

fellows as to be called to any position which he is qualified to fill.

The period between 1892 and 1896 was a chaotic one, and during this period more new men were brought into political prominence than in any similar period since the war. In both the democratic and republican parties—but more especially in the democratic party—new men forged to the front because they understood the issues presented and had the courage to take up the fight, when older and more experienced men abandoned the people's side. Business men who had never before spoken in public found that they could speak effectively; young men who had had no practice on the stump quickly put to rout veteran campaigners who were once leaders—when they had followers. While all the people ought to study public questions for themselves and ought to be prepared to discuss them, a large proportion of the people are inclined to leave the discussion to others, and are disposed to support those who can best present what seems to them to be the side of justice and fairness, and many young men throughout the land can date their success in politics from the day that they chose the side of the people, and risked the enmity of the great railroads, the great banks and the great newspapers.

We are about to enter upon another fight quite similar to that which took place just before the Chicago convention. Then the rank and file of the party repudiated the administration and took the party organization out of the hands of those who had betrayed the democracy into the hands of plutocracy. In the campaign of 1896 there was great enthusiasm and, considering the opposition to be met, the party came near to victory. A small change in a few close states would have changed the result. Between 1896 and 1900 a number of those who had deserted came back, while others pretended to come back. When imperialism was made the paramount issue, and the money question was forced into the background, prominence was given to men who had been conspicuous for their apostasy in 1896, and notwithstanding the strength of the new issue of imperialism, the party, judged by the total result, did not do as well as it did in 1896. While this result was due in part to changed conditions, and in part to the fact that the republican party had concluded one successful war and was in the midst of another, still a part of the falling off in 1900 was due to the prominence of some of the representatives of corporations, who were again aspiring to leadership in the party. Since the election of 1900 this element has been actively at work. It is backed by the influence of the railroads, by the influence of the financiers and by the influence of the great metropolitan papers, both democratic and republican, and it is winning over some democrats who are more interested in the division of the spoils than in the principles upon which the party stands. It would be a sufficient answer to the expediency argument to point to the election of 1894, which was conducted under the Cleveland administration. After the president had done exactly what the Wall street financiers asked, scarcely any democratic members of congress were elected above the Mason and Dixon line, and we lost Missouri for the first time since the war. Mr. Hill was the candidate for governor in New York and was defeated by a larger majority than the national ticket was in New York in 1900. But expediency is a low level upon which to decide either national or party questions. If the democratic party does not stand for principles it cannot stand for anything, and if it stands for principles it must stand for those which the masses believe in, not for those which are popular with the men who use government merely as an instrumentality for the plunder of others.

The contest is on between the many who desire justice and are interested only in good government, and the few who are entrenched behind special privileges and enjoy governmental favoritism. Some who were firm in 1896 have been won over and their places must be taken by stronger and more courageous men. Such an opportunity as is now presented for service to the party may not soon return. One honest, fearless democrat in a precinct can defeat the reorganizers; two in a county can put the corporation element to rout; a half dozen in a state convention can save the party from humiliating surrender.

The test can be made upon a resolution in-

dorsing the Kansas City platform. Such a resolution ought to be introduced at every primary, for here is where the rank and file of the party speak and where the real opinion of the people must be ascertained. Such a resolution ought to be introduced into every county convention, and into every state convention. The friends of the Kansas City platform must not be deceived by the pretended anxiety for harmony now manifested by the gold element. They did not want harmony when President Cleveland made up his cabinet from the minority of the democratic party and ostracized every democrat who would not surrender at the dictation of the financiers; they did not want harmony when they carried on their Palmer and Buckner campaign of fraud and deception in the interest of the republican ticket; they did not want harmony when they went out in the fall of 1897 with the belief that they could substitute the gold democrat organization for the regular organization. They prate about harmony now that they are in a minority; they plead for recognition, but they are planning to fill every committee position with a reorganizer, and every office with a man who has been tried in the balance and been found wanting. When they had control of the national committee they drew the line against every democrat who believed in bimetalism, and they will do so again if they are intrusted with power. There has been no change in those who were leaders of the administration force of 1896. Their sympathies are not with the people and they have been counted upon to oppose every necessary reform. The party under their leadership would not be a democratic party, for it would compromise with the republicans on every vital question. The pressing need at this time is for men who will fight on the people's side and who prefer defeat to disgrace. The contest may be a long one, but the time will come when republican policies will be repudiated and when democratic principles will be vindicated. All that is required is that the party shall be honest and courageous. In times of adversity it can establish a character that will commend it to the people and its victory will then be permanent. Those who are willing to suffer defeat with right principles rather than seek success by abandoning principles will be called upon to administer the government and apply democratic principles when republican experiments fail, as fail they will.

