

The Chicago Tribune asks: "Is the government made for the national banks or the banks for the government?" That is a strange question indeed to come from a paper that has earnestly supported a party whose policies are clearly in line with the theory that the government was made for the national banks.

A Strange Question

The assurance that Senator Allison will write the platform for the republicans of Iowa reminds the Washington Post of the remark of the late John J. Ingalls to the effect that "Allison can walk over a tin roof with hob nailed shoes and make less noise than a cat on a Moquette carpet." It is not at all likely that any platform written by Senator Allison will be objectionable to the influences that control the republican party.

Allison and the Platform.

The New England Colonial Baptist association recently adopted resolutions in which it was declared that "there has been more cruelty, more lives destroyed, more property wantonly wasted, more immorality and drunkenness in the three years of American occupation in the Philippines than in the three hundred years of Spanish tyranny." That sounds very severe. Perhaps it is exaggerated and yet the simple facts ought to be sufficient to awaken the American conscience.

Facts Strong Enough.

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.

Organize Democratic Clubs.

The Chicago Tribune says: "Bankers who believe the government was made specially for them ought to read occasionally the preamble to the constitution which says it was established to 'promote the general welfare,' and does not say that it was to promote the welfare of banks and bankers at the expense of the rest of the community." There are a great many people who ought to read the preamble to the constitution. It is a solemn truth that the general policies of the republican party conflict with "the general welfare." The Tribune should be careful about quoting the constitution. It is in great danger of being charged with old fogysm.

Tribune Helped to do it.

Thoughtful men will do well to read and intelligently consider this statement from the Philadelphia North American: "The trust whose schedule of assets does not contain at least one United States senator is a poor concern. A reliable representative in the upper house of congress is as much a part of the equipment of a well-organized trust as a Jersey charter. Mr. Morgan's various interests have not suffered for lack of general representation in the senate, but his billion dollar steel corporation has had no senator which it could call its own. Standard Oil and the shipping trust, however, can no longer look down upon steel, for that trust has acquired a senator and put its brand upon him. Senator Dryden of New Jersey has been elected a director of the United States steel corporation."

Senator From Trustville.

On May 15 the Standard Oil company declared a dividend of \$7 a share on the \$100,000,000 capital stock. This is a decrease of \$3 per share compared with the dividend declared for the corresponding quarter of 1902. The New York Commercial says that the earnings of the company have been on the increase and the net income this year will exceed that of the preceding year by many millions of dollars. It says that the cash outlay in connection with the construction of vessels for the transportation of Texas oil with the expenses involved in the extensive prospecting that

Not a Small Dividend.

has been going on for more than a year provides the explanation for the decrease in this quarter's dividend. The Commercial intimates that although the dividends for the quarter just passed are somewhat decreased, there is no indication that the total disbursements for this year will not be as large as in the preceding year.

Get to Work.

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.

Ninety days ago—during the month of February—the Brooklyn Eagle, then engaged in supporting Judge Parker for the democratic nomination, said: "Mr. Cleveland has no idea of hazarding his unique historical fame by a candidacy that might fall of a nomination. Even were that secured he might fail of election, owing to the inveterate prejudice against putting the presidency for a third time in the hands of any man." Since it has hitched itself to the Cleveland boom, the Eagle concludes: "No man fears harm to himself or his country from a third term for Cleveland after eight years in private life. The pretense or affection of harm therefrom is a folly of which any sane man should be ashamed."

A Brooklyn Switch.

A Washington dispatch says that Secretary Root recently gave a very ugly exhibition of his anger and hatred toward General Miles by neglecting to invite him to a dinner to the general staff at which Mr. Root played the role of host. It is further predicted in Washington dispatches that Mr. Root is determined to have General Miles retired. Even though Mr. Roosevelt could not be restrained by patriotic reasons from peremptorily retiring the lieutenant general, it is inconceivable that his political managers would permit him to take such foolish steps on the very threshold of a national campaign. Mr. Roosevelt will have considerable to answer for because of his slurs upon Admiral Schley. He certainly cannot be so foolish as to take on new burdens by peremptorily retiring the lieutenant general.

Root and Miles.

