

WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT?

Mr. Schwelzer Believes That Roosevelt Should Return to His Duties at Washington

Editor Independent: Can you not find out where the president is, to tell him that he at once should go home and tend to his business? Since the president commenced to swing around the circle, everything goes wrong in Washington; but it seems that that gentleman believes that we pay him \$50,000 a year, besides pocket money, that he may enjoy himself with hunting, sailing, making pleasure trips in Pullman cars, banqueting and entertaining people by telling them funny stories. I believe if some one had taken an exact account of his time it would not make three months, counting every minute which the president has spent in his office, since he moved into the White house.

Since the president is absent, a daring gang of safe crackers broke in bright daylight into a room of the postoffice department, opened the safe and stole some public documents. It is a clear case and the whole gang should at once be sent to the penitentiary. It is no excuse when the burglars say that they took only their own documents which were put in there for safe keeping. If I give to a friend some valuables for putting them in his safe, that gives me no right to break into his house and crack his safe to take my own valuables out and let some of his valuables go with them. It is an aggravation of the crime, that the head of the gang is the wife of an officer of the postoffice department under whose shield the crime was committed.

In the last few years stealing and robbing public money are alarmingly increasing, without ever a single one of the culprits being punished and urged to give up the booty. All such defrauders and robbers are put through a newly invented white-washing machine out of which they come just as white and innocent as a baby out of his bath. Some of the gentlemen right after coming through the machine were sent to the United States senate to make our laws. Now that white-washing business must be stopped, and to do that is a duty of the president. There is other business, too, to which the president should attend at once.

A few weeks ago the report of General Miles about his inspection of the Philippines was published, which shows and proves that some of our officers in the Philippine islands committed atrocious barbarities just as horrible as the atrocities of the Spanish inquisition and those committed by General Weyler in Cuba, the British in Africa, and the allies in China.

Such barbarities could not have been committed without knowledge or even order of the highest officers in the islands and, therefore, the honor of the United States demands that the full truth shall be known and every culprit punished, no matter who they are; and if the president does not attack the culprits, then congress must take that matter in its hands. Whitewashing and insulting General Miles, as it was done in the embalmed beef case, will not do this time; we must show that this is not a nation of barbarians and freebooters.

Then there are all over disputes between employers and employed, which in some cases interrupt all business and cause great damage and suffering to the people in general. In those cases, too, the executive should intervene and protect the rights of the people who have to suffer from such interruption to business, even by withholding from them the indispensable articles for the sustenance. Now there can be no doubt that it is the duty of the executive to defend and protect the rights of the people in such disputes and I believe that that can be performed a good deal better according to the principles of reason, truth and justice than with riot cartridges.

For thousands of years governments had to protect the weak against the strong, the poor against the rich, the people against extortions, even the withholding from them of the necessities for living by cornering them—with laws against usury, market and trade regulations and ordinances. But in this country it is different. All such regulations and restrictions were abolished, usurers and money princes usurped unlimited power, might is right and the most unscrupulous and beastly tyrant is boss. All disputes between employers and employes are settled with riot and cartridges and Pinkerton's police militia and regulars receive the strict order: Shoot to kill. But you never heard, that an officer ordered his subordinates to shoot at a Pierpont Morgan, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Armour, Gould, Vanderbilt or Baer.

When governor Altgeld tried to settle the Chicago strike according to the

principles of reason, natural right and justice, Grover Cleveland prevented that by sending his regulars with loaded guns and plenty of riot cartridges to Chicago.

But it pays to defend the sacrosanct money bag. About 20 years ago, Cleveland was glad when he got a chance to earn a few dollars by making neck-ties at Buffalo; today he is a multi-millionaire and receives a pension of \$25,000 for life; but Governor Altgeld died a poor man.

That there is a better way to settle labor disputes and to control corporations is shown by the following article of a law adopted in 1887 by a direct referendum vote of the people of the Canton-Zurich, Switzerland:

"Art. 35. The regierungsrath (state executive) is authorized to reform such corporations, which are degenerated or endanger the credit or other public interests."

