

save the country, as he declared, from "a depreciated currency," made a speech at a banquet recently and denounced the asset currency. He said: "The silver dollar which we condemned had nearly fifty cents worth of silver in it, but the asset currency which they propose may be absolutely worthless. I left the democratic party to protect the country from bad money. Is the republican party going to reward me with an asset currency, which is infinitely worse than silver?" He ought to sue the republican party for breach of promise.

The democratic party believes that more money is needed and it believes in supplying that need with standard money—money that has been used for thousands of years. The republican party first denied that we needed more money and now it sets up a "universal clamor" for an increase of the banks' promises to pay. How long will it be before the people of the country recognize the irreconcilable contradiction between the arguments made against an increase of good money in 1896 and the arguments made in favor of a lot of bad money now?

### Another Negro Burned.

The burning of the negro school teacher at Belleville, Ill., recently, is the latest, if not the most forcible evidence that has been given in this country of race prejudice. The victim was not a low or brutal representative of his race, but, on the contrary, one of the more intellectual of his people. He had sufficiently advanced to enable him to become a school teacher.

The burning did not occur in a southern state where the race question is constantly present in the minds of all, but in one of the largest northern states, and under the administration of a republican governor.

The crime which led to the lynching and burning was not an assault upon a woman—the revolting crime that has usually led to burnings in the south, but an assault upon a republican official. It seems that County Superintendent Hertel had, for reasons which to him seemed sufficient, refused to renew Wyatt's certificate. There is nothing to indicate that the refusal to issue the certificate was due to race prejudice, and certainly republicans will not claim that the superintendent in the discharge of his official duty gave any just cause for offense. Angered by the refusal, Wyatt drew a revolver and fired upon the superintendent. He was arrested and taken to the jail, but as soon as the news of the attempted murder became known a mob gathered at the jail, took the negro out, and hung him to a telegraph pole. That not being sufficient, a fire was kindled and the man cut down and burned. Even the burning did not satisfy the vengeance of his executors. According to the account published in the New York World and reproduced on another page, "they fell upon him with clubs and knives, and cut and beat the burning body almost to pieces, and not until every sign of life had departed did they desist and permit the flames to devour the body."

It is needless to say that a white man would have been differently dealt with. Shocking as is the teacher's assault upon the superintendent, it did not differ materially from the tragedies that occur only too frequently in all parts of the country. Sometimes the perpetrator of such an act is hanged by a mob, but there was nothing in this case to justify the belief that a frenzied mob would have acted as they did had Wyatt been white instead of black. We may say what we please in condemnation of race prejudice, but it is a thing that must be considered—it cannot be ignored—and there is no doubt that the prejudice has been growing during the last few years. Can its growth be traced to any source? Is it unreasonable to suppose that the effort on the part of some of the republican leaders to force the appointment of colored men upon protesting white people has had something to do with it? These appointments have embittered the whites and the protests made by the whites have embittered the negroes, and the two races are more hostile than at any time since the war. Is it not time to discuss this subject soberly and seriously, with a view to arriving at some honest understanding? Is it not time to lay aside the political phases of the subject and seek a solution that will render it possible for the two races to develop and make progress without constant and increasing friction?

### A Protest Justified.

Dear Sir: Your favor at hand. I believe that the cruelty practiced against the Jews in Russia justifies an official expression on the part of our nation, and we have a precedent for it (if a precedent is needed) in the protest sent by

Secretary Hay to another European country in regard to the persecution of the Jews. The United States must take a leading part in the formation of the public opinion of the world, and there would be nothing unfriendly in making a protest which I suggest. If it is replied that our own nation has permitted things that would justify the protest of foreign nations, we can answer that this does not alter the case. If we do or permit anything that is wrong it is right and proper that other nations should express their disapproval, and such an expression would do much to help us to prevent a recurrence of such incidents. Then, too, the expression of our indignation at atrocities abroad would tend to cultivate a public sentiment that would prevent atrocities here.

I believe that the policy which I have suggested is not only the correct one for this country, but for all countries, and that the general adoption of such a policy would strengthen the sentiment in favor of justice and humanity in dealing not only with the Jews, but with all other races and sects. Very truly yours,

W. J. BRYAN.

Mr. A. Rosenthal,  
"Modern View," St. Louis, Mo.

### A Natural Selection.

Labor Compendium of St. Louis criticizes the World's fair management for inviting Cleveland to speak at the dedication exercises. What it says in regard to Mr. Roosevelt's use of the occasion to make a republican speech is just. The president was guilty of a gross breach of propriety in practically ignoring Jefferson's part in the acquisition and in attempting to build a republican argument upon the purchase of the Louisiana territory. Mr. Cleveland's appointment, however, was perfectly natural when all the circumstances are considered. Mr. Francis is at the head of the exposition and is devoting his time to it. Having been a member of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet he, of course, feels under obligation to the ex-president, and having deserted the democratic party at the time that Mr. Cleveland did, he would very naturally prefer his brand of democracy to the Kansas City platform brand.

