

It is announced that the sewing machine trust with a capital of thirty million dollars is in process of formation. A sewing machine man in an interview in the Chicago Tribune declared: "The combination is made necessary because of the fierce competition in the sewing machine business." And yet we have been told that the purpose of the trust is to reduce prices and provide the people with necessities and conveniences at less cost than they would pay to independent concerns competing with one another.

**To Avoid Competition.**

It will be remembered that about three months ago Speaker Henderson gave out an interview in which he declared "that the republicans were never more united than now." According to the statement made by Mr. Henderson on the occasion of his withdrawal from the congressional race one is led to believe that the speaker was sadly mistaken when he gave out his interview several months ago, or the whole trouble within the republican ranks has been very industriously brewed during the last ninety days.

**Facts That Cannot be Ignored.**

Eugene N. Foss is the republican candidate for congress from the Eleventh Massachusetts district. In a recent speech he asked: "Does any one mean to say that the steel trust needs the same degree of protection as when the iron and steel business of the country was an infant industry?" And the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, replies: "Manifestly the purpose now, when this concern is underbidding foreign competitors everywhere, is not to protect, but to mulct the people." In the language of the Record-Herald itself, "such glaring facts cannot be ignored."

**Was it the "Wrong Thing?"**

The Chicago Tribune says that "a fool is a person who, however capable in other respects—and some fools are exceedingly capable indeed—still has this misfortune that he gets the wrong thing in the wrong place at the wrong time." The Tribune thinks this description fits Rev. Mr. Washburn, the Oyster Bay clergyman who preached a sermon complimentary to the president while the president was in the congregation. Would the Tribune have us believe that the good things Mr. Washburn said of Mr. Roosevelt comprised the "wrong thing" if they were not given in "the wrong place at the wrong time?"

**Result of the Coal Strike.**

It is estimated that at the beginning of the nineteenth week of the coal strike, the losses, direct and indirect, amount to \$112,420,000. It is estimated that of this sum the operators lost \$42,200,000, which the public must make good ultimately; the strikers lost in wages \$24,000,000; the railroads lost in earnings \$10,000,000, and the business men outside of the coal region lost \$8,200,000. The Chicago Record-Herald, while commenting on these figures, says: "If the coal operators are possessed of a remnant of common sense they will not prolong the agony. Of all the people in the country they should be the first to favor a peaceful policy. They have had the most to gain by conciliation, arbitration and compromise. Every week has added to the impressiveness of the lesson that they are teaching against themselves. They have made more socialists than all the books that were ever written on socialism, and this is only the beginning."

**Overleaping the Rock in the Path.**

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, one of the most conspicuous republican newspapers in the country, declares that "it is not a theory, but a condition which now confronts the republican party." The Ledger explains: "On the eve of a congressional election, and the presidential contest only two years ahead, the organization stands at the parting of the ways. It must determine whether it will continue to safeguard the predatory trusts, which prey upon the people by killing competition in trade, through maintaining the excessive duties of the Dingley act, or whether it will recognize the ever increasing popular demand for such revision of those duties as will conduce to the popular welfare. The proposition of the Iowa platform must be met in one way or another. It is a rock in the path which no sophistic jugglery can

push aside or overleap." According to the announcement made by the recognized national leaders of the party, the organization has already determined that it will continue to "safeguard the predatory trusts, which prey upon the people by killing competition in trade through maintaining the excessive duties of the Dingley act." It has already decided that it will not recognize the ever increasing popular demand for such revision of those duties as will conduce to the popular welfare. It has already decided to depend upon "sophistic jugglery" in an effort to push aside, or overleap, the rock in the path.

**Are Entirely Disinterested.**

In his plea in behalf of the coal barons, Abram S. Hewitt declares: "The men who are today administering these concerns, the coal companies, are executing the duties of their office not for their personal ends, but in the interest of a very large public." Mr. Hewitt explains what he means by a very large public when he says: "It is a mistake to suppose that the mines are in the hands of seven or eight individuals who alone reap the rewards of victory or suffer the disadvantages of defeat in this crisis. The mines belong to many thousands of stockholders and bondholders." It is doubtless true that in these corporations, as in other corporations, there are a large number of people owning shares of stock, and perhaps some owning bonds; but it must be true in these corporations as in other corporations that a coterie of influential men really hold the controlling interest and reap the profits.

