

The Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat directs attention to an important fact when it says: "The Democratic platforms of 1896 and 1900 contained no essentially populist or socialistic doctrine. The party as a matter of fact has never attracted socialistic support, but the platforms adopted at Chicago and Kansas City did attract hundreds of thousands of former republicans to the democratic ticket."

Democratic to the Core.

The New York World boasts that the United States now has "the greatest volume of money and the largest amount per capita ever known in our history—and every dollar good for 100 cents, thanks to the sense and honesty of the people in rejecting Mr. Bryan and his half-baked theories and demonstrated lunacies!" Will the World be good enough to point out the dollar that prior to 1896 was not "good for one hundred cents?"

Point It Out.

In a speech delivered at Tacoma, Wash., Mr. Roosevelt said: "I would like to be president of the United States for another term, but this much I will say: I propose to be president this term. I would rather be all president for three and a half years than half president for seven and a half years." Mr. Roosevelt might now proceed to make his word good by directing his attorney general to enforce the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. If he would really rather be "all president" it would seem that he would make a really serious effort to bring the trust magnates to time.

An "All President."

A writer in the Chicago Chronicle undertook to defend the Standard Oil king, saying that "Rockefeller's business is the result of hard work, ability, and foresight, and considering his power, he takes less advantage of the people than any other monopolist." Commenting upon this interesting defense, Mr. S. H. Wallace says: "When a man's business is such that it will make him a hundred millionaire in thirty years there is something radically wrong with the industrial conditions of the country. Surely some people are getting vastly more of this world's goods than rightfully belongs to them."

Something is Wrong.

It will occur to a great many people that the energy displayed by the administration in investigating the postoffice scandals is not at all in keeping with the seriousness of the situation. One or two persons have been arrested, but if the half that has been charged be true, a number of other men should be arrested. It will not do to look lightly upon accusations affecting the integrity of the public service. The accusations made with respect to the postoffice department have been so explicit and of so serious a character that the most rigid investigation should be made and this should be followed by a vigorous prosecution.

Thorough Cleaning Needed.

The New York corporations purpose to appeal the franchise taxation case to the United States supreme court on the ground that the taxation required under that law violates the constitutional provision prohibiting the impairment of contracts. In its opinion, the New York court of appeals said: "No municipality has the power to withdraw property from the taxing power of the state or to provide by ordinance or contract that it shall be free for all time from the common burden which property generally has to bear." It will occur to a great many people that in this sentence the court of appeals has very amply answered the point upon which the corporations will depend for a victory in the supreme court.

The Franchise Case.

The New York Mail and Express, all along a radical single gold standard organ, thinks that the purchases of silver made by the government for use in the Philippines have had much to do with raising the price of silver to the highest mark of the year and that "it is likely that the prospect of success for a new international agreement proposed by our government will help it still further and encourage the legitimate and natural demand for silver." And then the Mail and Ex-

"Cannot If We Would."

press, the paper that has seldom had a good word to say for the white metal, adds: "The rally of silver cannot but be regarded as a favorable symptom by sound financiers. It promises us a better price for one of our most valuable productions and increases our estimate for a metal which we cannot expel from our currency if we would."

The Washington Star pleads for "the old-fashioned Fourth with its rousing patriotic speeches, its reading of the Declaration of Independence, its picnics, its general air of holiday making, its appeal to citizens' loyalty to the flag;" and the Star adds: "Here in the national capital is the most fitting place in the whole republic to organize an annual, patriotic, old-fashioned Fourth." The Star is correct. The national capital is the most fitting place in the whole republic to organize a patriotic old-fashioned Fourth. But will the Star guarantee that the person chosen to read the Declaration of Independence will be exempt from arrest on the charge of circulating treasonable and seditious literature?

Fitting Place Indeed.

While there is not the slightest probability that the democratic party will undertake an effort to elect a man for the presidency for a third term, the Des Moines Capital gives an interesting reminder when it directs attention to the fact that in 1875 the lower house of congress adopted a resolution declaring against the third term in the presidential chair. Representative Springer of Illinois introduced the resolution and it was submitted on December 15, 1875, being adopted by a vote of 223 to 18, 38 not voting. The resolution was as follows: "Resolved, That in the opinion of this house the precedent established by Washington and other presidents of the United States in retiring from the presidential office after their second term has become by universal concurrence a part of our republican system of government, and that any departure from this time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions."

The Third Term.

