

working them off on the public." Well, the trusts need not fear much harm from a president who does not object to private monopolies, does not object to their methods or to the destruction of individual enterprises, but only objects to the frauds practiced on stockholders by promoters.

It would seem that the president has either been scared out or that he never had much intention of interfering with the trusts.

Letter to the Tilden Club.

In a former issue of The Commoner notice was given of the finding and answering of the invitation sent by the Tilden club. It was also stated that the answer would be published in The Commoner if given to the public by the club. As the letter has been published in the eastern papers it is reproduced below. As the invitation did not disclose the name of the officials, the acknowledgement was addressed to "The Secretary of the Tilden Club."

Lincoln, Neb., July 8, 1902.—Secretary Tilden Club, 2130 Broadway, New York City.—Dear Sir: Through the oversight of a clerk in my office I did not see the invitation sent by your club, and did not know until last Wednesday that one had been received. On that day I received a telegram from my secretary addressed to me at Aberdeen, S. D., saying that such a communication had been found. I regret exceedingly that it did not come to my attention before the dinner for, while I would not have thought proper to accept, I would have acknowledged your courtesies and given my reasons for declining. When Mr. Cleveland left the democratic party in 1896 I recognized his right to do so and did not criticize his decision, although, as the party candidate, I was compelled to bear the odium which his administration had brought upon the party. He has never yet indicated an intention to return to the democratic party and his business interests are such as to make his return impossible. Until he does manifest some respect for democratic principles I do not understand why he should be an honored guest at a political dinner given by a democratic club. Having thrown his influence to the republican party in two national campaigns he is hardly in a position to advise the party which he abandoned or, as he expressed it, which banished him. I am anxious to see the party grow in numbers and in strength, but it is absurd to expect that harmony can result from an attempt to turn the majority of the party over to the tender mercies of those who find the society of republicans more congenial than the society of those who believe in the platforms adopted in 1896 and in 1900. Harmony is only possible between those who desire the triumph of the same principles and policies, and it is quite evident from the past and present attitude of Mr. Cleveland and his supporters that they are nearer to the republican party than to the democratic party. Very truly yours, W. J. BRYAN.

Striking Figures.

The Kansas City Journal, republican, in an editorial entitled "The Profits of Annexation," says that "the grand total paid for all of our added landed dominions, except the sums recently paid to Spain, was \$52,200,000, an amount which is exceeded by the annual output of Kansas farms alone."

While the Journal is indulging in comparing figures, it might point out also that the increase in the appropriations made for the navy for the year 1903 over and above that made for the navy in 1897, the year immediately preceding the Spanish-American war, is represented by the sum of \$49,262,718. This increase is very nearly equal to the grand total paid for all of our added landed dominions prior to the Spanish war.

The Journal might also point out that the increase in the appropriations for the army for the year 1903 over and above similar appropriations made for 1897 is represented by a sum of \$68,277,528, a sum largely in excess of the grand total paid for all of our added landed dominions prior to the Spanish-American war.

In 1897 our total appropriations for the army

and navy amounted to \$52,668,853; for the year 1903 these appropriations will reach the enormous sum of \$170,208,821. This is an increase of \$117,540,246. This does not take into consideration the \$20,000,000 which we paid for the Philippines or other expenditures which our policy of imperialism will make necessary.

The Claim-all Argument.

A reader of The Commoner sends in a paragraph which appeared in one of the republican papers to the effect that when the republican party succeeded to the control of national affairs in 1897 "business was stagnant, credit impaired, currency disordered and industries prostrate." The editor then goes on to say that the republicans "put the national house in order, brought the country to the highest point of prosperity in the history of the world, besides carrying on three wars in two hemispheres." This is a sample of the claim-everything editorials that are now passing for arguments in republican papers. The republican party is carrying on the same financial policy that we had under Mr. Cleveland. That policy has scarcely been changed in any particular, and in no particular has it been improved. We have had a series of good crops since '96, whereas we had had a series of bad crops before '96. These have done much to improve conditions, and yet republican editors give their party credit for the improvement without mentioning the source. The increased production of gold has also helped to improve times. The republican party is not responsible for the increased production of gold, although republican editors boast of the conditions produced by the larger circulation. A considerable quantity of silver has been added to the circulation, but this was forced upon the administration by the democrats in congress. The increase in the issue of bank notes was only secured by giving to the bankers a valuable privilege denied to other classes of business, but the republicans do not say anything about this.

Democratic and republican soldiers served in the Cuban war. Democratic and republican representatives voted for the appropriations to carry on the Cuban war, and democratic and republican taxpayers paid the expenses, and yet the republican party claims the credit. The protection given to our citizens in China was not a republican protection, but a national protection, and the withdrawal of the flag when the necessity for protection was over was in line with democratic rather than republican precedent. The republican party is responsible for the war in the Philippines, and it is entirely welcome to all the credit it can get out of it. That is the only part of republican boasting that has any foundation. Pin a republican down and the tariff bill is the only one that he will point to as affirmative legislation to which he attributes prosperity, and every tariff reformer will dispute his claims and point to increasing exportations and to the extortion of the trusts as arguments against a high tariff. Even Mr. McKinley in his last speech, the speech at Buffalo, announced that we could no longer have a policy of seclusion, that we must enter the markets of the world, and of course a high tariff is a hindrance rather than an aid in entering foreign markets.

An Independent (?) Newspaper.

The following editorial in Leslie's Weekly of July 10 is a good illustration of the chaste and dignified style of, as well as evidence of the impartiality and independence shown by, Leslie's Weekly. It is one of the papers that is too virtuous to be connected with a party, and yet it is more vicious and virulent in its denunciation of everything democratic and more servile in its support of aristocracy and plutocracy than the most hide-bound republican paper. Nearly all of the so-called independent papers have the same leaning on political questions and cannot be relied upon to

support the people in a single necessary reform.

On the same page with the editorial below quoted, under the heading "Plain Truth," it indulges in effusive praise of railroad corporations and misrepresents the action of the democratic convention of Kansas. The following is the editorial referred to:

The Nebraska political disturber, whose everlasting assurance is only comparable with his magnificent pretensions, again rushes into print, by the help of the Associated press, and the bamboozled newspapers, to advertise himself and his weekly magazine by denouncing ex-President Cleveland, both as president and politician. The Nebraska populist-democrat, whom we do not propose to advertise further in these columns without charge, sees in the harmonizing efforts of President Cleveland, Senator Hill, and other distinguished democrats in the east and west, the omens of his own everlasting oblivion. The Nebraska spouter realizes that his only hope is in enriching himself through his nondescript magazine, as, since his double defeat for the presidency, he is no longer a drawing card on the lecture platform and no longer in demand as a magazine and newspaper writer at anything but ordinary space rates. If it be necessary to get down into the mire to make himself an object of interest, he is ready to wallow. No matter how dirty the pool, if it covers him, he will dip into it if he can attract an applauding crowd. Democratic harmony is the last thing in the world that he wants. As a breeder of disharmony he has achieved his only success in life. This creature of circumstances ought to be on the payroll of the republican managers. His antics bring more comfort to the latter than they can possibly give to sincere democrats of any name or nature.

Lots of Five.

For the purpose of placing The Commoner within reach of all, and by so doing inculcate democratic principles and arouse democratic enthusiasm, the publisher has adopted the unique "Lots of Five" plan. This plan affords pleasant and profitable occupation for those who desire to canvass for subscriptions. It also affords an opportunity for good work for the party by those who are interested enough to devote a few moments of their time to party work without other recompense than the knowledge that they have materially assisted in the spread of democratic principles.

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