

The Des Moines Capital, a republican paper, advances the interesting suggestion that the Iowa republicans should not insist upon tariff reforms, because even though they made a desperate effort to incorporate the "Iowa idea" into the republican national convention, they would fail and that then Iowa, having lost the speakership, would lose its representation in the cabinet.

The Same "Idea."

Mr. Roosevelt is having considerable difficulty these days with his appointments. The senate has rejected Byrne, Ad-dicks' candidate for the district attorneyship in Delaware, and it has rejected the nomination of Crum to the custom house in Charleston. Recently Mr. Roosevelt named William Plimley to be assistant treasurer at New York. This appointment was such a bad one that the senate, after having ratified it, reconsidered its action.

Trouble With Patronage.

The Missouri supreme court has decided that five beef packing companies are guilty of combining to fix and control prices of in violation of the anti-trust law of that state, and has assessed a fine of \$5,000 against each company. The opinion was written by Justice Marshall and is concurred in by all members of the court. A few fines like this will do more to bring the trust magnates to time than all the injunctions and restraining orders that could be issued.

The Missouri Way.

In his biography prepared for the Congressional Directory, Senator Spooner says that McKinley twice offered him a place in the cabinet, first as secretary of the interior, and then as attorney general. The friends of Senator Allison rushed forward to say that the senator from Iowa has even a better record in this respect. Presidents Garfield, Harrison and McKinley, according to these gentlemen, invited Allison to become a cabinet member. In each instance Senator Allison declined.

Spooner and Allison.

Giving cordial support to the proposition to elect United States senators by direct vote of the people, the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, says: "No other reform in the mechanism of the federal government will have a more beneficial influence on the political life of the country. Through it local issues may be in large part disentangled from national policies, the all too numerous Ad-dickses of the senate may be weeded out by the people, and the senate will stand some chance of attaining a position in which its members will expeditiously attend to the interest of the nation instead of to those of their personal friends and supporters."

A Great Reform.

The Washington Star says that "the difference between an adviser and a candidate is so slight under existing circumstances that Mr. Cleveland's three deliverances will not serve to take his name out of popular speculation," and the Star adds: "His best friends will continue to rate him as the best man for next year's race." But it is generally believed that Mr. Cleveland's "best friends" are republican leaders or Wall street financiers who lose no opportunity to contribute to the success of the republican party. Would it not be better for Mr. Cleveland to aspire to a nomination at the hands of the party with which he has practically affiliated during the past seven years?

His "Best Friends."

The Chicago Chronicle says: "The way to harmonize democrats is to give them democratic doctrine and democratic leadership, and by that act to bid defiance to all the elements in the party and out of it which are urging policies in all cases un-democratic and in some un-American." That is exactly what Kansas City platform democrats say. But the Chronicle's idea of democratic doctrine is that it should resemble the doctrine of the republican party; and the Chronicle would choose democratic leaders who have no intention of waging serious war upon special interests. Kansas City platform democrats are not the ones who are urging undemocratic and un-American policies. That is the part played by the reorganizers.

The Way to Harmony.

A writer in the New York Times tells a good story concerning Paul Kruger and Poultney Bigelow. Bigelow had undertaken the task of interviewing Mr. Kruger, but could only get monosyllables in reply to questions. He employed every art of the interviewer, but to no avail. Finally, despairing of getting any information of use to him by straight questioning, he determined to be diplomatic and approach Mr. Kruger from his family side. So he said, very nonchalantly: "Is your wife entertaining this season?" Short and sharp came the gruff answer: "Not very." Bigelow exploded with laughter and gave up the task. "Oom Paul" smiled grimly as he said: "Good-bye."

A Good Story.

It seems that, after all, the opponents of Cuban reciprocity have won a victory. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald says that the approval of the Cuban congress as well as that of the congress of the United States is necessary for the complete ratification of this treaty. It is provided that "Ratification shall be exchanged at Washington as soon as may be before the 31st day of March, 1903, and the convention shall go into effect on the 10th day after the exchange of ratification." Even though the Cuban congress shall approve of the treaty, the American congress will not be in session until next December, and the Record-Herald intimates that the fight will have to be gone over again.

A String to the Treaty.

The Philadelphia Record says that if the democrats will drop "the obsolete silver platform, there will be little or nothing in the way of democratic harmony." But the so-called silver plank is not the only feature in the democratic platform objectionable to the reorganizers. They are bitterly opposed to many of the planks in that platform and are antagonistic to its general spirit. It will be remembered that the Brooklyn Eagle criticized Edward M. Shepard because he suggested that the platform of 1904 should arraign the trusts, government by injunction and other evils of the day, and the New York World, another representative of the reorganizers, promptly gives approval to the Eagle's criticisms. Doubtless the Philadelphia Record entertains the same views.

There are Others.

