

The Commoner.

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THEIR MASK IS TORN OFF

Mr. Bryan's speech at the Lincoln banquet has had the desired effect—it has unmasked the reorganizers and shown that their pleas for harmony were mere pretense. Professing a great desire for reconciliation between those who voted the democratic ticket and those who opposed the party, they had a concealed condition, namely, that the bolters should be permitted to write the platform, nominate the candidate and control the organization. It is well that their real purpose should be made known so early. They profess a strong desire to defeat President Roosevelt, but it is evident that they do not want him defeated unless they can bring about that result with a democrat equally acceptable to the great corporations which put up the money necessary for the debauching of elections.

The New York World proposes as a democratic platform the following declarations:

First—Democratic principles had their inception in the Declaration of Independence. They are built on the bedrock of the constitution.

Second—They include just and economical government, equal rights for all, special favors to none.

Third—Taxation for public purposes only.

Fourth—A sound and stable currency.

Fifth—Respect for the judiciary—enforcement of the laws.

Sixth—A civil service divorced from politics.

Seventh—An isthmian canal.

Eighth—Reciprocity in trade.

Ninth—Opposition to monopoly.

Tenth—Friendly relations with all nations, entangling alliances with none—neither toadying to the strong nor bullying the weak.

A republican paper, referring to the World's proposed democratic platform, well says: "The average reader will be much puzzled to note what particular plank in the above could not be inserted with grace in the republican platform."

That describes the situation accurately. The purpose of the men whom the World represents is to reorganize the democratic party so it will differ from the republican party in name only. They pretend to be in favor of harmony, and yet the World declares that it will be the duty of the men whom it represents to "put down with a firm hand" those who believe in the principles enunciated in the Kansas City platform. They talk about "getting together," and yet they become highly indignant when the faithful democrat demands to know what they are "getting together" for and whether through the "getting together" process the democratic party is to defend the rights of the people or is to enter upon a course of pillage.

Having helped the republican party into power, the World assumes to fix the conditions upon which the democratic party should be allowed to enter a contest with the republican party. The World can come nearer writing the republican platform than it can the democratic platform, but it insists upon writing both.

Look Higher.

Frank and John Jager, officers of the Model Gold Mining company, have been arrested by the

federal authorities and arraigned before the United States commissioner at Chicago, charged with "misrepresenting their properties in advertising matter sent through the mails." An Associated press dispatch says that upwards of \$800,000 is involved in the case, and that the federal authorities are determined to push it to a finish.

It is well known that the managers of the shipbuilding trust were guilty of the same offense with which the Jager brothers are charged. The shipbuilding trust managers sent through the mails matter misrepresenting their property. They defrauded their victims of thousands where the Jager brothers are charged with having defrauded their victims of hundreds.

How does it happen that all the power of the federal authorities is exerted to punish these comparatively insignificant men, while the wrongdoing of the millionaires who manipulated the shipbuilding trust, and defrauded many people out of thousands upon thousands of dollars, has been utterly ignored?

MUST BE HONEST

Replying to a question submitted by the New York World, Allie W. Young of Morehead, Ky., and democratic national committeeman for that state, said:

"I am in favor of any compromise that does not involve the surrender of the future hope and welfare of the millions of laborers and freemen of this country to the money powers in exchange for office. For this reason I am opposed to Mr. Cleveland and his associates dictating the next national platform for the democratic party. The principles underlying the gold standard are either right or wrong, and I want to see our party, now, as always heretofore, brave enough to go before the American voters with the faith that is in it clearly stated. It will and should live longer defeated, retaining the confidence of its followers and supporters, than to temporarily triumph by deception."

This is an interesting reply. Will those who object to the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform, because to do so means that the party shall declare itself in favor of bimetallism, be willing for the party to make itself clearly understood upon the money question?

Do those who insist that the principle of bimetallism has been destroyed and who say that the single gold standard is right, want the platform to be so framed as to deceive the people?

If the principles underlying the gold standard are right, are these gentlemen willing that the party be brave enough to go before the American voters with the faith that is in it clearly stated? If they want the party to abandon bimetallism on the theory that the single gold standard is right, are they willing that the democratic platform shall declare unequivocally for monometallism?

Mr. Young is eminently correct when he says that the democratic party will live longer defeated, retaining the confidence of its followers and supporters, than it would by acquiring temporary triumph through deception.

The railroad combine seems about to reach out and secure the quid pro quo counted on when it furnished that sixty days of palatial train service.

MR. BRYAN AS A "BOLTER"

It is difficult to understand why a newspaper that circulates among intelligent men will persistently resort to misrepresentation in the hope of gaining a point. Sooner or later the truth must become known and when the truth is known, the publication responsible for the falsehood must suffer irreparable damage.

On many occasions the Chicago Chronicle has declared that Mr. Bryan bolted the democratic national ticket in 1892. Repeatedly, the falsity of this charge has been brought to the attention of the editors of the Chronicle. They have never had the honesty to correct their false statement, but, on the contrary, have continued to reiterate it.

In a recent issue, the Chronicle says that the democratic convention of 1896 "nominated a bolter in the person of Mr. Bryan," and it adds: "Mr. Bryan and his populists in Nebraska bolted Mr. Cleveland in 1892, and Mr. Bryan came to Chicago four years later as a member of a bolting delegation." The Chronicle further declares: "The fact is, of course, that Mr. Bryan was not then and is not now a democrat. . . . So far as bolters are concerned, Mr. Bryan should be the last man on earth to complain about nominating one of them. All that he is or has been in politics may be attributed to bolting."

The Commoner has on several occasions presented the facts. This is a good time to present them again.

Mr. Bryan was the democratic nominee for congress in 1890 and again in 1892. In each campaign he was opposed by a populist candidate.

In 1892, many democrats in Nebraska voted for the Weaver electors at the request of the democratic national committee. That request was delivered in a confidential letter sent out by James E. Boyd, then governor of the state of Nebraska, and since then one of the prominent members of the gold contingent. Governor Boyd's letter follows:

"Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 17, 1892.—(Personal and confidential.)—Dear Sir: I have just returned from the east where I was honored by a consultation with the national committee and leading men of our party, with regard to the best policy to be pursued in Nebraska this fall in dealing with the electoral ticket; and they agreed with me that the wisest course would be for democrats to support the Weaver electors; the object being to take Nebraska out of her accustomed place in the republican column.

"Information has reached me that a number of independents who were formerly republicans contemplate voting for the Harrison electors. With the republican strength thus augmented it would be impossible for the democrats to carry their own electors' ticket to victory. It is therefore the part of good judgment and wise action for democrats to support the Weaver electors in as large numbers as possible. For democrats to do this is no abandonment of principle; on the contrary, it is a definite step toward victory, and the ultimate triumph of Cleveland and Stevenson, and the principles they represent."

It may not be out of place right here to say that in the spring of 1893, when the democrats in the Nebraska legislature were confronted with