

ties, but future power to extort through the power of monopoly. The producing masses are regarded as legitimate objects of prey, and gigantic corporations are created for the purpose of robbing those who toil. Whether in peace or in war, those who earn their living by labor on the farm and in the shop, are the nation's reliance. Why should these, the bone and sinew of every land, be despoiled by the speculators who reap a rich harvest in times of peace and shirk every national duty in time of trouble?

The republican party stands today for plutocracy and all that plutocracy desires. Its policies give prominence to the dollar and leave man in the background. It ought not to require a slump in stocks or a fall in prices or a run on the banks to open the eyes of the people to what is going on, but if any object lesson is necessary it is furnished by present conditions.

We have been passing through a period of bountiful harvests, a period during which the people, recovering from a prolonged depression, have been making up for lost time. Production and consumption have been abnormal, but there are evidences that we have passed the high water mark and are on the down grade. Employers are organizing to resist the claims of employes; corporations are meeting the demand for shorter hours and better wages with threats of a reduction in the number of men employed. The steel trust cuts a dividend on common stock in two, and announces that the orders on hand are less than this time last year. Some of the banks and trust companies have not been able to get new securities as rapidly as old securities have fallen in value. All indicate that the cry of "prosperity" will be uttered with less and less emphasis by the republican party.

Senator Hanna, in his anxiety to be re-elected, threatened that a reduction of the republican majority would result in the closing of many industries. Upon what foundation is republican prosperity based, if it can be shaken by an election in one state? The fact is that Senator Hanna knows that, regardless of the result in any one state, the prosperity argument upon which his party has relied, must sooner or later come to an end, and when it comes to an end, the republican party will have to meet the issues which its riot in power has brought before the American people. It has not attempted to defend imperialism; it has answered every argument against imperialism with the cry of "Prosperity!" It has not attempted to justify a high tariff; it has answered the arguments against tariff schedules by the cry of "Prosperity!" It has not even attempted to defend the gold standard; it has simply claimed that prosperity has justified the gold standard. And its only argument on the trust question is that we cannot deal harshly with the trusts without jeopardizing prosperity.

The slump in stocks is an indication that the trusts have overestimated their power to squeeze the people, and that the squeezing process must therefore be applied to the stocks.

Will the republican leaders take warning and address themselves to remedial legislation, or will they blindly refuse to protect the public? There is already evidence that they have been frightened away from the asset currency. They may not even dare to make a beginning by providing for an emergency asset currency, but it is not sufficient to refrain from further bad legislation. What we need now is good legislation, and the Kansas City platform points the way.

The Western Land Scandal.

During the campaign of 1900, Mr. Hanna went over the country pleading with the people to "let well enough alone." Thousands of men rejected all appeals that they give intelligent consideration to the policies and principles for which the contending political parties stood; and under the

mistaken notion that they knew the situation or that Mr. Hanna and his associates were in the least inclined to tell them the truth, they followed the "let well enough alone" banner.

Recently the eyes of many of these men must have been opened.

The American people now know that at the very time when Mr. Hanna was pleading to "let well enough alone" men high in the councils of the republican party were engaged in corrupting the public service and in carrying out dishonest schemes.

Men know now what they did not know in 1900, that the entire federal service is honey-combed with fraud and corruption.

Conspicuous republicans undertook to prevent the revelations with respect to the fraud in the postoffice department, and even the republican postmaster general, when asked by a newspaper reporter what he had to say with respect to the charges of corruption, replied: "Say that the postmaster general just laughed."

Men know now that aside from all the dishonesty revealed in connection with the large number of republican officials now under indictment, many conspicuous republican politicians were permitted to escape indictment and punishment by the operation of the statute of limitations. Among these was no less a personage than the secretary of the republican national committee. It cannot have escaped the observation of thoughtful men that aside from Mr. Bristow, the fourth assistant postmaster general, and perhaps one or two other associates, there has not been displayed that determination in the investigation and prosecution of fraud and corruption in the federal service that is warranted and, indeed, required by the revelations already made.

Little by little the truth is coming out. The Chicago Record-Herald, in its issue of October 24, printed a dispatch from its Washington correspondent in which is charged; "tremendous scope and ramifications of the fraud in western land;" and that "the postoffice scandal is a trifle compared with the scheme to grab 60,175,765 acres." Under date of October 23, the Record-Herald's Washington correspondent said that "according to the admissions of the officials of the department of the interior made for the first time today, the investigation of the public land scandal now going on in the states of the Pacific coast involve the most tremendous of all government 'grafts' and cause the 'hot air' affair in the postoffice department to pale into insignificance."

The Record-Herald dispatch relating to this subject is printed in full in another column and the thoughtful attention of the readers of The Commoner is invited thereto.

"Honor," Indeed.

Congressman Hitt, chairman of the public service committee on foreign affairs, in an interview with the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, indorses Mr. Roosevelt's prompt recognition of the Panama government. Mr. Hitt says that the action of the United States at Panama was strictly correct.

The Record-Herald correspondent put this question to Mr. Hitt: "But what if in 1860 England had sent a fleet into Charleston harbor and notified the United States government that it would not be permitted to assemble forces there to put down the rebellion?"

Mr. Hitt replied: "Ah, you forget that England had no treaty, not only giving her the right to maintain the peace in Charleston, but requiring her to do so whether she wanted to or not. That was the case at Panama. The United States had a duty to perform to which it had pledged its honor. It is only discharging that duty now."

Mr. Hitt misinterprets a very important part of the treaty between the United States and Co-

lombia. There was bitter protest in the United States when England recognized the belligerency of the southern states; and yet there are statesmen today who justify England's course on that occasion. If, however, England had been under treaty agreement with this government and solemnly pledged to protect the sovereignty of the Union, those who at this time seek to justify England's course would have small ground to stand upon.

Mr. Hitt forgets that our treaty agreement with Colombia was not simply to "maintain the peace." We solemnly promised to protect and defend Colombia's sovereignty in Panama and we have deliberately and wantonly violated that pledge. Under the terms of the treaty of 1846, the United States did have a duty to perform. Their honor, it is true, was pledged. They have ignored the duty. They have repudiated the solemn pledge they made; and it is with bad grace, indeed, that those who justify Mr. Roosevelt's course on the ground of expediency refer to the "honor" of this government in connection with the Panama affair.

A Precocious Infant.

An American steel rail firm has agreed to deliver 20,000 tons of steel rails at Beirut, Turkey, for \$22.83 per ton, freight paid. This is less than the steel rail makers charge home consumers, and the home consumers pay the freight. The infants seem to think they are too big to be thrown over the transom.

Everyone May Help.

The responses to The Commoner's special subscription offer has been very gratifying. Orders for these subscription cards are coming in at the rate of several thousand per week.

The extension of The Commoner's circulation means the widening of The Commoner's sphere of influence and those who believe in the principles advocated by this publication are requested to co-operate with the publisher along the lines of the special subscription offer.

This offer is similar to the lots of five plan adopted with marked success by The Commoner last year. 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.

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