

still be the vehicle—the party organization will remain the machinery of the contest—but men are thinking today more than ever before.

Mr. Roosevelt himself has opened millions of republican minds to the democratic philosophy, millions of republican hearts to the democratic evangel. He has made the idea of an income tax respectable. He has proclaimed its justice, proclaimed in his messages the old democratic doctrine that swollen fortunes should be fairly taxed to support the government under which they flourish. What will their platform say and what will the republican masses say upon that subject?

He has cast a doubt upon the fetish of a high protective tariff—a sacrilege which has already bred a widespread heresy among its worshippers. Will they dare go to the people again on a "stand pat" platform? And will the people listen to them when they promise that this tariff shall be revised by its friends and beneficiaries?

You remember a short time back the republican theory was that the trust was an economic device and development, almost heaven inspired, and as Senator Beveridge told you people of Lincoln in 1900, as grand a development over the old methods of competition as the Pullman car is over the stage coach. Well, Mr. Roosevelt has made that doctrine a hard one to preach in the next campaign. He is admiringly called the "trust buster" although I do not recall a trust he has busted or a trust malefactor he has sent to jail. Not one trust that he has eliminated except the "trust in God" on our new gold coins and a republican congress is proposing to restore that. They may say they will do it out of love of the Lord but it seems to me they are moved by a superstitious regard for the "trust."

But I want here to bear the testimony of a democrat in a democratic assemblage, to the credit we feel is due the president.

Educated in the school of Hamilton, a detractor of Jefferson, politically obligated to the business interests that dominate his party, surrounded by sinister advice, embarrassed probably by being called a democrat, he has gone far in speech if not in conduct.

Above all other things he has shown that he sees—that he understands that this is fundamentally a fight to rescue our government from the control of corporate wealth. He has made this plain to thousands of his party and I say to you that a little serious thought along this line will make a democrat out of most any republican not an office holder.

Since the day of Saul of Tarsus, the world has never seen such a conversion as that of Theodore Roosevelt. You must remember that he was educated in the old faith with all its prejudices and superstitions; that our priests have not had fair access to him, that he is ever surrounded by their ministers; and yet dimly groping in the republican twilight, bewildered by republican precedent, confused by republican advice, pushed and pulled by cabinet ministers like Cortelyou and Root, denounced and defied by republican senators like Foraker and Spooner, he has nevertheless spoken at times as though he, too, were indeed inspired.

And why was all that talk about Mr. Roosevelt for a third term? In spite of his obvious wish and interests, in spite of his declaration, in spite of the deep rooted American prejudice against a third term in the White House, in spite of all these things there was the demand of the republican masses for Roosevelt which was hardly to be lulled even by his extraordinary approval of another candidate, an approval which he justifies by a fear that the leaders of his party are not in sympathy with his policies—that these policies may fail with the ending of his administration. I don't know how it is here, but in our state thousands of republicans have been whispering and hundreds have lost their voices shouting that if Roosevelt were not nominated they would vote for Bryan. You ask why was this demand for a third term among his party masses? Why? Because where, indeed, among republican leaders can they find one who can be depended on for one minute to carry on even the pretense of a fight against the syndicated wealth that controls their papers, owns their congress and finances their campaigns?

Is it to be Knox or Foraker who have spent their lives as the defenders of these interests? Is it to be Taft whose utterances you search in vain for one plain message to the people—and who is only known to have a fixed conviction on one subject—the labor question? Or is it to be Fairbanks—with his cheery smile? We realize that his nomination would mean an extraordinary effort to carry Indiana, but we

Hoosier democrats are willing to fight it out in the heat of the battle's heart if the country may be given a chance to choose between Bryan and this finished product of republican policies.

No, the republican demand for Roosevelt once more grew out of the recognition that he has educated his own people to look approvingly upon the things we stand for, that there are countless republicans who, like him, have seen the light never again to worship idols and false gods; who are Bryan democrats at heart and whom only Roosevelt's candidacy could have held in line.

My friends, it seems to me that Mr. Roosevelt has already made his political will, and that his legatee is not Secretary Taft, but Mr. Bryan. Why do I say this? Because Mr. Roosevelt has made our views acceptable to his party, because our anarchy of 1896 has become their patriotism today. And it is only poetic justice after all, for Mr. Roosevelt can never repay the debt he owes our leader. The garments he has borrowed, the principles he has adopted from Mr. Bryan, these, and these alone, will give him historic immortality.

For what are offices and titles and the ephemeral insignia of power? They but challenge passing attention and "fade like the snows of yesteryear." The proud dukes of Florence live no more while Savonarola the monk shall live forever. The memory of English kings shall pass away but the name of the English Sidney shall last and be lovingly remembered as long as men shall conjure up the spirit of free government. The names of many presidents of this republic shall linger only in the tired memory of the students, grouped as they shall be under the lustrous name of some man—some statesman—some leader, truly great.

And Mr. Roosevelt although twice president, may expect to attain the immortality of historic greatness only in the measure that dispassionate posterity shall associate his name with this fight to rescue our government from the control of corporate wealth. And who is there who doubts that when in future years posterity shall dwell upon that struggle, it shall see as its one dominant figure, as the one great leader of the people in it—looming far above the presidents of his time—losing nothing from the honors denied him and borrowing little from the honors yet to come—radiant through the years only from his own militant democracy—Nebraska's splendid son, whose memory some time will be her proudest heritage. And men of Nebraska, what will you do? Today I was at Mr. Bryan's home and when there I could not help thinking that here in this beautiful prairie city, one of the miracles that mark the westward sweep of our American civilization, lives the first citizen of this republic, whose career illustrates the splendid possibilities of our democracy, whose merit and diligence have enabled him to "stand before kings" and whose unflinching devotion to the common people has crowned him with their deathless love. I said to myself Virginia has her Monticello; Tennessee has her Hermitage; and Nebraska has her Fairview about which cluster today a people's hopes and prayers and to which future generations shall journey as to a shrine.

