in Jersey City and Hudson county recently by an attempt to elect a member of congress by a fusion of Bryan democrats and republicans. This will enable the outside world to see that the republicans love Bryan more than they do Grover Cleveland.

JNO. S. DE HART.

Jersey City, N. J.

Even Morgan don't seem to be on easy street any longer. After converting a large amount of steel stock into bonds which were considered more salable, the remaining stock slumped to the lowest point ever reached. The Morgan underwriting syndicate finding that it was impossible to sell the stock, were forced to throw large amounts of it on the market at what it would fetch and down went the steel stock. Pretty soon the Europeans will be calling for that \$200,000,000 that Mr. Herrick, president of the Bankers' association, says that they have lent Wall street. What will Morgan do then? The only man that abides permanently on easy street is old Carnegie. He has a first mortgage on all the mills and mines of the steel trust. When a receiver is appointed he will take them in and become richer than ever. According to Dun, commercial failures during October amounted to \$10,680,627.

The Independent is glad to see the confidence Mr. De Hart reposes in the Sherman anti-trust law as a remedy for the evils of trusts. Undoubtedly the law ought to be better enforced and the criminal prosecutions begun instead of dallying with civil remedies. But The Independent cannot see much real progress to be made by sending a few men to the penitentiary—because it would be ninety-nine chances to one that the real criminal would escape. And suppose he did not—there are other men to step in and continue the work. Of course if public sentiment were sufficiently aroused, it could have some effect.

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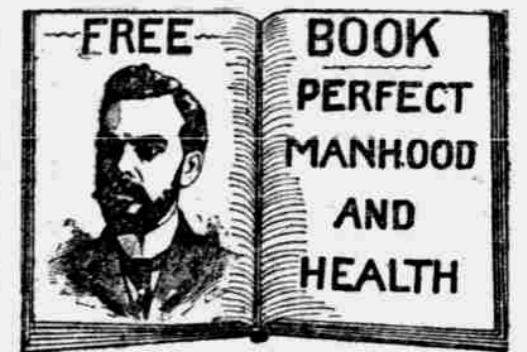
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