

A republican paper says that the sign "Help Wanted" is conspicuous all over the country today and is one of the evidence of republican prosperity. This republican paper has forgotten that in many instances the help is wanted to take the places of workingmen who are striking in the hope of obtaining sufficient wages with which to support their families in these days of republican trust prices.

Help Wanted to be Sure.

The New York republican convention, dominated by Senator Platt, who was reported to be very antagonistic to President Roosevelt on account of the president's attitude toward trusts, declared in favor of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination in 1904, and pledged the earnest efforts of the republican party of New York to bring about that end. Has Platt become convinced that trusts are not good for the country? Or have those who have placed their confidence in Mr. Roosevelt's "campaign against trusts" been deceived?

Has Platt Changed?

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, a republican paper, referring to a recent article in The Commoner, says: "Mr. Bryan virtually says, 'Let the tariff alone.'" Mr. Bryan has said nothing of the kind. Mr. Bryan said that the free list as a remedy for trusts must not be put forward as a complete remedy for the evil. The Kansas City platform declared in favor of removing the tariff from trust products. Mr. Bryan has repeatedly urged that plan as a partial remedy. Years ago he introduced in congress a bill to that effect; and every issue of The Commoner and nearly every speech which Mr. Bryan has delivered will show that he has not said nor intended to say, "Let the tariff alone." The free list is a partial remedy. It is by no means a complete one, but every practical remedy must be applied in dealing with this great evil.

Apply all Practical Remedies.

The New York World complains because the gold loan rate recently rose to 20 per cent. The World says: "It is irritating in a time of general prosperity to have business hampered by lack of money, which is in the larger sense merely a tool of trade. The 'surplus' looks well on paper, but the nation would be better off just now if it were out of the treasury." And yet the World has been the most persistent advocate of the monetary system that persuades money to go into hiding. The World has had much to say of the "body of death" and by this term it has had reference to bimetalism; but it will yet discover that the "body of death" is the single gold standard and just so long as the American people reject bimetalism, and adhere, even in a partial way, to the single gold standard they will be tied to this "body of death" and will be subject to all the inconveniences flowing from it.

The "Body" of Death.

The Philadelphia Ledger, a republican paper, says: "There was no more important measure before congress than currency reform in the last session; and the Fowler bill should have been pushed, discussed and shaped so that the currency question could have been brought before the country. The time to reform the currency is during prosperity, and we trust the work will not be postponed until it is forced on congress by bad conditions. Then, perhaps, sound financiers will not have the power to pass sound legislation." Well, the Fowler bill has been reported unanimously by the republican majority of the house committee. Those who are opposed to that measure have insisted upon bringing it before the country, but republican candidates for congress dodge the issue. It is not too late yet for republican candidates to defend the republican Fowler bill. Their opponents will cheerfully welcome a discussion on that measure.

The Fowler Bill an Issue.

A reader of The Commoner suggests a graduated license tax on gross receipts from interstate commerce as a means of regulating the trusts, and sends a clipping from an editorial (paper unmentioned) outlining such a tax. Aside from the objection that is always made to the use of the taxing power to discriminate between industries, it is sufficient to say that the effort should not be to control a private monopoly, but to destroy it. A private monopoly, according to the Kansas City platform, is indefensible and intolerable, and there ought

But One Remedy For Monopoly.

to be no hesitation in applying a remedy which will absolutely kill every private monopoly in the United States. A monopoly can charge practically what it pleases. If a tax of 2 per cent was put on its earnings it would raise the price and make the consumers pay it, and if the tax was put at 10 per cent it would raise the prices again. What we need is a remedy that will make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist in the United States, and the Kansas City platform suggests such a remedy.

A Candid Confession.

(Continued from Page 2.)

to observe that the chief objection which this republican paper presents to Mr. Bryan's proposed remedies is that "Bryan certainly must know that the senate as at present constituted will enact no law that would curtail the privileges or conflict with the interests of the coal barons and giant corporations commonly called trusts;" and it is also interesting to observe that this republican paper says, "an extra session of congress would, therefore, simply be a waste of money and energy."

And why "a waste of money and energy?" And why would "the senate as at present constituted enact no law that would curtail the privileges or conflict with the interests of the coal barons and giant corporations commonly called trusts?"

The plain and simple answer, readily at hand, is that the senate as at present constituted is a republican senate, representing a party that derives its campaign funds from the coal barons and giant corporations commonly called trusts.

An extra session of congress would, he says, simply be a waste of money and energy because the republican party is the beneficiary of the trusts and its representatives would not dare to do anything in contravention to the policies of these great and enormous aggregations of capital.

A very candid confession, indeed, coming from one of the representative republicans of the west; and yet what intelligent man will say that such a statement is a sufficient reply to the remedy which Mr. Bryan has suggested for trust impositions?