The Wisconsin legislature passed a measure known as "the political lobbyists' bill." Governor La Follette vetoed the bill on the ground that it did not affect the railroad lobby while it prohibited state officers and employes from doing so much as to ask the members to support a measure. In his veto message, Governor La Follette said: "This legislature has witnessed the operations of a paid lobby. This session has seen the defeat of important measures accomplished in whole or in part through its work. It may fairly be directly or indirectly credited with having prevented the passage of the vote committee bill, the bill to prohibit increased charges in freight rates, the grain inspection and other measures of the greatest importance to the people of Wisconsin, and to have seriously impaired the efficiency of the bill for investigating into the payment of rebates and the failure to report gross earnings in full, as well as the railway co-employee bill, and many other acts of the legislature." Governor La Follette's veto message will meet with general approval throughout the states whose people have suffered because of the maintenance of powerful corporation lobbies.

Wisconsin Lobby Bill.

An English judge recently instructed a jury as to the definition of a gentleman. In a case on trial in the city of London May 23 one of the counsel objected to a certain letter offered in evidence as being improper because it referred to a house and sign painter as a gentleman. The London correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that in addressing the jury, the judge injected some humor in the proceedings by telling the jury that the Herald's college would say: "Man," not "gentleman," unless the grandfather, father or man himself was entitled to wear a coat-of-arms. They would observe, however, that both the learned counsel and himself had addressed them as "gentlemen of the jury." He thought that if they had votes to give away and were in the habit of attending political meetings they must have noticed that the speakers were careful to give them the title. The painter, it appeared, was the possessor of a card. That was not the case as having a real coat-of-arms, but there was another thing that went to show that he was a gentleman—he suffered from the gout. If this judge had desired to be serious, he might have

Definition of a Gentleman.

provided a complete definition by quoting the words of an observing and able man who said: "Whoever is open, loyal, true; of humane and affable demeanor; honorable himself and in his judgment of others; faithful to his word as to law, and faithful alike to God and man—such a man is a true gentleman."

A movement is on foot to remove the body of Patrick Henry from its present neglected grave in Charlotte county to St. John's churchyard in Richmond, Va. It is proposed that a suitable monument be erected upon which the famous words "Give me liberty or give me death," are to be made conspicuous. After this monument shall have been erected, it might be a good plan to invite the people of "our new possessions" to inspect it. They may be consoled by the reflection that the government under which they live was established by men who believed that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are among the inalienable rights of men.

Patrick Henry Statue.

Do not forget that effective work may be accomplished in the interests of the democratic party by the organization of democratic clubs. Such a club should be organized in every precinct in the United States. The members of this club should be pledged to the defense of democratic principles and should carefully investigate the record of the men who aspire to be delegates to democratic conventions. No one should be chosen as a delegate to a county, state, or national convention who may not be depended upon to stand up for democratic principles. Upon application to The Commoner office a form of constitution and membership blanks for the use of democratic clubs will be furnished and as rapidly as these clubs are organized, the fact should be reported to this office.

Organize Democratic Clubs.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, whose editor has preached "harmony," says: "Speaking very soberly, we do not believe that the democratic party can ever hope for harmonious action until William Jennings Bryan is finally extinguished." It is strange that men who insist that their policies represent the intelligence and the patriotism of the democratic party also insist upon the destruction of a particular individual before they can hope to bring intelligent democrats to their way of thinking. Does not the Atlanta Journal make poor comment on the intelligence of democrats when it intimates that those who insist upon an adherence to democratic principles as set forth in the national platforms of 1896 and of 1900 are controlled by a single person? The editor of the Atlanta Journal is so blind that he cannot see that even though the editor of The Commoner permitted the editor of the Atlanta Journal to do his thinking for him, there would be no difference in the attitude of democrats toward democratic principles.

Not on One Individual

Former Attorney General Griggs does not approve of the decision in the Northern Securities case. Mr. Griggs says: "If this decision carries with it the broad principle it seems to, congress will have power to tell a man what he shall buy and forbid one man from purchasing what may be owned and used by another." The court itself touched on this point in an interesting way when it quoted from a decision rendered by the supreme court of the United States, in which the court of last resort said that the constitutional provision regarding the liberty of the citizen is to some extent limited by the commerce laws of the constitution. The supreme court pointed out the power of congress to regulate interstate commerce as comprised in the right to enact laws prohibiting a citizen from entering into "those private contracts which directly and substantially and not merely indirectly and remotely, incidentally and collaterally, regulate to a greater or less degree commerce among the states." In that same case the supreme court said: "We cannot so enlarge the scope of the language of the constitution regarding the liberty of the citizen as to hold that it includes or that it was intended to include a right to make a contract which in fact restrained and regulated interstate commerce, notwithstanding congress, proceeding under the constitutional provision giving to it the power to regulate that commerce, had prohibited such contracts."

Mr. Griggs Objects.