Then, too, Mr. Francis is conspicuous among the reorganizers, and desires to give them all the prestige and advantage he can. It was hardly to be expected that he would consult the democrats of Missouri or of the section of the country immediately tributary to St. Louis. The selection of Mr. Cleveland was not only more pleasing to the republican members of the national commission, and to the republicans generally than the selection of any democrat could have been, but, as he belongs to no party, it made the occasion non-partisan. Mr. Bryan was invited along with other visitors to occupy a seat upon the stand, but he feared that his presence there, even as an invited guest, might inject that partisan element which the management had so studiously avoided.

### Organized Against Labor.

The National Manufacturers' association, of which Mr. D. M. Parry of Indianapolis is president and Marshall Cushing of New York secretary, has sent out a letter signed by the secretary in which the association makes the following claim:

"We beat the eight-hour bill in the last congress and have evidently got to do it in the next; for already the labor leaders are having an eminent lawyer draw a new eight-hour bill which shall be constitutional, if possible, and, if possible, shall pass muster with the committee on education and labor of the senate, and the senate itself, and even with the president, who is to be urged, through all the pressure that can be brought to bear by the American federation of labor, to endorse this measure in his next annual measure."

In the declaration of principles the association makes no mention of its opposition to an eight-hour day. It starts out by declaring in favor of "fair dealing," but it seems that its idea for fair dealing is to attack a proposed law which is in the interest of fairness. The letter then proceeds:

"Our association must also be prepared to beat the anti-conspiracy bill—which would legalize the free picket around your plant. But that proposition also can be beaten—if we have the help of all who are naturally our friends."

The association seems to be getting into politics fast. The next thing that the association has

to deal with is the new department of commerce and labor. The letter says: "There will also be, during the fall and winter, very much of assistance that will have to be given to the new department—which our association can give all the better because it was the chief influence creating that department. This new branch of the government hasn't merely the labor question to deal with, but also all the questions relating to the big combinations and the continuing expansion of our export trade." So it seems that the department of commerce and labor was not after all in the interest of labor, but in the interest of commerce, and the national association of manufacturers is to occupy itself getting the new department started. It more and more clearly appears that the measures of the republican party are all of the same kind, in the interest of capital rather than in the interest of those whose labor creates capital. We shall see whether the association will be able to control congress as other capitalistic associations have.

### The National City's Schemes.

The Boston Transcript has the following in regard to the scheme which the National City Bank worked on the other banks. It just slipped in and used the government to send its letters to the holders of bonds. Of course the secretary would show the same favor to other banks, after it had given the inside to the National City Bank, but would it have given the other banks the start, or could it have given to all the same opportunity?

"The National City Bank of New York has addressed a circular letter to every registered holder of United States government bonds offering to buy their bonds at the highest current quotations or exchange other securities for them. The bank sent their letters through the United States treasury, where the addresses and stamps were put on the envelopes by the treasury clerks, the bank paying for the labor and postage. In this way the addresses of the holders of the bonds were not secured by the bank nor otherwise made public. In reply to a complaint for permitting the circulars to be sent to holders of bonds, Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, said that the same favor would be granted to any reputable bond firm or to any bank, especially when the object was, as in this case, to further the government's plan for refunding some of its bonds. The National City Bank's circular letter was signed by Frank A. Vanderlip, one of its vice presidents. He pointed out that at present prices the 4 per cent bonds of 1907 return the investor only 11-5 per cent, while the 4s of 1925 can be bought on a 2 per cent basis."

### Gorman's Candidacy.

On another page will be found an extract from the editorial page of the Public Ledger of Philadelphia. The Ledger has recently been consolidated with the Times, and is conspicuous among the corporation-controlled representatives of the metropolitan press. Its discussion of Senator Gorman's position on public questions can, therefore, be accepted as representing the opinion of the reorganizing element. The editorial is reproduced in order that the readers of The Commoner may better understand what reorganization really means. Some have been slow to grasp the full import of the change that is contemplated. In the campaigns of 1896 and 1900 the party stood for the interests of the masses; the reorganizers aim to make it the representative of organized wealth. They desire to use the party as a club with which to threaten the republican party if it becomes restive under the domination of corporations. The democratic party would cut a sorry figure in the campaign if it attempted to carry its contest by the liberal use of trust contributions. It could do that in 1892, but the people are better acquainted with the subject now.

### Selecting Candidates.

Mr. Hamilton Holt, New York Independent, New York City.—My Dear Sir: I have been trying to get time to send you the article which you desire, but so far have not found leisure for it. I can answer your question in a very few words. The real issue between the democratic party and the republican party is whether the government shall be based upon the doctrine that all men are created equal and so administered as to recognize the rights of man, or built upon a democratic foundation administered in behalf of the few at the expense of the many. In all the republican policies you will find that what are