

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says that a compromise has been reached on the omnibus statehood bill.

**"Manana"**  
the  
**Republican Cry.**

This dispatch says: "Chairman Beveridge agreed that his committee would report a bill the third day of the next session. But the committee has not lost control of the bill and has given no pledge as to what sort of a bill it will bring in. All it has promised is to make a report. It may be an adverse one; at any rate the fight on the merits of the proposition is an open one, and is deferred till next December, with the committee holding its tactical advantage." Thus it will be seen that the republican party is putting off action on many measures until after the congressional elections. The republican platform for 1896 promised the admission of the remaining territories "at the earliest practicable date." The republican platform for 1900 said: "We favor home rule and the early admission into statehood of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma." And yet we find the republican majority arrayed very clearly against the fulfillment of these pledges. It is the same old story. Republican platforms "were not made to stand on, they were made to get in on."

Congressman Babcock, chairman of the republican congressional committee, says: "We cannot be put on the defensive on any question which will be discussed in the coming campaign." This is decidedly refreshing, coming from a man who, like Congressman Babcock, declared that it was his purpose to remove the tariff from the products of trusts. Even if there was nothing else on which the republican party could be put on the defensive, the leaders of that party will have their hands full in explaining why the trusts, that are imposing upon the people and maintaining corners on the necessities of life, are given the large advantages which they find in the tariff maintained by the republican party. And when it comes to providing a defense on this point, Chairman Babcock will be placed in a decidedly embarrassing position, because no one has spoken more vigorously in favor of removing the tariff from trust products than the chairman of the republican congressional committee; and Mr. Babcock will not be permitted to dodge his record on this question any more than the republican party will be permitted to dodge its record on other questions.

An Ohio reader of The Commoner says that the debating society of which he is a member came very near disruption because of a question proposed for discussion. This question was as follows: "Resolved, That no moral difference exists between the acts of the highwayman who holds up his victims at the muzzle of a gun and despoils his fellowman, and the man or combination of men who, armed with political power, shape legislation that protects and legalizes the acts of combinations that rob the people." This reader, referring to this proposition, makes this comment: "Those who defend the legal method contend that it does not impoverish its victims at one stroke like the outlaw method and should not be compared with the latter. Again, they claim that those who get in their work legally are rated among our best people, who give liberally toward the endowment of religious and educational institutions and who occupy the finest upholstered pews along the front row. They move in the top crust of society and are men of great influence and piety, while the illegal highwayman is busily engaged in dodging the officers of the law. The affirmative set up the claim that only the want of courage is the motive that leads many to resort to legislation as the safer method to commit depredations; and

that the lack of diplomacy and political influence moves the courageous to resort to the same moral methods to despoil their fellowman by means of firearms instead of legislation. The affirmative claims that less than 10 per cent of the money filched from the people is given away by the legal fraternity, and while they are robbing Peter to pay Paul, the latter gets a very thin slice which is used principally for advertising purposes and a hope to appease the wrath of the Almighty whose judgment is most dreaded by the cowardly. The affirmative also contends that there is something to be admired even in an outlaw who has the courage lone-handed to hold up and rob a half dozen men. This kind of mettle when properly directed was found in the patriots of '76 and in all subsequent wars of our country. What did we expect or receive from the other class during these trying times."

A Washington dispatch to the New York World under date of May 30 says that Mr. Roosevelt has sent to an eminent personage "a full set of Mr. Roosevelt's own works, every volume containing the author's autograph and an appropriate sentiment." It is to be hoped that the recipient will read some of these books very carefully. In these books he will find that Mr. Roosevelt has uttered eloquent words of condemnation against nearly every important policy now being pursued by Mr. Roosevelt's administration. He will find in those books the most complete indorsement of the right of the Filipinos to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and of the right of the Filipino to a government deriving its powers from the consent of the governed. He will find in those books a clear and distinct historical statement that the so-called expansion policy of the republican party of today is wholly inconsistent with the policy adopted by the United States in its acquirement of territory in the past. Probably Mr. Roosevelt has forgotten many of the things he said in these interesting volumes. Perhaps he thinks the recipient will not take the trouble to read them; but there are in those volumes many passages that will prompt the reader to wonder how it is that a man who, as an author, gave expression to such sentiments could, as a president, act wholly in defiance of those sentiments.

Some of the Chicago papers have had their attention directed to the head of a little household who is employed as an apprentice at a salary of \$5 per week. This man and his good wife have undertaken to keep house on this magnificent salary. We are told that this couple has figured out that "they can live on \$5 a week and have a weekly balance of \$1.65 to invest in railroad stocks or government bonds." According to this same authority they have "made allowances for such luxuries as eggs and fruit, although they have limited the supply of butter to one pound a week for two persons. They have prudently decided to do without porterhouse steak, but have set aside \$1.05 for the week's supply of meat at 15 cents per pound." When the attention of the Chicago Record-Herald was directed to this interesting experiment, that great republican paper made another approach to the treason line when it uttered this wholesome truth: "As an effort to make 'both ends meet' on a small income, with love in a cottage to mollify the asperities of self-denial, this experiment will invoke the usual popular solicitude and sympathy. But to the hard-headed people who have more sense than sentiment it will serve as an occasion for lamenting the conditions that should make such economy necessary and for condemning the notion that there is virtue in poor living. Living on five dollars a week is a bare excuse for living."

The Battle is On.

Are you opposed to allowing the men who deserted the party in 1896 and 1900 to secure control of the party organization? Are you opposed to deserting democratic principles for the mere purpose of securing the spoils of office? Are you opposed to making the democratic party so nearly like the republican party that the trusts, combines and subsidy grafters will not care the toss of a penny which administers the affairs of state?

If you are opposed to these things it is your duty as good democrats and good citizens—the terms are synonymous—to oppose the plans of the deserters who are seeking to again secure control of the democratic party.

Are you in favor of standing by democratic principles? Are you in favor of keeping the democratic party in its position as a foe to special interests? Do you believe in preserving the old democratic principle of "equal rights to all, special privileges to none?" Do you favor keeping the democratic party democratic?

If you favor these things it is your duty to exert your influence in this direction.

How can you do it? By assisting in the distribution of democratic literature and arousing democratic sentiment; by pointing out to your neighbors the danger that confronts the party organization in the shape of reorganizers who seek to secure control in order to advance special interests. That such a danger confronts the party is evident to all who have noted the activity of men who call themselves democrats, but who never lose an opportunity to advance the interests of the corporations.

The Commoner is a democratic paper. It preaches democratic doctrine without ceasing. It exposes the schemes of the reorganizers and stands firmly by democratic principles.

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