

substituted for the greenbacks. According to this latter plan, the government transforms the \$346,000,000 in greenbacks into an interest bearing debt, in order that the national banker may use the bonds representing that debt to draw interest for himself on the one hand and as security for the national bank notes he issues and speculates with on the other. In addition thereto, there is to be conferred upon the national banker the privilege of expanding or contracting the volume of our currency at least to the extent of \$346,000,000 according to the whims and selfish interests of the bankers.

Those who really believe that the people have no concern in the money question must be blind to the things that are going on in the financial circles of the country. What these financiers desire is that the people shall lose all interest in that question. Then, when the people have fallen asleep, Wall street will arrange our money system according to its own selfish interests and the people will awaken when it is too late to discover that they are the victims of misplaced confidence.



"Wall Street In Line."

Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, announces with exultant tone that Wall street is now in line for Roosevelt. He points to the fact that Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, has been entertained at the White house and that President Stillman of the Rockefeller bank has had several interviews with President Roosevelt. "Wall street is swinging into line," we are told, and will not only offer no opposition to his nomination, but is discerning certain admirable qualities in him. This would be an important item of news if new, but it is not new. Mr. Roosevelt's nomination was settled about a year ago when the president consented to having the house anti-trust measure strangled in the senate. The New York Sun called attention to the matter at the time and congratulated the president upon his "masterly retreat." The speech delivered by the president last spring at Milwaukee was a formal announcement of his capitulation, as The Commoner then pointed out. Since that time there has been an era of peace between the executive and the trusts. The president's surrender was the cause of the peace and the nomination is to be the result. Having as the republican nominee one whom the trusts can trust, it only remains for the trusts to capture the democratic convention in order to secure protection from any possible molestation. If the democrats nominate some one equally acceptable the trusts will contribute equally to the two parties; if they nominate Mr. Cleveland or some one like him the trusts might give the democrats more than half because it would enable the trusts to again throw the odium of non-action upon the democrats. But the trusts will not control the democratic convention. The loyal democrats are warned in time, and knowing the purpose of the reorganizers will be able to thwart it. Plutocracy may be entitled to one party, but it is not entitled to two.



Choosing a Senator.

Charles A. Dick has been elected to the United States senate, to succeed Senator Hanna. We are told that, while Mr. Dick is a very shrewd politician, he has not displayed the statesmanship that would suggest an uprising of the people in behalf of his election to the senate.

Soon after Mr. Hanna died, a number of men, whose ability is generally recognized, were mentioned for Mr. Hanna's place. It seems to be agreed that of all men suggested, Mr. Dick did not rank the highest in point of ability and distinguished public service; but as soon as it was authoritatively announced that Mr. Hanna had expressed the desire that Mr. Dick should be his successor, the situation was simplified, all other candidates withdrew and Mr. Dick was elected, receiving the votes of all republican members.

We are told, also, that Governor Herrick had ambitions in this line and while Mr. Hanna was friendly to the governor, he knew that Mr. Herrick's election to the senate would mean the elevation to the gubernatorial office of the lieutenant governor, who happens to be very friendly to the Foraker interests; so Mr. Dick was chosen, not because of any particular claims he had upon the people, not because of his ability and integrity, but simply because his predecessor had expressed the wish that Dick succeed him.

In this selection the legislature of Ohio had to more than a machine-like part to play. Men elected to the legislature and sworn to do their duty, according to the dictates of their con-

sciences, were unexpectedly confronted with the duty of choosing a United States senator. The selection was made by outsiders. Members of the legislature formally ratified the choice; and in this case the American people have another striking object lesson, showing the importance of having a change in methods, so that United States senators shall be elected by the people, instead of by a handful of politicians.



Democratic Simplicity.

Secretary Shaw has asked congress to appropriate \$90,000 for the erection of a new stable at the White house and the Washington correspondent for the New York World says that if the president gets the new stable, he can run his expense account up against the government to over \$910,000, divided as follows:

"Restoring" and refurnishing the White house	\$475,445
Six-room office building at the White house	65,196
Refurnishing the U. S. S. Mayflower for use as the president's yacht.....	100,000
Cost of refitting and repairing the Mayflower in 1902 and 1903 for the president's use	65,000
Estimated cost of repairs this year.....	30,000
Cost of keeping the Mayflower and the Sylph at the disposition of Mr. Roosevelt in 1902 and 1903.....	60,000
Estimated cost of keeping the two ships in readiness for a presidential call this summer	25,000
New White house stable asked for by the president	90,000

Total\$910,641

It is explained that these figures do not take into account the great naval display off Oyster Bay last summer, which display was ordered by the president for the entertainment of his visitors and children and cost many thousands of dollars; and yet, there are many republican newspapers that attempt to make it appear that there is about Mr. Roosevelt considerable democratic simplicity.



