



## THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FUND

THE DES MOINES CAPITAL, A REPUBLICAN PAPER, CONFESSES THAT "A GOOD PART OF THAT FUND CAME FROM PROTECTED INTERESTS."

When the republican politicians fall out, the common people sometimes hear interesting confessions.

For more than a year a bitter controversy has been in progress in the state of Iowa concerning the "Iowa idea." At the last republican state convention Governor Cummins and his followers caused to be inserted in the state platform a plank favoring the removal of the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff. This has come to be known as the "Iowa idea." The plank seemed to be a very popular one with the rank and file of the party in the Hawkeye state, although it was openly repudiated by several republican congressmen and privately repudiated by others.

The republican newspapers of the state are divided on the question. The Des Moines Register and Leader, and the Sioux City Journal are leaders of the newspapers that faithfully champion the "idea," while the Des Moines Capital, edited by Colonel "Lafe" Young, is a recognized leader of the newspapers that object to what they insist is a bit of democratic doctrine inserted, through Governor Cummins' influence, into the republican platform.

In his annual message to congress, President Roosevelt said that "if in any case it be found that a given rate of duty does promote a monopoly which works ill, no protectionist would object to such reduction of the duty as would equalize competition;" but in the speeches delivered on his present tour, President Roosevelt has very plainly placed himself on record as opposed to interfering with the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff; and the Des Moines Capital and other republican papers of Iowa are pointing with pride to the fact that their position has the support of the republican president.

This much by way of explanation.

Out of this controversy has come one of the most candid statements that have ever been made by a party organ. In the Des Moines Capital of April 7, 1903, Colonel "Lafe" Young printed the following editorial:

The so-called "progressive" Iowa republicans who have been advocating the "Iowa idea" which means tariff ripping to kill the trusts and foreign competition to reduce American prices—are hard to keep track of. Governor Cummins says that he is in harmony with all the national leaders and national policies and that there is no difference between his views and the views of the administration. The governor makes this assertion occasionally and no doubt thinks that he is stating the facts, but what does the man say who sits next to the throne in the Iowa dynasty?

What does ex-Senator Funk say? He says

ests and is not actuated by patriotic purposes. These gold standard reorganizers insisted more vehemently even than the republican gold standard champions did that an increased volume of money would not bring better times; and yet today they are confronted with the fact that the American people are enjoying better times; and if there are any who yet doubt that the enormous increase in the volume of money had much to do with this improvement they need but to observe the fact that republican leaders are insisting upon an even larger increase in the volume of money in order to maintain "existing prosperity."

The democratic party cannot change its principles to suit the purposes of these reorganizers unless it become so similar to the republican party that, so far as the patriotic voter is concerned, there will be small choice between the two organizations. There is but one position for the democratic party to take. It is the plainly defined democratic position. It is the position on the side of the people as clearly defined in the conscience of every thoughtful man.

The republican party represents the plutocracy of this country. The democratic party cannot successfully compete for favors in that direction. Even upon the low plane of so-called practical politics, it will be wisdom for the democratic party to stand faithfully by the people and to resent, without apology and without equivocation, the encroachments which the strong would make upon the weak.

In order that the democratic party shall remain steadfast, it will be the duty of every one who believes in the principles set forth in the democratic national convention to manifest an

Iowa is entitled to have ideas; that Iowa is entitled to originate political reforms. He boasts that Iowa is not tied to such states as Rhode Island where such men as Aldrich hail from. Senator Funk appears to think that there is a difference between Iowa sentiment and the sentiment of other sections of the country and he indignantly inquires:

"Why should Iowa be a political camp follower? Why this consuming fear on the part of Iowa editors that Iowa shall assume some measure of leadership in national party councils? Is New York or Rhode Island, or Connecticut, or Pennsylvania, largely dominated by corporate selfishness and blind ignorance, so much more to be trusted by the nation than Iowa with its splendid maximum of intelligence and its unimpaired minimum of corrupting influence?"

Senator Funk does not believe that the republicans of Iowa must "catch the tariff keynote from the American Economist, published by and for the most selfish beneficiaries of protection." The senator discusses the whole range covered by the "Iowa idea" discussion and inquires "is it not of like importance to deny to the American protective league, banded in the selfish interest of protected industries, the right of shaping tariff schedules for Iowa republican sentiment?"

It would seem from Senator Funk's position that there is a difference between Iowa republicanism and national republicanism, yet the governor says there is not. The head of the Iowa dynasty had better have a consultation with the heir apparent in regard to these matters.

