
HOW TO ORGANIZE

showed how well one is armed who has the right side of a question. He pointed out that it was to the interest of the people to have the government indebtedness paid off rather than the money loaned to the banks at a low rate of interest, while the government itself was paying a higher rate of interest. Instead of allowing republicans to collect large sums and then insist upon loaning the money out to get it back into circulation, he demanded that they either reduce the taxes and leave the money in the pockets of the people, or if they collected too much, apply the surplus on the reduction of the public debt. He very forcibly pointed out the interest the national banks have in preventing the reduction of the debt, because the bonds are the basis of the bank-note issue.

The second objection to the Aldrich bill is that the loaning of the money gives to the bankers a pecuniary interest in keeping the taxes high and surplus large. As long as they can collect money from the people and then get the money at a low rate of interest, their influence will be thrown upon the side of high taxes and large surplus.

The third objection is to be found in the fact that the administration, if allowed to loan out government money at a low rate, will be able to lay the foundation for an enormous campaign fund, and there is no doubt that this method has been employed in the past. It will be remembered that Secretary Gage was required to make public some correspondence which he had with some New York bankers, and it appeared that one of the bankers had pleaded his campaign contribution as a reason for favors.

The fourth objection to the bill is to be found in the fact that the government would become a partner in the stock jobbing transactions of Wall street. As the secretary of the treasury would have the right to select bonds that came within the provision of the statute, he could raise or lower the price of bonds to the enormous advantage of the speculators, and as Senator Blackburn pointed out, it would be possible for a railroad magnate engaged in the banking business, to secure loans from the treasury at a low rate of interest, while the ordinary citizen would have to borrow from the banks at prevailing rates.

A careful inspection of the Aldrich bill and a consideration of the arguments made for and against it, ought to convince any unprejudiced mind that the republican party is in the clutch of Wall street and is making the federal treasury merely a business asset of the New York financiers.

It is absurd to say that the money question is settled while the financiers are persistently hanging about congress and demanding further and further concessions in the interest of organized wealth. It is fortunate for our party that it has in the senate champions like Senator Blackburn, who are always on the watch and ready to point out the iniquities of republican measures.

The Strikers Win.

The findings of the board of arbitration were given to the public just as The Commoner went to press last week, and an abstract of those findings was published in the news columns. The award was unanimous and was a substantial victory for the strikers. The commission recommended a general increase of wages, amounting to about 10 per cent, and also recommended a decrease in the hours of labor. These are important advantages gained. The commission also recommended a minimum wage with a sliding scale that enables the miner to profit by an increase in the price of coal. A discontinuance of the system of employing what are known as a "coal and iron police" was also recommended, and a stricter enforcement of the laws in relation to the employment of children was urged.

The recommendation of the commission in regard to a permanent board of arbitration deserves especial consideration. It insists that the state and federal governments should provide machinery for the making of a compulsory investigation of labor difficulties by a commission similar to the commission in the case just closed.

Republicans have been inclined to give the president great credit for the appointment of a commission and the settlement of this strike after tremendous loss had been suffered by all the parties interested, and yet these same republicans refuse to give the democratic party credit for having insisted in 1896 and also in 1900 upon a permanent system of arbitration which would have made this strike unnecessary because it would have enabled the miners to secure a settlement of their grievances without a strike.

According to the commission, the strike cost the mine owners \$46,000,000, and employees \$25,-

A reader of The Commoner, who is about to cast his first vote, asks the following questions:

1. How may a first voter help to nominate a candidate who will serve all the people, and not the corporations and trusts alone?

2. Who elects delegates to the national convention?

3. Who names the chairman of the national convention?

4. Who names the platform committee of the national convention?

The questions are pertinent. A first voter, and this applies to those who have voted often as well as those who have not yet voted, may help to nominate a candidate who "will serve all the people and not the corporations and trusts alone," by joining with those who think like him in selecting the delegates from the precinct to the county convention. The delegates to the national convention are chosen by state conventions. Sometimes, in fact usually, the delegates who represent the various congressional districts are chosen by the delegates who represent those districts in the state convention, although, as a rule, the names of the delegates thus chosen are submitted to the state convention for ratification. The delegates from the state at large are chosen directly by the state convention. Wherever an issue is at stake, the delegates are generally instructed, and often they are instructed to act as a unit. They are instructed in order that they may represent the sentiment of the democrats of the state rather than their own personal sentiments, and they are instructed to vote as a unit in order that, on collateral questions which effect the main question, but about which they are not instructed, they may so act as to carry out the main purpose for which they were selected.

The chairman of the national convention is named by the delegates to the national convention in the convention assembled.