Corruption Funds.

The cry of pain that the boodle newspapers are sending up shows that Mr. Bryan touches the sore spot when he insists that the democratic organization ought not to take money from the trusts which it proposes to fight. These papers want the party mortgaged to the trusts, but they object to having the mortgage put on record before the election. In other words, their whole and sole purpose is to deceive. If the party gets the votes of the people and then fails to attack the trusts it will deceive the people. If it gets the money of the trusts and then prosecutes the trusts it will deceive the trusts. Experience has shown that the trusts are too wise to put up money without a guarantee and when the people become as wise they will also demand a guarantee, and the best guarantee they can demand is that, after the convention has nominated an honest ticket on an honest platform, the committee shall refuse to accept money from the trusts.

The democratic party should insist that the government resume its legitimate functions and cease to be used as a business asset by great financial enterprises. It cannot do this if it wins its victory with a corruption fund drawn from the beneficiaries of class legislation.



They Want to Know.

The Louisville Post, one of the reorganizers, says: "It has been said by Mr. Bryan that while the financial question is not acute, it may become acute at any moment. Mr. Williams, of Mississippi, said that the silver question is dormant. Anything may waken a dormant question, and what the public wants to know in advance is, 'What would the democratic party in power do should the silver question once more become acute?'"

Then the Post proceeds to say that Mr. Cleveland should be nominated because "the country knows him and it could be reasonably certain what he would do, at least with the financial question."

The reorganizers have, all along, insisted that the money question is dead; and yet, their organs show the deep concern they have in this "dead issue."

The fact that we can be reasonably certain what Mr. Cleveland would do with the financial question provides one of the many reasons why

neither Mr. Cleveland nor anyone representing his views should be permitted to lead the democratic party.

If it is true, as the Post says, that the people want to know in advance what the democratic party in power would do if the money question once more became acute, then is it not true that the democratic party in convention assembled owes it to itself and to the people to say exactly what it would do on that question. If it would maintain the single gold standard, let it tell the people that it is pledged to the single gold standard; but if that is not its purpose, let it tell the people that it will adhere to the democratic doctrine of bimetalism, as explicitly set forth in the Kansas City platform. Yet newspapers like the Post are not willing to make this the issue in county conventions and in state conventions, in the selection of delegates to the democratic national convention.

These people prefer to mislead democratic voters and persuade them to trust the framing of the platform to delegates chosen by the reorganizers. They very well know that if the question between the single gold standard and bimetalism were submitted to the democrats at the primaries, the result would be practically an unanimous victory for democratic doctrine, as defined in the platforms of 1896 and 1900.



Unexpected Candor.

The Cincinnati Enquirer is guilty of unexpected candor. In a recent editorial entitled "Dollar Value," the Enquirer says:

"The New York World introduces its editorial paragraphs with this observation in capital black letters: 'The bullion value of a standard silver dollar at yesterday's quotation was 43½ cents.'

"Go to. This is not the campaign of 1896 or of 1900. That sort of comment was 'worked' and 'overworked,' when the silver question was an issue. It is not now. And nobody can explain why it is not except by allusion to the great product of gold for a few years back, and the prospect that there will be lavish production for a good while to come.

"Is it correct to say that the silver dollar has bullion value at all? Its value as a United States coin appears to be 100 cents. It goes for that throughout the country. Everybody is glad to get the silver dollar, or the paper certificate representing it at 100 cents. Men may say that it is sustained by the operation of the (so-called) gold standard; but silver dollars and silver certificates are not redeemable in gold.

"Perhaps, after all that has been said and done, there is something in what the laws of the United States say shall constitute a dollar.

"Anyhow, it seems to be ridiculous to say that a confused lump of silver with 43½ cents is worth no more than that after it has been coined and legally stamped by the United States. Everybody who has sense enough to go in out of the rain knows better than that, from his every-day experience."

The Enquirer's remarks about the money question indicate the wish of the proprietor rather than a knowledge of the fact; but its suggestion that the legal tender law is responsible for the 100-cent value of the silver dollar is eminently sound. For ignorance of the science of money, the New York World probably excels all its contemporaries, and the Enquirer's rebuke is well merited.



Lots of Five.

The Commoner's special subscription offer provides an opportunity for every Commoner reader to assist in the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence and to do so in an effective way. 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 on page 7 for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.