

THE FARMER'S INTEREST

A Cadillac, Mich., reader of The Commoner writes: "The farmers should be with us on the tariff and trust questions. Around here the farmers are getting four and one-half cents a pound for hides against eleven cents a year ago. Yet the price of leather is as high as it was last year and no immediate promise of a reduction, and his shoes and harness are costing him fully as much as a year ago. This year our farmers received fifteen cents for wool against a price of twenty-four a year ago, yet the American Woolen company that controls about 70 per cent of the leading woolen mills of the country is charging as much for woolen cloths as a year ago and the farmer must pay as much for his clothing as he did last year and he is lucky if he does not get more cotton in his clothes than he does wool. Let us direct our efforts to convince the farmers and laborers that their interests lie with us. Along that line lies the road to victory."

Yes, and the farmers should be with us on the question of an economical administration. They should be with us in the protest against the exercise of arbitrary power by the speaker whereby the house of representatives has ceased to be a popular government.

They should be with us in the condemnation of the misuse of patronage; in the demand for railroad regulation that will regulate; in the advocacy of publicity for campaign contributions BEFORE election day.

They should be with us in the opposition to that centralization which would destroy our system of government and ultimately make it necessary for the farmer, as well as other citizens, to look to the national capital, rather than to the state capital and the county seat, when seeking relief from corporation abuses.

They should be with us for the popular election of senators; for the income tax; for the guarantee to the laboring men, as well as to all men, the right of trial by jury; for the farmer has a deep concern in the welfare of the laboring man who is the consumer of the farmer's products.

They should be with us on the guarantee of bank deposits; for what shall it profit a farmer if he obtain high prices for his product and then have no place where he may, with absolute confidence, deposit his hard earned money?

They should be with us upon the great question "shall the people rule" for the farmer has a deep and abiding interest in popular government; and if he does not already know it, investigation will reveal to him the fact that in the language of the democratic national platform "shall the people rule" is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion."

"GIVE THEM A JURY"

On May 7, 1896, when the contempt of court bill was pending in the United States senate, Mr. Bryan, then editor of the Omaha World-Herald, printed this editorial:

"Senator Hill has reported a bill regulating punishment for contempt by United States courts. When the contempt is committed in the presence of the court, summary punishment is permitted as now, but when the contempt is committed beyond the court room and not in the presence of the court, the offender must be arrested upon complaint duly filed and must be given a trial as in criminal cases. The accused can have a jury only on condition that the court permits it. This is a defect which will doubtless be corrected before the bill passes. While it is true that a judge would generally hesitate to refuse a jury when demanded, yet it is dangerous to leave such a question to the discretion of the court. If it is said that the request would always be granted, why not make it a matter of right rather than a matter of grace? If the judge should, in the exercise of his discretion, refuse a jury, it would be sure to arouse hostile criticism and might work great injury. Senator Allen should watch for this bill and introduce an amendment guaranteeing a jury trial whenever demanded by the accused."

"AFTER THE ELECTION"

A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune under date of New York, July 22, follows: "The report that the Standard Oil company is about to announce an increase of \$500,000,000 in its capital stock was received with great interest in the financial district here today. Similar rumors have been circulated several times in

the last few years, particularly in the west, but generally they have been met with denials by the Standard Oil interests. A prominent financier who has close relations with the Standard Oil company said: 'I am sure that it is the same old story revived again and that there is nothing in it. Certainly this would be a most inopportune time to take any such action, with a presidential election only a few months ahead of us. I suppose it is possible that something of that kind may be done some time in the future, but not this year—not now.'"

This would be "a most inopportune time" to pump a half billion gallons of water into the Standard Oil stock. If anything like that is done it will be in accordance with other republican plans "after the election."

"After the election" the tariff will be revised—by a party that derives its campaign funds from the special beneficiaries of the tariff.

"After the election" the contributions to the campaign fund will be published—when it is too late for the people to learn that the trusts pay the bill for the republican campaign.

"After the election" Standard Oil stock will be watered—if that course suits the purposes of the Rockefellers and the Rogerses; and "after the election"—should the people reelect the special privileges' party—they will pay dearly for their indifference to the solemn warning confronting them on every hand.