The Party Has Come Back.

The Sioux City Journal, a republican paper, prints an interesting interview with J. J. Richardson of Davenport, Ia. Mr. Richardson is a "Cleveland democrat" and in 1896 and in 1900 he was such a thorough "Cleveland democrat" that he could not conscientiously give his support to the democratic national ticket.

Mr. Richardson rushes into print, through the medium of the Sioux City Journal, republican, to say: "You may say that I am well pleased with the platform adopted at the Iowa democratic state convention. It coincides with my position. The party has come back and I am well pleased with the present conditions."

"The party has come back," indeed. Mr. Richardson and his colleagues told us that they favored the single gold standard because it represented "honest principles." They could not give their support to the democratic national platform of 1896 or the democratic platform of 1900 because it represented bimetalism; and yet what does the Iowa democratic platform for 1902 say? Does it indorse the single gold standard? By no means. So far as any definite statement on political principles is concerned, that platform is a delusion and a snare. And yet Mr. Richardson who could not give his support to the democratic national platform of 1896 and of 1900 indorses the Iowa democratic platform of 1902 and says: "You may say I am well pleased with the platform," and he adds, "The party has come back and I am well pleased with the present conditions."

How does it happen that a man who has always insisted that political conventions should deal honestly with the people is "well pleased" with a platform that says nothing on a question which he has insisted is a very important question?

How does it happen that Mr. Richardson says, "The party has come back," when at the same time democratic orators in Iowa are telling the voters of that state that the democratic platform does not mean "Clevelandism" and that the democratic party of Iowa, as it is organized today, is not the party of the Cleverlands, of the Carllysies, and of the "Jerry" Richardsons?

The Criminal Clause.

The New York Journal is entitled to credit for formally bringing to the attention of Attorney General Knox the criminal clause of the federal anti-trust law and insisting upon the enforcement

of that law against the coal barons. The Journal has directed Attorney General Knox's attention to the fact that the very first section of the federal anti-trust law provides for criminal prosecution of those who engage in combinations in the form of trusts or conspiracy in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states or with foreign nations.

The Journal suggests to Attorney General Knox that criminal prosecutions of these well-fed violators of the law will be advantageous to public interests. By way of proof in support of the demand for the immediate criminal prosecution of these people the Journal calls attention to the finding of the congressional committee of the interstate and foreign commission made in 1882 and quoted with approval in the report of the industrial commission in 1902, as follows:

The committee, after a careful investigation, has come to the conclusion that the railroad companies engaged in mining and transporting coal are practically in a combination to control the output and fix the price which the public pays for this important and necessary article of consumption. There is substantially no competition existing between these companies. The only limitation to their demands is the indisposition on the part of the public to buy their product at an exorbitant price.

The editor of the Journal announces to the attorney general that an active concert and combination controls the country's anthracite coal supply. He declares that he can show that the main conspiracy is centered in the Temple Iron company and that the men whose acts should thus be subjected to an investigation by the grand jury are George F. Baer, Eben T. Thomas, E. D. Underwood, William H. Truesdale, Alfred Walter, R. M. Olyphant, Thomas P. Fowler, and Irving A. Stearns.

Upon receipt of the Journal's statement, Attorney General Knox referred the same to the district attorney for New York. There has been a very general curiosity to know why the administration has not sought to enforce the criminal clause of the federal anti-trust law. No representative of the administration has attempted to explain the administration's failure in this respect, and the formal notice which the New York Journal has served upon the attorney general will attract widespread attention. It is to be hoped, also, that Attorney General Knox may yet be persuaded to seriously undertake the enforcement of this very important and in fact chief feature of the federal anti-trust law.

"Lots of Five."

The Commoner's "Lots of Five" subscription plan appeals directly to those democrats who oppose the republicanization of the democratic party. Five cards, each card good for one year's subscription to The Commoner when properly filled out and mailed to this office, are sold for \$3.00. This is at the rate of 60 cents per year for each subscription. At this low subscription rate you should have no difficulty in disposing of one or more "Lots of Five" among your neighbors. The increased circulation of The Commoner means an increased interest in the work of preventing the party from falling into the hands of those who would make democracy so near like republicanism that the trusts and syndicates would have no choice between them. The Commoner asks the support of all loyal democrats in its fight for the supremacy of democratic principles. If you will undertake to dispose of one or more "Lots of Five" fill out the coupon printed below and mail to this office. If you so desire you may remit after the cards are sold. You take no financial risk in assuming the sale of one or more "Lots of Five."

APPLICATION FOR
"Lots of Five Subscription Cards."

PUBLISHER COMMONER: Please send me five subscription cards. I promise to use my utmost endeavor to sell these cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each when sold.

Name

Postoffice

County

State