The platform committee is selected from among the delegates, the delegates from each state selecting the state's representative on the platform committee. The platform committee reports the platform and then the convention has the right to adopt the platform or amend it, or to reject it. The national committee is formed in the same way as the platform committee. Each state suggests its member, and the members of the national committee select the chairman, who may or may not be a member of the committee.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the delegates to the national convention are the ones who determine the party's policy through its platform. As the state convention selects the delegates to the national convention it is very important that the delegates to the state convention represent the sentiment of the democrats of their state. As these delegates are usually chosen by county conventions it is also vitally important that the county convention represent the sentiment of the democrats of the county. As the county conventions are usually composed of delegates representing the various precincts, the precinct convention is the most important of all, because it is in the precinct convention that the voter expresses himself directly. In all delegate conventions the rank and file may or may not be represented, but in the precinct meeting the voter's voice is heard and obeyed. It is in the precinct, therefore, and among the voters, that the work must be done if the democratic party is to be kept true to its principles.

It is safe to say that if delegates are selected without scrutiny and sent without instructions, the moneyed element will be stronger in the county convention than in the precinct; stronger in the state convention than in the county convention, and stronger in the national convention even than in the state convention. This is due to the fact that the moneyed men are the ones who

are most likely to be selected as delegates unless some test is applied in the selection, because the moneyed men are usually more prominent than those without money, and have the time and means to attend conventions. The moneyed men are, as a rule, more likely than those with less money to yield to the demands of organized wealth, and in a contest where the masses are on one side and organized wealth upon the other, it is important that the masses should zealously guard their rights and exercise care in the selection of their delegates. It must not be assumed that because a man has money, he is necessarily against the interests of the masses, for there are many conspicuous exceptions, and minor exceptions can be found in every county, but it is a fact that on the money question the defection from the democratic party was largest among the moneyed element, and it is also probable that on the trust question the same condition will have to be met.

How, then, can the rank and file protect themselves? Let them organize precinct clubs and let these clubs be enlarged to include all in the precinct who believe in Kansas City platform principles. If a majority of the voters of a precinct believe in these principles and will act together, they will have no difficulty in selecting delegates who will represent their views, and by instructing these delegates they can control the county, state and national conventions.

The Chicago platform was written by delegates who were instructed to write it, and the Kansas City platform was written by delegates almost all of whom had been selected by state conventions that indorsed the Chicago platform.

The democratic party cannot stand neutral in the fight that is now being waged; it must be on the side of democracy or on the side of plutocracy, and its position should be determined not by the leaders, but by the voters. The Commoner denies that any one has a right to speak for the voters. It insists that the voters should speak for themselves, and it is urging the voters to organize and make their influence effective.

If the reorganizers go before the voters with their policies and plans and secure the indorsement of those policies and plans by a majority of the voters of the party, they will be entitled to the platform, the nominees and the organization, but they have never yet attempted, such a thing, and are not likely to. They will set up conventions and practice deception upon the very people for whom they ask to speak, and upon whose support they must rely, but they will not make an honest fight for an honest purpose.

The first voter, above referred to, is advised to make himself acquainted with the voters of his precinct (and this advice is also given to all other democratic voters); he is advised to join with them in the formation of a club, even if there are but few members. The club can then increase its membership as much as possible. The club will be the nucleus about which will gather those who believe in the Kansas City platform, and it will lead the fight for those who believe in those principles.

Let the work of organization begin at once, and continued until every precinct is organized. Then a platform will be written reflecting the sentiments of the voters; a ticket will be nominated acceptable to a majority of the voters, and the party organization will be in control of those who do the voting. If this work is done the men who are talking so loudly about harmony now will have a chance to show their desire for harmony by joining in with the majority and making a fight against the republican party.

The Commoner will furnish a form for a constitution and membership blanks upon application and would like the names of the clubs organized.

The laboring men have been pleading for arbitration for years, and the democratic party has been insisting upon it, but the republican leaders are too busy looking after the interests of the corporations to give time or consideration to legislation imperatively needed, not only in the interests of the wage-earners, but in the interest of the public generally.

Is it not time for the rank and file of the republican party demand a plan for the settlement of all labor disputes rather than the tardy settlement of one only?

000,000, and the transportation companies \$28,000,000. Here was a loss of about \$100,000,000 that might have been avoided if the democratic plan had been adopted, that is, this much might have been saved in this one strike, not to speak of the saving in other strikes. And yet there are republicans so partisan that they toss their hats in air in praise of the administration because, after waiting until enormous loss had been suffered, it secured the settlement of one strike without guaranteeing the country against a constant recurrence of strikes.