Besides, the kantonsrath (legislature) can abolish such corporations which pursue illicit, immoral aims, detrimental to the public welfare.

Now, do you not think that corporations, which control and corner every necessity of life, even withholding such necessities out of spite from the people, so that thousands have to die from want of those necessities, as was done last winter by our coal barons, are illicit, immoral and detrimental to the public welfare?

Every death which, in this country with its inexhaustible natural resources, is caused for the reason that the concerned persons had no chance to acquire the necessary articles for living, is murder, for which the government is responsible.

Considering all these facts, it is absolutely necessary that the president at once returns to Washington to tend to his business to defend and protect the inalienable rights of the people.

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Possibly Only One Ring

Populist leaders in Nebraska do not appear to share the confidence expressed by their democratic side partners in the certain discomfiture of the reorganizers. On the contrary, they expect the reorganizers to regain control of the machinery of the national democracy and look forward to recruiting the decimated populist cohorts from the remnants of the Bryanites excluded from seats at the council table of the party. The three-ring convention circus fell down to a two-ring circus several years ago and the chances are it will be a one-ring show when next it goes upon the road.—Omaha Bee.

The theory of "surplus value"—see Karl Marx Edition, July 23, 1903.

Populist Reunion

A report that if the democrats nominated a Clevelandite the populists of the west would vote for Roosevelt has been published by the Associated press. As there has been neither convention nor referendum vote to ascertain populist sentiment the report referred to is without foundation. Ex-Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, chairman of the Bryan populists, replying to the report, stated to a press agent that the populists would have their own candidates for president, that they would be compelled to do this because it was plain the democrats intended to nominate a man of Cleveland's way of thinking. Of course Mr. Butler expressed his opinion only as he has no authority to speak for the party. But we believe his opinion is well founded. If populists were compelled to choose between Roosevelt and Bryan they would probably divide up about equally and if they had no one to vote for but Roosevelt or a Cleveland

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democrat, a majority of them might vote for Roosevelt. As far as the writer is concerned he would "take to the woods" as the two old parties are in fact but one party ruled by the same men and controlled completely by the money power. But the discussion of what the populists would do if compelled to choose between old party candidates is out of order. The question that is up before the populists is, how can the believers in populism be united in a fight against the demo-republican party? The first thing to do is to reunite the people's party, which split on the question of the second nomination of Bryan. The next step would be to gather into one organization the millions who believe in populism, more than two-thirds of whom have never yet voted the people's party ticket. This can best be done, we believe, by holding the people's party banner up and every populist rallying to it, thus encouraging others to join.—Missouri World.

The report arose over Richard L. Metcalfe's editorial in the Omaha World-Herald, Sunday, May 17, and his open letter the next day to Norman E. Mack of the Buffalo Times, and had nothing to do with the populist organization and did not pretend to speak for populists.

Mr. Metcalfe did not say that Bryan democrats would vote for Roosevelt—he simply suggested in his editorial that the plutocrats are evidently laying their plans to defeat the president.

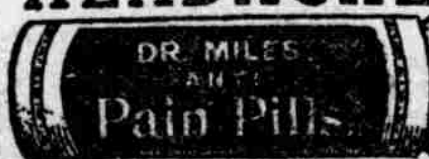
Populists will have no need to choose between Roosevelt and a Cleveland democrat—they will have a candidate of their own. But it is idle to deny the fact that if the democratic party remains true to its last two platforms and makes reasonable progress along the lines of money and transportation, that the people's party will have a small following in many states.

Nevertheless, it is the duty of populists to get their organization ready for the fray. If a Cleveland democrat is nominated next year, the people's party can be the second one in the race, and may throw the election into the house of representatives.

Why have Butler and Parker dropped clear out of the arena? One would never suppose that either of them ever claimed to be the head of a national committee.

Karl Marx Edition, matter all contributed by socialists, July 23, 1903. Keep within a thousand words if possible.

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