

right of the brown men to suffrage and a voice in their own government.

Why does the republican party run from the issue of imperialism? It is conscious that its policy violates fundamental principles; and yet for commercial reasons it is unwilling to return to constitutional methods.

It is not a truthful platform—as has been shown—neither is it a courageous platform. The republicans assembled in national convention cast admiring glances at the past, but contemplated the future with doubt and misgiving. The republican party is afraid of the trust question; it is afraid of the question of imperialism, and it is afraid of the labor question. Even on the money question it dares not outline a policy. It commends the gold standard, but is silent on the melting of the silver dollar, the asset currency and the branch bank. Only on the tariff is it bold. On this question it goes farther than any other republican convention has ever gone. A former convention favored a tariff equal to the difference between the cost of production here and abroad, but this convention makes that the minimum, while no maximum is suggested.

Will the people indorse such a platform at the polls? Not if the democrats do their duty at St. Louis.

### LaFollette's Fight.

The national committee rejected the credentials of the La Follette delegation from Wisconsin and admitted what is called the "stalwart" delegation, headed by Senators Spooner and Quarrels, Congressman Babcock and Postmaster General Payne. The La Follette men refused to appear before the convention committee on credentials, saying that it was "packed" in favor of the "stalwarts." Governor La Follette has announced that he will appeal to the republicans of Wisconsin, and the candidate for lieutenant governor on his ticket explains the action of the national convention by saying that the result was brought about, first, by the railroad corporations of the country; second, by senatorial courtesy, inspiring the blind following of Senator Spooner by the twenty United States senators on the committee; third, by the threats of Congressman Babcock, who dispenses the congressional campaign funds; fourth, by the postoffice clique headed by Postmaster General Payne.

Well, the governor certainly had a hard combination to fight and it is no wonder that he lost out. He has doubtless found that the corporations run the national organization of the republican party, just as but for him they would run the Wisconsin republican organization. But what is he going to do about it? He cannot hope to maintain his place in the republican party in Wisconsin with the national administration against him, neither can he make much headway against the domination of his state by the corporations so long as he excuses and defends the corporate domination of the national organization and administration. He has a rocky road before him and as there is no hope of the national organization being freed from monopoly rule, Governor La Follette must, in the end, give up his fight or leave the republican party.

In the mean time he is doing a good deal of educational work.

### Sure!

The Wall Street Journal compares the platform adopted by New York and Maryland with that adopted by Nebraska and pointedly says:

"It will be observed that while both wings of the democratic party denounce the republicans for the high tariff and the trusts, the Hill and Gorman declarations are so worded as to give the least possible offense to 'vested interests.' For instance, they say that the tariff must be revised reasonably and conser-

servatively, that there must be no injury to established industries by abrupt and radical measures, and that corporations chartered by the state must be subject to just regulation by the state."

Of course, the Hill and Gorman declarations are "so worded as to give the least possible offense to vested interests." It will be remembered that "Pat" once took his old friend "Mike" into a magnificent cathedral and after "Pat" had pointed out the splendors of the structure, "Mike" said: "Pat, this beats the devil."

Pat promptly responded: "Sure that's what it was intended for."

And so the Hill and Gorman declarations were "so worded as to give the least possible offense to vested interests."

## The Creed of Democracy

*Extract from President Jefferson's first Inaugural Address, setting forth the Essential Principles of the Democratic Party.*

"About to enter, fellow-citizens, on the exercise of duties which comprehend everything dear and valuable to you, it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our government, and consequently those which ought to shape its administration. I will compress them within the narrowest compass they will bear, stating the general principle, but not all its limitations. Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliance with none; the support of the state governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against anti-republican tendencies; the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad; a jealous care of the right of election by the people—a mild and safe corrective of abuses which are lopped by the sword of revolution where peaceable remedies are unprovided; absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority and vital principle of republics, from which is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism; a well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace and for the first moments of war, till regulars may relieve them; the supremacy of the civil over the military authority; economy in the public expense that labor may be lightly burdened; the honest payment of our debts and sacred preservation of the public faith; encouragement of agriculture, and of commerce as its handmaid; the diffusion of information and arraignment of all abuses at the bar of the public reason; freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civic instruction, the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust; and should we wander from them in moments of error or of alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety."

## The Democratic Opportunity.

President Roosevelt has been nominated and his platform given to the world. Senator Fairbanks, his running mate, repre-

sents the Hanna element of the party, having been, as it is believed, slated by Hanna to succeed McKinley had the latter lived out his term.

The platform and all the circumstances attending the convention commit the ticket to the plutocratic element of the country. Not a word spoken or an act done gives promise of reform. As a matter of expediency, there is no advantage to be gained by trying to outbid the republican party for the support of the corporations.

If the democratic party is to have any standing in the campaign it must take a bold and aggressive position. Its platform utterances must be clear and definite and its indictment of the republican policies must be strong and emphatic. The presidential candidate must be a man with known opinions and a record that commits him to the people's side of public questions. The republicans have nominated a ticket that stands, and stands positively, for all that is bad; the democratic ticket must stand positively for all that is good. With Judge Parker running on a cowardly, straddling platform, there would be no enthusiasm and no hope of victory.

If the republican convention had been held two months ago Mr. Parker's campaign of silence and evasion would have made but little progress; as it is the party's hope lies in the uninstructed delegates and in the delegates instructed against Parker. If the readers of The Commoner desire to prevent the nomination of Judge Parker they can assist in doing so by writing to the delegates. Let each reader address a postal card to each of the two delegates from his congressional district and to each of the four delegates at large. Let the letters be written AT ONCE and addressed to the delegates at the headquarters for their state at St. Louis. Ask each delegate to use his influence to prevent the nomination of Judge Parker and to secure the nomination of a democrat whose opinions are known to be democratic.

No matter if your delegates are instructed. Your protest may be useful in preventing an attempt to repeal the two-thirds rule. Every protest sent will lessen the enthusiasm and help to turn the tide in favor of a candidate who will make an honest fight against plutocracy.

### "Extremely Safe."

Under date of Washington, June 14, the New York World correspondent says: "George J. Gould took luncheon at the White house today. He was the only guest and after luncheon the president talked with him for an hour about the political situation and his desire to secure the active support, and especially the campaign contributions, of the financial interests of the country."

The World correspondent adds:

"Mr. Gould is the fifth big financier who has been entertained at the White house, with much secrecy, in recent weeks. The others were James Stillman, president of the National City bank of New York; A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania railroad; J. Pierpont Morgan and George W. Perkins, one of Mr. Morgan's partners. They came separately and in every case the most strenuous efforts were made to keep the visit secret. Apparently, the president feared it would injure him with the masses to have it known that trust magnates were being summoned to the White house."

We are further told that "several other men in the financial world will answer presidential summons before Mr. Roosevelt goes to Oyster Bay and that Mr. Roosevelt 'will do his best to assure all of them that he is 'safe.'"

Mr. Roosevelt has not a very large task before him. He has done nothing to persuade the trust magnates that he is "unsafe," from the magnates' view. He has failed to enforce the criminal law against the trusts; and the futility of civil proceedings has been demonstrated, par-