

# The Commoner.

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## Keeping Ever at It.

In their efforts to control the government, the representatives of the trusts and the syndicates appreciate the importance of "keeping everlastingly at it." In season and out of season, these people see to it that newspapers over whose business office they exercise control cultivate false impressions, misrepresent the policies of their opponents, and seek to create, in many instances, the notion that the whole country is aroused in support of the plans and the candidate having the favor of the representatives of special interests.

In this work republican organs and so-called democratic newspapers controlled by the reorganizers work as a rule shoulder to shoulder. Thoughtless men depending for their information upon trust organs might imagine at this time that the American people have cheerfully embraced the trust system as a great benefactor to mankind and that the democrats of the country are practically unanimous in favor of the nomination of a trust candidate in 1904, and the adoption of a platform that will not disturb the trust magnate.

The truth is that the rank and file of the democratic party are opposed to reorganization for the benefit of the trusts and the syndicates and that the so-called popular uprising in behalf of a syndicate candidate exists only in the well-paid imaginings of newspaper editors who draw their inspiration from syndicates and who have neither the ability nor the inclination to make intelligent examination of the public pulse.

It has been true in the past that great parties have been controlled by the methods now being employed by the trust organs and it is likewise true that in this respect history would repeat itself, so far as the democratic party is concerned, if the rank and file of that party became indifferent and failed to take active part in primary contests. Politicians who are amply supplied with money by the syndicates are in a position to make headway in the effort to obtain control of a party or government if the people who are most deeply interested in the future lose interest in their own cause. But in spite of the money of the syndicates, in spite of the misrepresentations and the specious pleas of the trust organs, the democratic party will remain true to itself, and therefore true to the people, if the rank and file will but adopt the plan of the representatives of special interests to the extent of "keeping everlastingly at it."

In the great work of protecting the democratic party from the merciless hands of the trust magnates, even the humblest member of the party can accomplish great results. One democrat firmly devoted to the principles of his party, ever watchful for the welfare of his country, and willing to speak and to work according to his convictions, may accomplish more in the organization of his party and the successful defense of its principles than a dozen reorganizers equipped though they may be with an ample supply of syndicate money.

If, in every precinct in the United States, there is one democrat who is willing to under-

take the work of arousing democrats to the importance of discharging their duty, there will not be the slightest danger of the republicanization of the democratic party. The rank and file of the party are faithful to its principles and they need but a reminder of the importance of organizing in order to protect the democratic party from the transformation which the representatives of the trusts and syndicates are so anxious to accomplish.

In every precinct a democratic club should be organized. The members of this club should be pledged to the defense of democratic principles and its members should see to it that no one is chosen as a delegate to a convention, county, state, or national, who may not be depended upon to represent the will of the rank and file.

A form of constitution and membership blanks for the use of democratic clubs will be furnished by The Commoner upon application. The organization of such clubs should be promptly reported for the information and encouragement of others.

## Republican Tariff Reform.

The Des Moines Capital is prophesying that the tariff revision sentiment which has manifested itself in the republican party will soon disappear, and it likens it to the free silver sentiment which, it alleges, appeared and disappeared in the republican party. The Capital is undoubtedly correct in saying that the tariff revision sentiment is not likely to last long in the republican party. In fact, the tariff reform republicans can be divided into two classes—those who really want tariff reform and those who would like tariff reform provided it could be secured through the republican party. The former, finding that tariff reform through the republican party is impossible, will leave the party in order to get tariff reform; the latter, finding that tariff reform through the republican party is impossible, will give up tariff reform in order to be in harmony with the party. This was true of the republicans who advocated free silver. Those who were in earnest left the republican party; those who were republicans first and silver men afterward, gave up free silver. The same division can be seen among the republican opponents of the trust, and the Capital might just as well have mentioned this element as the tariff reform element. Those who want to destroy the trusts will leave the republican party and try to destroy them, while others will quit talking about the trusts as soon as it is evident to all, as it now is to many, that the republican party has no intention of destroying the trusts. A like division will be found among the anti-imperialist republicans. Those who are genuinely attached to the doctrine of self-government will leave the republican party and assist in the overthrow of colonialism. Those who are more attached to their party than to our form of government will stick to the party and risk the growth of imperialism in the United States rather than risk injury to their party.

The Capital's logic is right as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough.

## The Price of Silver.

The recent rise in the price of silver is being made the subject of discussion by a number of papers. The Chicago Chronicle says:

"The price of silver bullion has advanced about 3 cents per ounce during the last three months, and dealers are looking for a still further advance. The rise in the price is attributed in part to the purchases by our government for the Philippine coinage, and in part to a more active demand outside of the United States. Inasmuch as the purchases for the Philippine coinage are not to exceed a million per month, the rise must be due mainly to outside demand."

The Cleveland Leader, speaking of the rise, says:

"The advance is attributed to the short supply and the heavy buying of the United States government, amounting to an average of 550,000 ounces weekly for use in the Philippines. In fact, it is declared, the market is heavily oversold, and there is little spot silver in Europe. Two years ago the decline was due to the heavy sales of silver by China to meet the claims of indemnity demanded by the powers."

The Leader, in the same editorial, insists that the price of silver in the markets of the world is regulated entirely by supply and demand, and has no connection with the prosperity of the people, and it asserts that "the theory that whether the people of the country were to prosper depended entirely upon the price of silver, appears to have been abandoned." A reader of the Leader having challenged this statement and denied that it ever had been advanced, the Leader replied that Mr. Bryan "in 1896 in almost half a thousand speeches, attributed all the financial, industrial and agricultural ills of the people of the United States to the fact that silver had been denied its proper place as one of the money metals of the country." The argument made by Mr. Bryan in 1896 and since did not differ from the arguments made by other bimetalists. It was known, not only by advocates of bimetalism, but by all intelligent advocates of the gold standard, that there had been an era of falling prices, and the English commission appointed to investigate the cause had come to the conclusion that all other students of the subject had reached, namely, that the fall in prices was mainly due to the fact that the supply of money had not increased in proportion to the demand for it. And this was due to the demonetization of silver. Bimetalism was advocated as a means of increasing the volume of standard money, and it was the only means then in sight. The purpose of the increase was not only to stop falling prices, but to raise them up to, and to keep them at, the bimetallic level. The purpose of all the agitation was more money, and bimetalism was the means of securing it. Bimetalism requires the coinage of gold and silver at a fixed ratio into legal tender money. The Chicago platform embodied this demand in specific words and every one who knew anything about the subject knew that bimetalism would increase the volume of money, that an increased volume of money would raise prices, and that higher prices would make better times. The people opposed to bimetalism were divided into two classes—those who wanted dear money and those