BY THE WAY, IS SENATOR FUNK DETERMINED TO REJECT ANY OF THE CAMPAIGN FUNDS OFFERED BY "THE PROTECTED INDUSTRIES" IN THE CAMPAIGN OF 1904? SENATOR FUNK KNOWS THE VAST AMOUNT OF CAMPAIGN FUND ALLOTTED TO IOWA IN 1896, BROUGHT THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN CUMMINS. IT IS PRESUMED THAT A GOOD PART OF THAT FUND CAME FROM THESE HATED "PROTECTED INTERESTS." WILL SENATOR FUNK ADVOCATE REJECTING ANY PART OF SUCH FUND IF IT SHALL BE OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO THE IOWA MEMBER OF SUCH COMMITTEE, IN 1904?

It is well not to get on too high a horse in these political matters. It is better to be just what you are; better not to get too poetical and idealistic.

It is also better for the "Iowa progressive

active interest in the work of organization. In every precinct throughout the United States democrats should organize. They should carefully scrutinize the record of every man who aspires to be a delegate to democratic conventions; and they should see to it that no man is sent to a democratic convention, county, state, or national, who cannot be depended upon to faithfully represent and defend the opinions of the rank and file. The Commoner will be glad to furnish a form of constitution and membership blanks to all who contemplate the organization of democratic clubs. When clubs are organized The Commoner will make notice of the fact for the information of others.

The only hope which the reorganizers may entertain is that the rank and file of the party may become indifferent and will remain away from the primaries. If the rank and file of the party will but take part in the primary elections, there is not the slightest doubt that the democratic party will remain faithful to its principles and that the trust magnates will be required to bestow their smiles upon the republican party and to look to that party for special favors at the expense of the people.

### Harrison Re-Elected.

Carter Harrison's majority was not as large as was expected by his friends, but it was enough to enable him to protect the city from the schemes of the street car magnates. The result, while a great compliment to Harrison, is also a signal victory for municipal ownership. The sec-

republicans" to have an understanding as to whether or not there is a difference between Iowa republicanism and national republicanism.

There you have it, blunt and plain. There is the unblushing confession on the part of one of the most distinguished republican politicians in the state of Iowa that a large part of the vast amount of campaign funds allotted to Iowa came from protected interests.

Colonel Young's editorial should be reproduced in every newspaper throughout the United States. To be sure, it does not provide startling information to democrats; but it may not be doubted that there are thousands of republicans who really believe that their party is not the faithful champion of the trust system and the beneficiary of the trust treasuries. This editorial should be placed before these republicans because it is inconceivable that men who depend for their income upon the sweat of their brow will knowingly vote with a party that supports a system that is antagonistic to their interests.

Colonel Young says, "It is well not to get on too high a horse in these political matters. It is better to be just what you are; better not to get too poetical and idealistic." Colonel Young is right in this. Evidently he believes in the trust system. Evidently he is willing that his party should avail itself of the privilege of building up enormous campaign funds through the contributions of the trust magnates; and he is candid enough to admit it. If it is true, as Colonel Young says, that Senator Funk and his associates know that "the vast amount of campaign funds allotted to Iowa in 1896 came from protected interests," and that he did not protest against these contributions, then Colonel Young has submitted to him an entirely pertinent question when he asks him whether he will advocate rejecting any part of such funds if it shall be offered in 1904?

There are a great many people in the United States who do not happen to be personally acquainted with Senator Funk who would be keenly interested in his answer to this question. If he would not advocate rejecting the contributions of these protected interests, then he ought not to object to a delivery of "the goods," which, being interpreted, means such privileges at the hands of the republican congress as the trust magnates may be inclined to demand.

To the very interesting controversy raging in Iowa, the American people are indebted for Colonel Young's candid statement. It is to be hoped that this statement will be placed in the hands of every republican in the United States. Democratic papers may at least do their part in spreading the truth.

ond city in the United States has thus recorded itself on the side of a great and growing reform.

Mr. Darrow shares with Mayor Harrison the honors of the victory. As the leader of the Altgeld element of the Chicago democracy and as the special champion of municipal ownership his active support was probably sufficient to draw enough votes from the labor candidate to Harrison to win the day. The fact that Harrison and Darrow were together and were opposed by Hopkins is a hopeful sign to those who are anxious to take the party in Illinois out of the hands of the reorganizers. Kansas City platform democrats are both pleased and encouraged by Carter Harrison's success.

### Johnson's Victory.

The democrats of the nation may be pardoned if they give audible expression to the satisfaction they feel over Tom Johnson's victory in Cleveland. When it is remembered that Cleveland is the home of Mark Hanna and that Johnson's election menaced the business as well as the political welfare of Mr. Hanna, and when it is further remembered that all the financial and corporate interests of the city were openly arrayed against him, Johnson's victory becomes the more remarkable. It proves both that Johnson is popular with the masses and that they are in favor of the reforms for which he stands and for which he has labored. Cleveland's mayor is a brave fighter, an honest man and a good democrat. It is fortunate for the party that it has such a leader in Ohio—strength to his arm! His sturdy blows are weakening the republican stronghold.