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Government by Injunction.

The democratic party aroused the opposition of the corporations by declaring against government by injunction both at Chicago and at Kansas City. The leaders of the party saw the dangers that lurk in that extraordinary process when invoked by corporations against their employes. Some of the laboringmen recognized the fidelity of the democratic party to the rights of the people and supported our ticket, but many of them, blind to their interests, were misled by republican promises, while others yielded to the coercion practiced by employers. There is an old proverb which says that the wise man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself while the foolish pass on and are punished. This proverb in its condensed form reads: The wise man gets the idea into his head, the foolish man gets it in the neck. Judge Jackson of West Virginia is now diligently engaged in punishing those who a few years ago were too indifferent to consider their own best interests or to safeguard their own rights. He seems inclined to decree whatever the coal companies want, but in doing so he is more lawless than the men against whom he directs his stump speeches. A judge has no legal right to convert into a crime that which before his decree was lawful, and even if he had the power to legislate he would have no authority to suspend the constitutional right of the accused to a trial by jury. But Judge Jackson usurps the power (not the right) to make laws and to fix penalties, not according to the constitution, but according to his own warped and biased judgment. A lawless judge is a greater menace to free government than all the petty criminals who come before him in a lifetime. Impeachment proceedings have been suggested and it is to be hoped that the matter will be brought before congress that the people may see whether the republican party will stand by the people and their constitutional rights or by the corporations. The strike is a clumsy and inefficient remedy, hurtful to employe and to the public as well as to the employer, but until arbitration comes and makes the strike unnecessary it is the laborers' only means of defense and while it is employed the judge must be impartial and ready to protect the rights of both sides.

The Federal Anti-Trust Law.

In another column of this issue will be found a copy of the federal anti-trust law. This law is reproduced for the purpose of impressing upon the readers of The Commoner the fact that while the Roosevelt administration pretends to seriously undertake the enforcement of the federal law, the administration has ignored the chief remedy provided in this law and has adopted the remedy which was intended to be an incidental remedy.

It will be observed that the first section of this law provides for criminal prosecution of those who conspire in restraint of trade. The second section provides for criminal prosecution against those who monopolize or attempt to monopolize any part of trade or commerce. The third section provides for criminal prosecution for those who commit these unlawful acts in the territories.

The fourth section provides the injunction process as an incidental proceeding whereby fur-

ther violations may be prevented and restrained.

It must be generally agreed that the most effective weapon to be used against violators of the law is the criminal proceeding, but this weapon has been utterly ignored by the republican administration.

It will also be observed that this same law provides that any property owned or under contract by any combination or pursuant to any conspiracy and being in the course of transportation from one state to another or to a foreign country shall be forfeited to the United States, and may be seized and condemned. This is another important provision of the federal law which the administration has not undertaken to enforce.

Is it not significant that while the administration pretends to be serious in its "anti-trust campaign," it has avoided the first and chief features of the law which it pretends to be anxious to enforce and that the only provision of that law it has taken advantage of is that which was intended as a mere incidental provision?

In this connection it may be said that a Chicago special to the New York World under date of July 28 presents some significant facts. This special says that beef, bacon, and pork were 3 cents a pound higher on June 27 than at the time the federal injunction was issued against the packers' combine. The World makes this pertinent comment, "Unlike the injunction issued against the miners, this one against the packers has never been emphasized by a few sentences to jail."

La Follette's Work.

The Commoner is glad to give credit to the republicans when they do something creditable and therefore congratulates the republicans of Wisconsin upon having indorsed Governor La Follette's efforts to tax corporations and to make the method of selecting candidates more democratic. And yet Mr. La Follette is more likely to help the democratic party than the republican party by his attempts at reform, for he will educate republicans to see the viciousness of the policies for which the national republican party stands and in the end these enlightened republicans will have to leave the republican party if they would save the country from corporate domination.

LET HIM ANSWER.

Mr. Roosevelt is soon to start on one of the most ambitious stumping tours ever attempted by an occupant of the White house. He will endeavor to defend his administration against the criticism which has been directed against it and he should be aided by suggestions from his opponents. For instance, Mr. Roosevelt might answer the following questions:

"Why not apply the Declaration of Independence to the Filipinos?"

"Why not begin criminal action against the beef trust millionaires as well as against small criminals?"

"Are you in favor of the Fowler bill with its asset currency, its branch banks and its redeemable silver dollar?"

"Why not take the tariff off of trust-made articles?"

These questions present issues upon which he should enlighten the public.

A Bloodthirsty President.

President Roosevelt in his recent extemporaneous speech at West Point gave expression to a sentiment which suggests an inherent barbarism that will have to be taken into account in weighing his purposes and predicting his future course. His address on "Strenuous Life" delivered some three years ago showed that he gave to virtue the ancient rather than the modern definition and placed physical courage above mental greatness and moral worth. But when in his West Point speech he laid aside all restraint and in a fit of animal enthusiasm said, "A good soldier must not only be willing to fight; he must be anxious to fight. I do not want to have anything to do with him if he is not"—when he said this he turned a light upon his inner self and revealed a moral deformity which must shock such of his friends as are not wholly carried away with the bloody and brutal gospel of imperialism. If a "good soldier" must be "anxious to fight," then it naturally follows that an administration which desires to develop good soldiers should surround cadets with influences calculated to infuse into them a fighting spirit—an eagerness for blood-letting. If the president really means what he says we may expect that his second term—if he has one—will be made forever illustrious by the inauguration of a new regime at the military academy and in the army. The ten commandments and the Sermon on the Mount will be discarded and the yellow-back novel substituted for them—for "Thou shalt not kill" and "Blessed are the peace-makers" could have no proper place in a school designed to train men to be "anxious to fight."

The president entirely overlooks the distinction between the exercise of force in defense of a right and the use of force for the creation of a right. All the force employed by government, under the American theory of government, is employed in the defense of rights previously ascertained. A small army is necessary to enable the government to protect the inalienable rights of its citizens and the academy at West Point is the training school for officers. It teaches those things which are considered necessary in war, namely, care of the men in camp and on the march, and tactics. These cadets are not selected because they are by nature ferocious, they are not kept chained like savage dogs and let loose occasionally to gratify their passion for mischief; they are, on the contrary, men who are educated as a precautionary measure and kept in readiness for a possible contingency. It is no reflection upon the courage, the efficiency or the patriotism of an officer in the regular army to say that he hopes that the army will never be called upon to kill or even wound a single human being, any more than it would be a reflection on a fireman to say that he hopes that there will be no conflagration in his city.

It is unfortunate for the country that the president should have held before its embryo soldiers the lowest rather than the highest ideals of military life. There have been many great soldiers during the last nineteen hundred years—great Christian soldiers—who have loved peace, and yet who have in an hour of peril won glory for their country and themselves. These should be