

doors of issue upon its opponent and leave it with no other occupation than opposition for opposition's sake. Should that come which has come before when the issue was the same, as a sequence of this 'driveling idiosyncrasy,' there will be poor satisfaction for the Dispatch in being where it can say, 'I told you so.'"

It is very evident that some of the heretofore patient and persevering republican editors are becoming weary of the "let well enough alone" policy in the presence of serious public evils.

Tell the Senate.

Senator Redfield Proctor delivered an address at the fortieth annual reunion of the Vermont civil war veterans. Referring to the colonial policy of the United States, he said: "The government of a people of a country not contiguous is at the best experimental and temporary."

Senator Proctor declared that—

"Such a condition may last a long time, but it cannot be permanent with training and development. It is the God-given human nature of all people to wish to govern themselves and not owe allegiance across a sea.

"If I could make the future geography of the American Union I might be a little uncertain about the nation's northern boundary, whether to make it Canada or the Arctic ocean—preferably the last, in God's good time—but the proper lines would be fixed east by the Atlantic, west by the Pacific and south by the republic of Mexico and the gulf, and within those boundaries may the future government of our country remain."

Mr. Proctor, as an American statesman, may have something to do with the making of "the future geography of the American Union." If he would boldly take a stand against the policy of imperialism which his party has foisted upon this government, if in the senate chamber he would speak as boldly as he spoke before the civil war veterans, at Rutland, Vt., then it may not be doubted that his words would have great effect in hastening the day of readjustment of the nation's policy with respect to the Philippine islands. If Mr. Proctor was sincere in his statements at Rutland, and we have no reason to doubt his sincerity, he should, at the earliest opportunity, express similar sentiments in the United States senate.

"Hedging."

In its issue of Wednesday, September 9, the New York World had an editorial entitled "Is Wall Street Hedging?" In that editorial, the World said:

"Some time ago Senator Platt remarked that of course President Roosevelt had 'friends in Wall street,' and that if he had not he might as well throw up the sponge—or words to that effect.

"From the tone of a conspicuous editorial in the Sun yesterday the public will conclude that the president's friends among what he calls the 'propertied classes' are multiplying."

Experienced men must understand that Wall street seldom "hedges." The question is: Has Mr. Roosevelt "hedged?" When we are told that Senator Platt, who is indeed an authority on republican politics, has remarked that if Mr. Roosevelt has no friends in Wall street, he might as well throw up the sponge, and when we are told that from the tone of a conspicuous editorial in the New York Sun, it is reasonable to conclude that the president's friends among what he calls the "propertied classes" are multiplying, then we are reminded of a dispatch printed in the Chicago Record-Herald of Monday, August 24, and sent by Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent of that newspaper. In that dispatch Mr. Wellman said: "One important point and the new point is that President Roosevelt is behind this currency reform scheme, pushing as only he

knows how to push. He organized and promoted the effort." And then Mr. Wellman asked, "Why is President Roosevelt so much interested in currency reform?" Replying to his own question Mr. Wellman, who is generally understood to be very close to the Roosevelt administration, said:

"Mr. Roosevelt's masterly skill as a politician has been employed so successfully that no one suspects he is a politician—the best test in the world. Having become the most popular man in the United States and having won the enthusiastic approval of the masses by his fight upon the trusts and the corporations, Mr. Roosevelt not long ago began to cast about for methods by which he might even up. He had the people with him, but the trusts, the corporations, the financial leaders, the bankers, were hostile. This hostility was centered in New York. It chanced that in New York and among these very people there was a general and earnest desire for a reformation of our currency system. The president has gone in for that reformation with his accustomed ardor and energy, and it will not be his fault if the financial people of New York do not soon look upon him with more favor."

In the light of these statements, it would seem that comment is unnecessary.

Long on Roosevelt.

Ex-Secretary Long of Massachusetts has written for The Outlook an article that cannot be considered otherwise than as an unfriendly attack on the president. The following is an extract:

"Washington, D. C., Oct. 11.—(Special.)—Frank and unreserved comment on the services of Theodore Roosevelt as assistant secretary of the navy characterizes an article by John D. Long, former secretary of the navy, in the current issue of The Outlook. The government officials and navy officers familiar with the sometimes tense relations between Secretary Long and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt in the trying period preceding the Spanish-American war have displayed the keenest interest in the article of Mr. Long, who left the cabinet not long after Mr. Roosevelt entered the White house as president. Here is an extract from the article:

"In May, 1897, on the retirement of Mr. McAdoo, I selected Mr. Roosevelt, who had had a hearty interest in the navy. His activity was characteristic. He was zealous in the work of putting the navy in condition for the apprehended struggle, and his ardor sometimes went faster than the president or the department appreciated.

"Just before the war he was anxious to send a squadron across the ocean to sink the ships and torpedo boat destroyers of the Spanish fleet while we were yet at peace with Spain, frequently incorporating his views in the memoranda, which he would place every morning on my desk.

"Most of his suggestions, had, however, so far as applicable, already been adopted by the various bureaus, the chiefs of which were leaving nothing undone. When I suggested to him that some future historian, reading his memoranda, would get the impression that the bureaus were inefficient he accepted the suggestion with the generous good nature which is so marked in him."

Here is strenuousness in the extreme! Mr. Long was secretary of the navy at that time and Mr. Roosevelt was assistant secretary, and now comes the chief and accuses the subordinate of desiring to sink the ships of Spain "while we were yet at peace" with that country. President Roosevelt told the students at West Point that a good soldier "must not only be willing to fight, but anxious to fight," but does that mean that a good commander must slip up and destroy another nation's fleet before war is declared? It seems, too, that the secretary became weary of having his assistant make suggestions that had already been carried out and finally the secretary told the subordinate, in substance, to attend to his own business. The rebuke—as even more severe—he was informed that some future historian reading his numerous memoranda might get the impression that the bureaus were inefficient. This is a remarkable criticism, coming at this time and from

such a source. What is its meaning? Can it be intended to array the friends of President McKinley against his successor? Is it the beginning of an anti-Roosevelt crusade?

Preparing for the Contest.

The Commoner's special subscription offer has found cordial response among the readers of this publication. Although this offer was made public only a few weeks ago, more than 20,000 orders for these special subscription cards have been received.

The larger The Commoner's circulation is, the greater influence this publication will be able to exert in advancing the principles to which it is devoted. It is doubtful if there is than The Commoner another publication whose readers so generally and so cordially co-operate in any movement to advance the principles advocated by that publication. On many occasions readers have shown not only their willingness, but their determination to do anything in their power to advance the interests of The Commoner and thereby give substantial aid in the fight for the preservation of democratic principles.

The "lots of five" plan adopted by The Commoner last year was productive of good results. Those results were due to the generous assistance of Commoner readers and if the present undertaking be successful, and there is every reason at this writing to believe that it will be even more successful than last year's effort was, the credit will be due to the readers of The Commoner.

The presidential campaign of 1904 is practically upon us and a desperate fight will be made by the representatives of special interests to reorganize the democratic party and place it under the control of those having no regard for the principles of that party.

Those who believe in democratic principles as enunciated in the Kansas City platform, those who object to the republicanization of the democratic party, may contribute much to their party's defense by assisting in extending the circulation and therefore the influence of The Commoner.

The plan proposed this year is similar to the one submitted last year and known as the lots of five plan.

Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot.

This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

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If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.