The New York World says that "it does not say that Mr. Cleveland can be elected." But it insists that he is "the logical candidate and the strongest candidate for the democratic party." If the World does not feel confident that Mr. Cleveland could be elected, why does it support him? It has all along insisted that a democratic candidate should be nominated who could give high promise of victory. That, rather than the things for which the candidate stands, was, in the World's opinion, the important thing to be considered. There are a great many people who believe that the reorganizers are not nearly so anxious to secure a democratic candidate who can be elected as they are to persuade the democrats to nominate a man who, if elected, would carry out practically the same policies to which his republican opponent was committed. If the trust magnates could control the democratic convention as well as the republican convention, they would not be in the least disturbed, whatever the result of the campaign might be.

"The Logical Candidate."

Former Governor O'Farrell of Virginia is quoted as saying that "Mr. Cleveland is the strongest man in the party for the nomination in 1904." He says that he does not doubt Mr. Cleveland's willingness to run again. He explains that "of course it will be necessary to convince Mr. Cleveland that the salvation of the party and the country depends upon it, but that should not be difficult for the Cleveland movement in 1892 took that form. The ex-president's admirers surrounded him and explained his duty to him." Mr. O'Farrell does not think that Mr. Cleveland would be "unreasonable" now and that he would accept the nomination. Undoubtedly Mr. Cleveland would accept the nomination, but Mr. Cleveland is not the only one to be convinced. There are several millions of democrats who will require considerable proof to be convinced that the salvation of the democratic party and the salvation of the country depends upon the nomination of a man who betrayed his party and whose financial policies well nigh wrecked the country.

Saved the Country.

Already democrats are beginning to realize the inconsistency of choosing as a leader in the senate a man having no sympathy with democratic principles and democratic professions. The New York Evening Post, referring to the "acclaimed leader of the democratic party, in the United States senate," says that "he is himself the full flower of special privileges," and adds: "He has shared with Mr. Aldrich the honor of being the peculiar representative of selfish interests. What he did in that capacity to transform the Wilson tariff bill into an act which President Cleveland denounced as tainted with perfidy, is still fresh in the general memory. It is his recovered prominence in the party councils which will make the public grin at the idea of his leading an assault on special privileges."

A Public Grin.

The American Economist took to task the Sioux City Journal for suggesting that the trusts be deprived of the shelter which they find in the tariff. The Journal retorts that the Economist is "the representative of combination greedy for monopoly. The 'trust' is the marrow of its bones and the blood of its veins. It follows the crook of a finger and bends the hinges of its limbs without the suggestion of an interrogation point." And then the Journal makes this proud boast: "The republicans of Iowa will exercise their freedom and such judgment as they can in their own right command. They are national republicans, and yet they claim elbow room to be Iowa republicans as well. It is not bombastic to say that they will not take dictation from the American Economist—certainly not unless the character of it is vastly changed." The Economist can perhaps give the editor of the Journal some pointers. There is every probability that the Iowa republicans will take dictation, if not from the American Economist, at least from the special interests which that publication represents.

They Will Dictate.

A reader of the New York World expresses surprise that little comment has been made upon the fact that the appropriations by the Fifty-seventh congress reached the enormous sum of \$1,554,108,514. This reader says: "Few of us comprehend how vast a sum of money that is. Divided pro rata it would give more than \$20 to every man, woman and child in the United States. It is sufficient to pay an annual salary of \$1,000 to 310,821 men for a period of five years. Were it in silver dollars placed edge to edge, they would make a band clear around the world and overlap more than half the way back. Placed one above the other, they would make a silver staff more than 4,509 miles high. Its weight would be more than 91,581,394 pounds. Allowing 40,000 pounds to a freight car, and twenty loaded cars to a train, it would require 22,890 cars, or 1,145 freight trains, to move it." Perhaps the fact that the people have become accustomed to extravagance at the hands of the republican party and do not expect anything in the way of economy will explain why the enormous appropriations made by the republican congress have elicited little comment.

Accustomed to It.

The New York Press, a republican paper, says: "Senators who are trying to checkmate the sovereign will of the people in respect of control of the 'trusts' will not succeed. They will succeed in convicting the system by which such instruments of the 'trusts' are made possible. Such witness are they bearing against the present method of election to the United States senate that there will be nothing left for the American people to do, while they are establishing control of the 'trusts,' but to establish at the same time control of their United States senate." But these senators who are trying to checkmate the sovereign will of the people understand, in spite of whatever the Press may say, that the republican party may depend upon the support of such newspapers as the Press regardless of what the representatives of the party may do. These senators do not appear to be disturbed, nor have they apparently any reason for being disturbed, by the suggestion that there is any probability that they and the interests they represent will lose control of the party. The only way for the people to establish control of the United States senate is to drive the republican party out of power in that body.

Drive Them Out.