

Letter of Thomas E. Watson

(Continued from page 7.)

shoes, rivets, tacks, screws, pipe, flues and wire. They doubled the tax on molasses, and put an addition of forty-five million dollars to the price which the people were paying for sugar under the "culminating atrocity of class-legislation," the McKinley act. They pitied the laborer and promised to be his friend, and they let the Pullman Palace Car company have the use of the army to compel the submission of laborers to a cut in wages. They promised to abolish child labor, and in those states of the south where the democratic party is most absolute, child slavery is most immovably planted. They promised the people a graduated income tax, which should compel the millionaires and the gigantic corporations to contribute something to the support of the government upon which they fatten; but now they have given up the contest. The income tax no longer appears in their platform. The millionaires and corporations supporting Parker are not the kind of democrats to clamor for a graduated income tax.

How any party which has for recent years stood for so many different things and broken so many contracts can now expect to be trusted, is a puzzle in politics. The manner in which the platform of 1904 was evolved, the manner in which Parker's nomination was brought about, ought to intensify the distrust which the bad record of the party justly creates. Every line of the platform seems to be in a tremble, lest it should displease the beneficiaries of class-legislation. Every tone of its quaking voice seems to say to the corporations, "Don't be afraid, I won't hurt you." With the anxious fear of Snug the Joiner in "Midsummer Night's Dream," the apparent lion kindly dissipates the fear of his audience by assuring them in advance that its roar is only for stage purposes. If that platform had been meant to please the people, how easy it would have been to write it. But it was meant to delude the people and to please the corporations; hence its wonderful contortions in verbiage, its agonized efforts to use much language and say nothing. This much must be admitted, however, the candidate fits the platform as though a political tailor had measured him for it. Parker can probably use more words and say less that you are certain of than any man in America.

The people's party is Jeffersonian to the core. It has never emasculated its creed to curry favor. It has preferred to win its way into minds and hearts by earnest advocacy of fixed principles. Its chief reliance has been on political education. It assails the evils of class-legislation, and for every abuse offers a remedy. It does not blindly seek to tear down. It seeks to reform, to repair, to renovate, to restore. We would, if we could, go back to the system of our forefathers. The class-legislation which is the bane of our government, at this time, obtained the upper hand in our republic twice before, and was twice driven out. Jefferson did it once; then Jackson democracy in Jackson's day paid off the national debt, overthrew the national bank, revoked many of the privileges of favored classes, and put the reins of power back into the hands of the people. The protective principle was struck down, and the Walker tariff inaugurated an era of great prosperity. Charles Dickens, who visited this country previous to the civil war, wrote back to his home that a flaming sword in the air would not excite more amazement than a beggar in the streets of Boston; and he expressed his astonishment at the general prosperity of the people.

That was when genuine democracy

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was ruling the land and inspiring its legislation. This prosperous condition continued, in the main, until our civil war. That deplorable conflict was hardly less terrible in loss of life than in the legislation to which it gave provocation and opportunity. National banks gained foothold once more; a mountain of bonds arose; monstrous tariffs, framed with the view of enriching favored industries, were imposed; corporations seized upon the public lands; the money power began that series of forays upon the government and upon the producing classes which has transferred almost the whole of the wealth of the country to those who never bravely fought for the government in time of war, nor honestly served it in time of peace. The grand armies of industry win the yearly victory over nature by toll, producing the wealth which the captains of industry appropriate to themselves by subtle chicanery. The vastly greater part of the wealth of this country is enjoyed by men who never produced a dollar in their lives.

No War Upon Private Property

The people's party makes no war upon private ownership, upon honest wealth, or legitimate profits. It simply combats the legislation which builds up one man at the expense of another, which gives special privileges to one class at the expense of another, which discriminates against a citizen

or a class of citizens in favor of others. In short, the people's party declares its hostility to privilege, and demands legislation whose motto shall be 'Equal and exact justice to all, without favors to any.'

Such rascality as those of the copper trust, or the steel combine should either be made impossible, or the administration of law so invigorated that the criminals who steal millions shall wear the ball and chain side by side with the thief who stole a pig.

We believe in the money of the constitution. We do not bend in superstitious reverence to silver and gold. We believe that any currency which the government declares to be legal tender, will be "sound money" as long as the government is "sound." We have less fear that the government will ever issue too many paper dollars than we have that it will issue too many bonds. A government must govern; and the creation of money is a part of the sovereign power. The government must decide how many soldiers shall come to the flag; must decide how many battleships shall hold "the ocean lists against the world in mail." It is no more likely to make a mistake by issuing too much money than it is to make a worse mistake by calling too many bread-winners into the military service.

"Rag baby!" cries the editor; "Rag baby!" cries the fossil in the academy.

Yet that same editor, and that same academic fossil, is quick to approve when the government makes a bond out of rags, and allows the banker to issue rag notes on the rag bonds. What children we are, after all! Some men go around in mental swaddling clothes all the days of their blessed lives.

The people's party favors the public ownership of public utilities. In nearly every civilized country the government owns the railways, the telegraphs and the telephones. The last two should be a part of our postoffice system, to which should be added the parcel post, to free our people from the extortionate charges of the express companies.

The people's party has always earnestly advocated the graduated income tax. This would not only throw the support of the government upon the rich, where it should be, but would, in a great measure, prevent the accumulation of huge, unnecessary and dangerous fortunes. We favor the eight-hour law, and the abolition of child labor in factories, where the unhealthy moral and physical conditions are almost certain to destroy the child. We

RUB ON
Painkiller
and the Rheumatism's gone.