Wanted—Men—honest men, industrious men, moral and courageous men, patient men, democratic men!

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Are you interested in preserving the democratic organization? Are you interested in achieving the triumph of democratic principles? Are you interested in arousing the American people to a sense of the danger in imperialism, colonialism, Fowlerism and trusts? If so, read "Preserve Democratic Principles," printed on page 7.

Are you opposed to the republicanization of the democratic party? Are you opposed to giving the control of the party organization into the hands of the sulkers, skulkers and shirkers who sold out the democracy in 1896 and 1900, and who seek now to secure the leadership of the party they betrayed? If so, read "Preserve Democratic Principles," printed on page 7.

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Lamont's Boom.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat recently published an interview with a member of the democratic national committee booming Daniel Lamont for president. The committeeman is reported to have said: "The democratic party cannot find a better or more available man than Daniel Lamont. This is my mature judgment after talking with some of the leading democrats of our state. Mr. Lamont is a business man, but he also knows all the ins and outs of the political game, and his nomination would raise the hopes of the party as

nothing else would." The Globe-Democrat added: "Since his retirement from politics, his (Lamont's) connection with the Northern Pacific railroad has brought him into close touch with the northwest."

Reference is made to this incipient boom, not because it is likely to grow to large proportions, but because it illustrates the ideas of the reorganizing element of the party. Those who are casting about for somebody who can "win" always go on the theory that the "business element" will not support a man who stands for democratic principles, and that we must, therefore, allow the "business element" to select some one who will look after the interests of the corporations, and make the democratic party the tool of the corporations. Such people do not seem to think that the loyal democrats have any opinions that need to be consulted, or any interests that need to be guarded. In all the United States it would be difficult to find a man less deserving of the nomination than Mr. Lamont, or one who would develop less strength in a campaign. His only prominence in politics is due to the fact that he was first private secretary to Mr. Cleveland, and afterward secretary of war. He has never been credited with having any views on public questions that were sufficiently important to be reduced to writing or to appear in print. He does not stand for or represent a single issue that 90 per cent of the democrats would regard as important. If he were nominated there is nothing that could be said for him in a campaign, and every public speaker would have to employ his imagination rather than his reason if he found any arguments to make in his behalf.

Not only is Mr. Lamont without affirmative merit, but he is handicapped as no other candidate so far mentioned would be. His prominence in the business world is not due to anything he has ever done which exhibits constructive intellect, executive force or judicial ability. He has simply been a railroad magnate and, as he has risen to a prominent place among the railroad magnates in a short time, it is evident that his present wealth is due to speculation rather than to the legitimate methods of accumulation. He belongs to that class which has no politics, but stands ready to act with that party which promises the greatest aid to financial enterprises. He is a democrat to the same extent that J. Pierpont Morgan and Jim Hill are democrats, and would be no more popular as a candidate than either of them would be. In fact, if a railroad magnate is wanted for a candidate, J. Pierpont Morgan would be preferable because he has shown his ability to organize great enterprises and he could probably contribute more to the campaign fund than Lamont could. It is one of the mysteries that no one but the reorganizers can solve that a man like Lamont should ever be spoken of in connection with an elective office. Mr. Lamont is old enough to have shown his capacity to deal with governmental questions, but he has preferred to devote himself to the making of money according to the most approved Wall street methods. Having made his choice he has to abide by it. It is impossible for a man to be identified with the enterprises which have given Lamont prominence in the business world, and at the same time be a fit representative of the people in high office. Even if he were to rid himself of his present business connections he would have to be taken on probation for a while before the public would have confidence in his reform, but he has given no indication of a change in purpose, and the reorganizers do not seem to think any change necessary. They stand ready to take off their hats to any man who has money, no matter how he has made it.

It was a great mistake to put Mr. Lamont on the campaign committee which is to have charge of the coming congressional campaign, for he stands for everything inimical to the democratic party and cannot bring to the support of any congressional candidate a half dozen votes, unless he can show that the candidate is under secure mortgage to the corporate interests which Mr. Lamont represents. There is a great struggle going on in this country between those who are willing to work for what they get and are willing to be satisfied with a fair return for their labor, and those, on the other hand, who live by speculation or by the sleight-of-hand methods employed by syndicates and exploiters. A member of congress cannot serve both classes and a candidate for con-