**Asset Currency in Any Event.**

For some time it has been understood that Former Comptroller of the Currency Charles A. Dawes was opposed to the asset currency plan in the Fowler bill. In an address delivered in Chicago recently Mr. Dawes reiterated the statement that he did not indorse the asset currency plan proposed in the Fowler bill. He said, however: "My belief is that an asset currency something like the clearing house certificates adopted by the New York banks would meet the emergency satisfactorily." A great many people were surprised that Mr. Dawes should take issue with the financiers, but it may be seen that, after all, the difference is not great. The financiers are in favor of an asset currency and Mr. Dawes is in favor of an asset currency; and it may be depended upon that, however much some of them may differ as to details, they will be willing to harmonize in the interest of "national honor" and upon—an asset currency.

**Republicans and the Tariff.**

Congressman Foss, a republican member from Massachusetts, says: "I find that there is a growing sentiment among the people for tariff revision, or perhaps, more properly speaking, tariff adjustment, that is, adjustment to the new conditions. Some of the schedules undoubtedly need revision by the friends of the tariff and not by its enemies." Unlike Secretary Shaw and all the other party leaders, Mr. Foss is willing to set a time when the remedy should be provided. He says he thinks that the republican party will win in the coming elections and he adds: "It ought then to make such modifications and changes as are advisable." But the Chicago Record-Herald, commenting upon Mr. Foss' interview, gives the republican leader a valuable hint when it says: "The probability of the republican party winning in the coming congressional election very largely depends on what its candidates promise in the matter of a readjustment of the tariff, and how far the voters place faith in the keeping of such promises by a genuine attempt to readjust the tariff of 1897 to the conditions of 1902."

**A Republican Characteristic.**

The Washington correspondent of the Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper, recently provided the republicans with an interesting suggestion as to the method to be employed in avoiding inconsistent statements in the republican campaign book. Referring to the presentation in that book of statistics intended to show that republican policies are good for all classes of people, this republican correspondent said: "These two sets of statistics will have to be used with care and skill by the republican orator who wishes to show that while the wages of labor have increased there has been no decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar. The safer way for the spell-binder will probably be to use one set of statistics while talking to farmers, and the other set when speaking to laboring men." Speaker

Henderson might have adopted a similar plan and thus remained in the field. He might have used Mr. Roosevelt's speeches while talking to the ultra-protectionists and he might have used the tariff-trust plank in the Iowa platform while talking to tariff revisionists.

**It Creates Conditions.**

President Roosevelt said that "all the government can do is to create conditions under which prosperity can come. If the individual citizen lacks in thrift, the energy, the power, and the mind to work, no laws will make him prosperous," and the New York World, referring to this statement, points out that "our paternal government, for example, so 'creates conditions' for the steel trust through the Dingley tariff that it has charged and got \$11 a ton more for rails in this market than in England, and other steel products in proportion. By the same law the beef combine is put in a position where it need fear no outside competition and can charge monopoly prices at home while selling lower to London in competition with meat from South America and Canada."

**"Lots of Five."**

The state conventions of 1902 have all been held. The reorganizers have won notable victories in several states. This is due to several reasons—they have made specious pleas for harmony, they have been vigilant and wide awake, and they have taken advantage of the lethargy of democrats who stand firmly upon the Kansas City platform. Had Kansas City platform democrats been as vigilant as the reorganizers the latter would have scored fewer victories and the democracy would today be stronger and in better fighting trim.

The Commoner seeks to arouse democrats to the danger confronting the party. It seeks to arouse the rank and file to the danger of allowing men who would republicanize the democratic party to obtain control of the party. Where democrats have realized this danger the plans of the reorganizers have been thwarted. There will be other campaigns and other democratic state conventions called to frame democratic platforms. Let loyal democrats begin now to prepare for the battle. The Commoner will endeavor at all times to disclose the plans and purposes of the men who call themselves democrats, but who insist on making their democracy so nearly like republicanism that the trusts and money kings would as soon have one as the other. The publisher asks your cooperation in this work. The Commoner's influence is limited only by the extent of its circulation, and increasing the circulation will increase its influence. Will you help increase them? If you will, The Commoner offers you a simple and easy plan by which you may do so. It is called the "Lots of Five" plan. A lot of five subscription cards, each good for one year's subscription when properly filled out and sent to this office, is sold for \$3. This is at the rate of 60 cents a year for each subscription. Will you undertake to place five or more of these cards among your friends and neighbors? If you will, fill out the coupon printed below and mail to this office. The subscription cards will be immediately forwarded to you. You may remit when you order the cards, or you may remit when you return the subscription cards bearing the subscribers' names.

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The Kansas City Star says: "The statement attributed to Mr. Bryan in his Toledo speech, that if he had been elected president he would have 'put stripes on the millionaires,' is sure to start the democratic denial department to working more than eight hours a day." The Star is mistaken, as usual. Democrats have long since learned the futility of trying to keep tab on the silly falsehoods so industriously coined by out-and-out republican papers and in-and-in republican papers like the Kansas City Star.