The Wall Street Journal, commenting upon the scare created by the decision in the Northern Securities case, undertakes to reassure other trust magnates in this way: "One important thing that has been overlooked by most is that the Northern Securities company is the only example of its kind at present existing in the country. We know of no other instance where its principle has been employed so directly or so frankly with the object of nullifying the effect of the Sherman anti-trust law. Consequently, the decision of the court, while sweeping as affecting the Northern Securities company, does not directly apply anywhere else." This may, or may not, be reassuring to the trust magnates. Perhaps, however, they will not be entirely satisfied until the Sherman anti-trust law is repealed because they must know that whatever may be said concerning the decision in the Northern Securities case, it cannot be said that the Sherman law does not provide the same remedy against all trusts which was applied in dealing with the Northern Securities merger.

Provides For all Trusts.

The Chicago Tribune, a republican paper, says: "The banks exist because the government believed they would be useful to it and to the people. For a time all the bankers understood that. Many of the Chicago bankers of the present generation do not. They have come to hold the opinion, which they express in acts rather than in words, that the government was made for the banks and that the chief object of its existence is to love, cherish, and obey them." The Tribune should not overlook the fact that it is in part responsible for the existence of this notion among the bankers. When a political party

The General Welfare.

adopts policies regardless of public interests and solely with the view of conforming to the wishes of the financiers and when newspapers like the Tribune give faithful support to that party it is not strange that many of these beneficiaries imagine that the government was made for their exclusive benefit.

Work to be Done.

Those who imagine that truth is ever on the scaffold and wrong forever on the throne, may find a bit of consolation from the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, which newspaper says: "On the whole, there is abundant reason not to be discouraged, notwithstanding that so many students of democracy are now saying that it cannot save itself from the encroachments of corruption. We have only to recall the desperate venality of politics in England during the eighteenth century to see that our political life is still comparatively sound, even if it is in an alarming condition. Yet no one is justified in lying back and assuming that there is no work to be done. There was never more of a demand for the highest citizenship in state and nation."

The St. Louis Mirror says: "If President Roosevelt, Senator Allison and Governor Cummins have decided to make the 'Iowa idea' the basis of their tariff plank in 1904, they have done well. And they will do still better by sticking to it. Tariff revision promises to play an important role in next year's campaign. Extreme protectionists are working overtime trying to smother it, but they are fighting a losing fight. Like Banquo's ghost, the demand for revision will not down. It grows more insistent and more imperious every day. The 'Iowa idea' will be the 'American idea' by and by. The republican party can no longer afford to 'stand pat.'" It is difficult to understand upon what ground the Mirror bases its notion that the "Iowa idea" will become the basis for the republican tariff plank in 1904. President Roosevelt is clearly and repeatedly on record as being opposed to tariff revision while the foremost champions of the "Iowa idea" among the republican politicians in the Hawkeye state have shown indications of a willingness to desert their convictions. The fact that Senator Allison is to prepare the tariff plank should be sufficient indication that that plank will be largely conspicuous because of what it does not say.

The "Idea" in 1904.

Pointing out that the disbursements of the Standard Oil company for the current quarter means that share owners will receive \$7,000,000, the New York Commercial makes an interesting statement concerning this dividend producing trust. The Commercial says: "Last year the company disbursed \$45,000,000 to stockholders. In 1900 and 1901 \$48,000,000 was disbursed to shareholders each year. Since January 1, 1900, the Standard Oil company has declared \$168 a share in dividends, making total payments of \$168,000,000 to shareholders on a capital stock of a little less than \$100,000,000. Of the dividends declared during the last three and a half years John D. Rockefeller's share has been something like \$56,000,000, as he holds in the neighborhood of 33 per cent of the capital stock of the Standard Oil company. Last year 20 per cent was paid in the first quarter, 10 per cent in the second, 5 per cent in the third quarter and 10 per cent in the fourth quarter. The dividends for a period of years have been as follows: 1891-1895, \$12 a year; 1896, \$31; 1897, \$33; 1898, \$33; 1899, \$33; 1900, \$48; 1901, \$48; and 1902, \$45. So far this year, \$27. The dividend of the Standard Oil company declared today is payable on June 15 to stockholders of record of May 22."

Poverty Stricken Trust.

The Wisconsin legislature has adopted the resolution calling for the election of United States senators by popular vote. Predicting that at Washington next winter the house of representatives will pass its customary resolution directing the submission of the necessary constitutional amendment, the Chicago Record-Herald says: "Will not the senate read the writing on the wall and yield its consent at once rather than to continue its resistance until two-thirds of the states force it to act?" Long ago the senate read the writing on the wall, but so long as it could prevent the change it was determined to do so. Let us hope that it will yield when it can no longer obstruct

Will Square It