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THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

KANSAS DEMOCRATS ARE ORGANIZING

Under the leadership of State Chairman Sapp, the democrats of Kansas are organizing for the next campaign. On February 22, at a banquet which filled the hall to overflowing, a state club was formed, with headquarters at Topeka, the object of which is to put the Kansas democracy in fighting trim. Mr. Bryan was present at the banquet and was gratified to meet a number of strong young men who are entering politics with high ideals and genuine earnestness. Kansas is a pioneer in many things and her example ought to be followed in this new forward movement. By next spring there should be a similar club in every state.

The report of the organization of the Kansas club appears on another page of this issue.



“The Mountain Has Labored and Brought Forth a Mouse.”

“TO THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO CONFER NOT OF THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE TRUST”

“It is to self-government, the great principle of popular representation and administration, the system that lets in all to participate in its counsels, that we owe what we are and what we hope to be.”

“The administration of government, like a guardianship, ought to be directed to the good of those who confer, not of those who receive the trust.”

“It is among the evils, and perhaps not the smallest, of democratic governments, that the people must feel before they will see. When this happens they are roused to action.”

“Nothing will ruin the country if the people themselves will undertake its safety; and nothing can save it if they leave that safety in any hands but their own.”

Here are four quotations that should be impressed upon the rank and file of all political or-

ganizations. It is The Commoner's purpose to impress these solemn truths particularly upon democrats.

Of what avail will be the system that “lets in all to participate in its counsels” if men who are desirous of good government and who believe in “equal rights to all, special privileges to none,” deliberately ignore the opportunity to take part in governmental affairs?

It is true that the administration of government ought to be directed “to the good of those who confer, not of those who receive the trust.” But is it any wonder that when the masses become indifferent to their duty as citizens and permit minorities to rule, those who receive the trust, convince themselves that the government should be conducted for the special benefit of themselves and their friends?

No truer words were ever uttered than:

“Nothing can save a government if the people leave that safety in any hands but their own.” It is not only a citizen's privilege to vote, but it is his duty to vote; but the duty is not discharged when the citizen absents himself from his party's primaries and contents himself with casting his vote for the ticket named and the policy adopted by the comparatively small number of men who, having special interests at stake, are active and diligent, where men whose interest is only in the general welfare are indifferent and neglectful.

It must be plain to everyone that the greatest political contest in history will be waged in 1908 if the special interests that now thrive at the expense of the general public are to be brought into obedience to law and justice. In that great contest the democratic party may play a conspicuous and important part, or it may be found in a discreditable if not an obscure position. The party