

The Commoner.

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USE OF MONEY IN POLITICS

The growing use of money in politics is an evil which demands immediate and serious consideration. No one acquainted with the facts can believe that the large campaign funds expended everywhere by the republicans and in some sections by the democratic reorganizers are either necessary or legitimate. In one voting precinct of Nebraska the republicans boasted that they spent more than one hundred dollars. As there are only a few more than one hundred voters in the precinct referred to it would mean a campaign fund of about \$200,000 for Nebraska alone if the same effort was made in all the precincts. A Connecticut paper, speaking of the democratic campaign, says that the twenty-four state committeemen should be required to raise one thousand dollars each. "If any committeeman cannot produce this sum," says the paper, "let him step down and make room for another who can do it," and it adds: "With the sum of \$24,000 assured beyond question there should be no difficulty in securing enough more to enable all the legitimate expenses of the campaign to be met without a heavy assessment on the candidates." Twenty-four thousand is only a beginning in Connecticut!

There are certain proper and legitimate expenses which cannot be avoided, but it is a notorious fact that large sums are used for purposes which cannot be defended. Men are hired to "work" when it is known that the money is intended for their votes; some are hired to stay at home, while still others are bought outright.

As a rule, the large campaign funds are collected from corporations that have favors to ask at the hands of the government and the money is subscribed in return for assurances that make it impossible for the party receiving the same to do its duty to the people. In the sugar trust investigation a few years ago Mr. Havemeyer testified that the trust gave to the democratic party in New York and to the republican party in Massachusetts. When asked about New Jersey, he said that that state was doubtful and that he would have to look at the books before he could say to which side the trust contributed.

The use of large funds gives a great advantage to the party which the corporations support. For instance, in Nebraska the republicans offered this year to furnish transportation to any college boy or other person away from home who would return home and vote the republican ticket. In a close legislative or congressional contest the voters thus returned at the committee's expense might turn the scale, not to speak of the effect of this offer on the mind of a person away from home and anxious to visit his family.

In the heat of a campaign a strong partisan might rejoice in the fact that his party had the largest campaign fund, but no lover of his country can, on reflection, doubt the corrupting influence of immense campaign funds drawn from insolent and arrogant monopolies.

In 1892 the Cleveland committee had a very large fund; in 1896 the republican committee had a still larger fund. In 1900 the republican national committee was so well supplied with funds that one trust magnate was surprised to receive

after the election a considerable sum as a rebate on his contribution.

Instead of trying to imitate the republicans in the matter of expenditure the democrats should appeal to the conscience of fair-minded and well-meaning republicans and win them over to clean and honest political methods.

THANKSGIVING.

*Thanksgiving Day! Your voices raise
To God on high in hymns of praise.
The fruitful yield
Of vine and field
Has brightened all our earthly ways.
Give thanks to God who rules on high
For welcome rain and sunny sky.
For peace and love
Praise God above,
And all His mercies glorify!
Thanksgiving Day! Praise God and sing
Till every vale and hill shall ring.
Thanksgiving Day! From work apart
Let mankind come. From field and mart
Let anthems rise
To pierce the skies
To prove the thanks within each heart.
Give thanks to God for mercies shown,
And kneel today before His throne.
For peace and joy
Without alloy
The loving Father's kingship own.
Thanksgiving Day! Let ev'ry voice
Show how our grateful hearts rejoice.
Thanksgiving Day! Forget not those
Who know naught save life's bitter woes.
Be not delayed—
Give them the aid
That brother unto brother owes.
Lift up the brother bowed by care,
Divide your blessings everywhere;
The highways scan
For fallen man
Who needs the help that you may share.
Thanksgiving Day! Give from your store
To aid the hungry, sick and poor.
Thanksgiving Day! From distance wide
Let loved ones come to sit beside
The festal board
Whose joys afford
Long hours of love whate'er betide.
Give thanks to God for earthly ties;
For love that beams in shining eyes.
Sing songs of praise
Until your lays
Are echoed back from vaulted skies.
Then at God's throne kneel down and pay
Your homage this Thanksgiving Day!*
— Will M. Maupin.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

The eastern papers—especially those which helped to elect a republican president—are just now much concerned about a leader for the democratic party. They are searching high and low for a Moses to conduct the party into the promised land. They with one accord declare that the elections have killed the money question again and that no one can be considered a leader who stands upon the Kansas City platform; they are also agreed that Tom Johnson is out of the question because his state went republican. If some state controlled by the reorganizers had only gone democratic they would have smooth sailing, but they cannot find any one who can promise success—and with them success is the only thing to be considered. The trouble is that the metropolitan papers have been corrupted by the commercial spirit which dominates the republican party and which dominated the democratic party under Mr. Cleveland's administration. Instead of regarding politics as the science of government they look upon it as a game in which offices are awarded as prizes to the most skilful players. Instead of discussing as leaders those who study public questions and seek to discover the best solution of each new problem, they measure men by their shrewdness in political management or by their success in a state campaign, overlooking the fact that circumstances over which the leader has no control may determine the result.

The democratic party does not need leaders so much as it needs voters. The masses do not need any one to think for them; they think for themselves and they will have no difficulty in selecting fit persons to act for them when the time for action arrives. They do not need the services of a self-appointed committee on nominations and they will not award the position of standard-bearer to the highest bidder. They are glad to hear all that can be said for and against each presidential possibility, but they are not apt to be influenced by advisors who think more of a candidate's availability during a campaign than they do of his reliability in office.

The democrats who know why they are democrats, will see to it, first, that the democratic party stands for democratic principles and applies them to every question before the people, and, second, that the candidates are sound on those principles and will stand by them both before and after the election.

The democratic party recognizes no boss and is seeking no leader in the sense in which the metropolitan papers use the term, but the party is at all times open to suggestions from those who believe in democratic doctrines and earnestly desire to see those doctrines crystalized into law. The party's commendation should be reserved for those who think best and act with an eye single to the people's good.

III

Was Tariff Reform Killed?

If there is any logic in the argument of the reorganizers the late election killed tariff reform as an issue. They were unanimous in the declaration that the money question was not an issue. Even imperialism was ignored by most of the

Beware of the Flood.

If any democratic speaker feels discouraged because he does not make many converts let him remember that Noah preached righteousness for an hundred years and did not make any converts at all, but at the end of that time a flood came and drowned those who refused to turn from their evil ways.