A NEW RECRUIT READY FOR WORK

Hayesville, N. C., January 27, 1908.—
Editor Commoner: Please send me twenty-five of the one million membership certificates. I joined one month from today, and I want to place twenty-five more new members, and oblige

C. W. EVANS.

DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

"The Bryan Democratic Club" of Colorado held a meeting at Denver. Representatives from all portions of the state were present. The vice presidents of the club, representing the various counties of the state are as follows: Adams, James P. Higgins; Arapahoe, Charles A. Berdel; Baca, William Hooker, Springfield; Bent, John R. Sullivan, Las Animas; Boulder, L. C. Paddock; Chaffee, G. K. Hartenstein; Cheyenne, W. E. Redmon, Cheyenne Wells; Clear Creek, E. L. Regenitter, Idaho Springs; Conejos, W. H. Barlow, Conejos; Costilla, J. Gabriel Olivas, San Pablo; Delta, C. T. Rawalt; Delores, J. R. Theno, Rico; Denver, John A. Rush, Denver; Douglas, E. M. Ammons, Acequia; Eagle, James Collins, Minturn; Fremont, Joseph H. Maupin, Canon City; Elbert, J. A. Myers, Elbert; El Paso, H. H. Seldomridge, Colorado Springs; Garfield, S. J. De Lan, Glenwood; Grand, Thomas Harriott,

Kremling; Gunnison, Dexter T. Sapp; Hinsdale, P. C. McCarthy, Lake City; Huerfano, T. M. Hudson, Gardner; Jefferson, C. P. Hoyt, Golden; Kiowa, George W. France, Eads; Kit Carson, A. J. Pugh, Stratton; Lake, Daniel J. Healy; La Plata, George McGregor, Durango; Larimer, A. W. Scott, Fort Collins; Las Animas, W. B. Morgan, Trinidad; Logan, J. M. Davis, Sterling; Mesa, William Weiser; Montrose, John C. Bell; Montezuma, R. R. Smith, Cortez; Otero, J. H. Crowley, Rocky Ford; Ouray, W. W. Rowan, Ouray; Park, M. I. O'Malley, Fairplay; Phillips, George B. Weir, Holyoke; Pitkin, C. W. Judkins, Aspen; Prowers, George H. Thorne, Lamar; Pueblo, John A. Martin, Pueblo; Routt, A. M. Gooding, Steamboat Springs; Rio Blanco, Colonel B. F. Montgomery, Meeker; Rio Grande, H. H. Abbott, Monte Vista; Saguache, M. M. Sutley, Center; San Juan, Thomas H. Annear, Silverton; San Miguel, James McWilliams, Telluride; Sedgwick, J. H. Parker, Julesburg; Summit, Harry T. Hamilton, Dillon; Teller, Joseph E. Ferguson, Victor; Washington, Isaac Pelton, Akron; Weld, W. L. Clayton, Greeley; Yuma, T. B. Groves.

Wayne C. Williams, secretary of the club writes: "We have formed an active and enthusiastic Colorado Bryan club. Outside of a small corporation element which has never been truly democratic, this state seems unanimous for W. J. Bryan. But our club will leave no stone unturned. We shall perfect an organization in every county and ask for instructed delegates to the state convention then for instructed delegates to the national convention. The people must take no chances this time. In case we have other club news I shall see that it reaches your paper."

The board of directors of the Colorado Bryan club is as follows: John F. Shafroth, E. T. Wells, John A. Rush, J. J. McFeely, F. W. Bailey, W. C. Williams, W. H. Bryant.

The democratic league has been organized in the state of Pennsylvania. Jere S. Black of York county was elected chairman; Warren Worth Bailey of Cambria county was elected secretary; and William H. Berry was chosen treasurer. The following is taken from the Philadelphia North American's report of the league's meeting:

A formal declaration of purposes was made by the adoption of the following resolutions, which were later signed by all hands:

"Resolved, That the Bryan Democratic League favors the nomination of W. J. Bryan for president, and to this end it will co-operate with all in sympathy with its purposes in securing delegates in each congressional district pledged to support Mr. Bryan at the Denver convention. It is further

"Resolved, That everything points to the wisdom of the course here advocated. That Mr. Bryan is the logical man for 1908 is beyond reasonable dispute. He is manifestly the one democrat who appeals to the democratic heart of the nation. His strength is not local or sectional. It is universal, and the democrats of Pennsylvania feel that in advancing his cause they are advancing that of the party and of good government.

"Resolved, That all democrats of the state are cordially invited to participate in this movement, and they are urged to take instant steps to perfect organization and to avail themselves of every opportunity to make its purposes effective."

Authority was given Chairman Black to name an executive committee in each of the thirty-two congressional districts, and in addition to this body of district leaders there will be a general state committee with every county represented.

To say that the leaguers are enthusiastic in their cause is putting it mildly. They claim that the democracy of the state is running over with Bryan sentiment, and only good management is needed to bring the results.

IT MEANS WORK NOW

Here is a hint from Ohio: "Newark, Ohio, January 29.—Editor Commoner: Inclosed find order for \$1.20 in payment for two subscriptions for The Commoner sent to the named parties on the certificates. Send me some more blanks. We appreciate the time for effective work is on and that if we win it means work now.

"Very truly,
"J. H. MILLER."