

velt's attorney general has instituted civil proceedings and in the bill by which these proceedings were commenced the attorney general referred to the defendants as "conspirators," and referred to their offense as a "conspiracy."

But no effort has been made by this attorney general to proceed against these conspirators under the criminal clause in the federal anti-trust law. If there were no good grounds for believing that these men had engaged in this conspiracy, then the attorney general was not justified in beginning the civil proceedings. If he had good ground for charging in a civil bill that these men had entered into a conspiracy then it is his duty to institute criminal proceedings also.

To insist that criminal proceedings should be commenced is neither "hysterical" nor "demagogic clamor," because Mr. Roosevelt himself, in his Fourth of July speech, declares that "above and beyond all legislation we need honest and fearless administration of the laws as they are on the statute books."

In this same speech Mr. Roosevelt said: "Words are good if they are backed up by deeds, and only so." Of what value, then, is Mr. Roosevelt's statement that "above and beyond all legislation we need honest and fearless administration of the laws as they are on the statute books," in the presence of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has not directed his attorney general to institute criminal proceedings against the men who have conspired in restraint of trade?

The criminal indictment is the most effective weapon so far as concerns court proceedings; and there can be no "honest and fearless administration of the laws as they are on the statute books" so far as trusts are concerned, when the attorney general contents himself with clumsy injunction proceedings and fails to adopt the more effective and more speedy plan of criminal prosecution.

If "words are good if they are backed up by deeds, and only so," then the words employed by Mr. Roosevelt at Pittsburg are not good because they are not "backed up by deeds."

Republican Tendencies.

If any one has any doubt concerning the tendency of the republican party with relation to trusts, the doubt may be removed by reference to a dispatch from Washington under date of April 14, and printed in the Chicago Record-Herald, republican.

Walter Wellman, the Record-Herald's well-known Washington correspondent, sent to his paper this dispatch:

One of the most prominent administration republicans in the country today defined the issues of the coming battle as he saw them developing in congress. He said: "Trusts and imperialism are the two issues for which republican and democratic 'knights of the stump' will be plumed during the remaining weeks of the present session of congress. On the trust question the republicans are going to repeat their record for boldness. They first went in swaddling clothes as to the gold standard, gradually grew to full stature on that issue and announced themselves boldly for it in plain language. They are now preparing to do the same as to the trusts. We shall take the aggressive. Trusts are the legitimate development of our tremendous energy. We could not get along without them and our language in saying this will be as plain as it is emphatic.

This is a very candid statement, indeed. The republican party in 1896 advocated bimetalism through international agreement, and then in 1900 came out boldly for the single gold standard, or, as this republican newspaper puts it, "it gradually grew to full stature on that issue."

It is interesting to be told that "they are now preparing to do the same as to trusts."

The correctness of this prophecy cannot be doubted. In 1896 the republican party in its national platform boldly denounced trusts; in 1900 the platform was silent on that question. When

Mr. Roosevelt was vice president, he referred to trust magnates as representatives of "cunning;" since he became president, he refers to them as "captains of industry." The trend of republican organs and republican policies are all in the direction of seeking to impress upon the people that the trusts have "come to stay," that "we could not get along without them;" and the success of the republican party in deceiving the people in the past has been so pronounced that it will not be at all surprising if republican leaders even go so far as to boldly stand sponsor for the trust system in their party platform as they do in the official conduct of their representatives.

The Foreigners' Advantage.

A subscriber, having noted the claim that American trust-made goods are sold to foreign consumers at a less price than charged the home consumer, asks The Commoner to give the domestic and foreign prices of a number of articles. The information sought by this subscriber may be found in a speech delivered in the house by Mr. Candler, jr., of Mississippi on May 29, 1902. Mr. Candler said:

As the representatives of the American people the trusts deserve and should receive no consideration at our hands. They grant the people no quarter, and they should be granted none by the people's representatives. They are selling their goods cheaper to foreigners than to home folks. They are therefore more considerate of and kinder to foreigners than to Americans. To prove the truth of this assertion I give the prices—domestic and foreign—of a few articles in daily use by almost every farmer, as follows:

Articles—	Domestic price.	Foreign price.
Cultivators	\$11.00	\$ 8.40
Plows	14.00	12.60
Axes, per dozen.....	8.25	7.20
Kettles	1.40	.85
Wire nails, per 100 lbs....	2.25	1.35
Table knives, per gross...	15.00	12.00
Horseshoe nails, per pound	.17	.14
Barbed wire, per 100 lbs..	3.00	2.00
Rivets, per 100 lbs.....	10.00	5.55

This list might be extended to a great length, but the examples here given suffice to show the truth of the charge that the trusts, bulwarked behind the protective tariff walls, use that vantage ground to extort high prices from the American consumer.

To Ruin and to Steal.

The New York Tribune is a republican paper. So thoroughly stalwart is the Tribune that its editor was chosen to represent the republican administration at the coronation ceremonies of the king of England.

The republican congress had evidently concluded to do nothing in the way of reciprocity for Cuba, and the Tribune in its issue of June 24 had an interesting editorial in which it charged that the republicans are "acting presumably at the behest of and certainly in the interest of the allied sugar trusts and the beet sugar ring." On this point the Tribune said:

These selfish allies oppose the granting of such concessions not because it would injure their business and lessen their immediate profits—for they admit and boast that it would not do so. No; their opposition is inspired by a greedy desire for enormous future gains, to be had through a veritable rape of the island of Cuba. They propose, these sugar monopolists do, to withhold concessions from Cuba until the island is ruined—until plantations and refineries are abandoned and their owners bankrupt. Then they will purchase all such properties at the merest fraction of their real value. Finally, they will in one way or another drag Cuba into the union as a state; for they expect that the ruined Cubans will either be glad to accept annexation as their only hope for industrial salvation or will revolt again, as they did against Spanish commercial oppression, and thus compel the United States to go in forcibly and take control of the island. That is the scheme of the allied sugar

trusts, first to ruin Cuba and then to steal the island.

This is a most interesting statement coming from an eminent republican authority.

If it is "the scheme of the allied sugar trusts first to ruin Cuba and then to steal the island," is that not the scheme of the republican party as represented by the attitude of the republican congress?

Are You Interested?

The interest which the readers of The Commoner are taking in extending its circulation is very gratifying to the publisher. Our "Lots of Five" plan enables those who appreciate the work that The Commoner is doing to supply the paper to their neighbors and friends at 60 cents per year. The efforts of the monopoly element of the democratic party (commonly known as reorganizers) to secure control of the democratic organization for the purpose of preventing the masses of the people from getting relief from excessive taxation, exorbitant trust prices, the banking monopoly and imperialism, can be thwarted if the true friends of democracy can be aroused to the danger confronting the democratic organization. The appeal for harmony coming from those who betrayed the party in '96 and attempted to betray the people at the Kansas City convention by trying to adopt a platform that would not be binding upon those who were elected upon it, will deceive no one if the people are kept advised as to their plans.

The coming twelve months will witness another struggle for the control of the democratic organization, with the masses of the party who ask no special privilege on the one side and those who not only want to preserve the class legislation which is now on the statutes, but are insisting on more special privileges, on the other side. The Commoner will use all the power at its command to prevent any backward step being taken by the democratic party, and calls upon its readers to use their influence to give the paper a wider circulation, and thus increase its power to accomplish the work for which it is striving. Our appeal is already meeting with a hearty response. Those who have assumed the responsibility of getting five of their acquaintances to subscribe for The Commoner number more than three thousand, and more than eighteen thousand subscription cards have been ordered since our campaign offer, known as our "Lots of Five" plan, was inaugurated. If you want the democratic party to remain true to its traditions, and believe The Commoner, if more widely circulated in your vicinity will help to accomplish the desired result, write your name and address in the coupon below, mail it to The Commoner, and five subscription cards will be sent to you. Each card is good for one year's subscription to The Commoner when properly filled out and returned to this office. You may remit for the cards at the rate of 60 cents each, after you secure the subscribers. Give your friends an opportunity to get The Commoner at 60 cents a year, and thus add their influence to your own in the work in which all true democrats are interested.

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