MISREPRESENTATION

The New York Sun says of the organized workmen of the country that "they are naturally resentful of Mr. Gompers' promise to sell their votes in a body for his own personal aggrandizement."

Time was when the New York Sun made some pretense of being reliable, but if this statement is the measure of its present reliability a great change for the worse has come upon it. Mr. Gompers has not promised to "sell" the votes of organized labor. An intimation that he has done so is a gratuitous insult to a man who has won high place in the regard of his fellow workers by his sterling integrity and his earnest devotion to the cause of organized labor. Neither has he promised to deliver the votes of organized labor to any ticket. An intimation that he has is an indictment of his intelligence, which has served to make him the head of a great organization numbering upwards of 2,000,000 members. Are republican organs so afraid of an intelligent labor vote that they seek to keep it in ignorance of the facts and appeal to prejudices and passions instead of to reason?

UNFORTUNATE

In the light of the bitter criticism visited upon Judge Landis by Judge Grosscup in releasing the Standard Oil company from fine, it will not do, of course, to criticize the court, although we have eminent republican authority for such a course. I. e., Theodore Roosevelt's criticism of Judge Humphrey's beef trust decision. We make bold to say, however, that the New York World puts it forcefully, although calmly, when it says: "It is unfortunate this most harsh condemnation of a judge by his higher associates should have been for his attempt adequately to punish the Standard Oil company."

A SUGGESTION TO MR. SHERMAN

Associated Press dispatches say that Representative James S. Sherman, the republican nominee for vice president, will make a tour of the west in behalf of the republican ticket. We suggest that Mr. Sherman, who is Speaker Cannon's right hand man in the house, tell the people what he thinks of the republican revolt against Cannonism.

By the time Mr. Sherman gets through explaining to republicans the methods of the Cannon-Sherman oligarchy in the house, he may have some time to devote to his widely advertised "arraignment of democrats."

NOT ISSUES!

Attorney General Wade H. Ellis of Ohio who was a member of the committee on resolutions in the republican national convention, issued a statement in which, referring to the propositions voted down in the republican convention he says: "Of the seven omissions he (Mr. Bryan) refers to, six are in no sense issues before the people at this time, nor has there been

any attempt to make them such by the administration, nor by any other influential element in the party. The seventh concerns injunctions."

Many republican papers suppressed this portion of Mr. Ellis' statement. The reason for the suppression will be readily understood when it is remembered that among the propositions which Mr. Ellis says are "in no sense issues before the people" are the following:

- Publicity of campaign contributions.
 - Ascertaining the value of railroads.
 - The national income tax.
 - The encroachment of predatory wealth.
 - Popular election of United States senators.
- Mr. Ellis has, perhaps, noticed that since the publication of his statement the republican candidate for president has given proof that he has discovered that the people have some concern in the publicity-of-campaign-contributions' proposition.

SHAME ON YOU, GOVERNOR!

Edward W. Hoch, republican governor of Kansas, in an interview printed in the Chicago Tribune, speaks rather lightly of Judge Grosscup's decision in the Standard Oil case. The Tribune quotes the governor as saying:

"The upper court seems impressed by the fact that Judge Landis was 'hard' on the Standard Oil company. I was always impressed by the fact that the Standard Oil company was hard on me and on every one else that it got a crack at."

The Tribune takes the trouble to say that Governor Hoch made this remark "scornfully." Shame on you, Governor Hoch, for intimating that Judge Landis was not entitled to the drubbing he received.

NOT AN INCH CONCEDED

The New York Evening Post says that the democrats "practically concede New York to the enemy." The Post is mistaken. New York is democratic ground and every inch of it will be contested.

ANTI-IMPERIALIST LEAGUE

The following dispatch carried by the Associated Press explains itself:

Boston, July 16.—The executive committee of the anti-imperialist league issued a statement today recommending that the friends of the league withhold their votes from William H. Taft for president and support William J. Bryan. The statement says:

"We believe in the declaration of independence. Its truths are not less self evident today than when first announced by our fathers, are of universal application and can not be abandoned while government by the people endures.

"We believe in the constitution of the United States. It gives the president and congress certain limited powers and secures to every man within the jurisdiction of our government certain essential rights. We deny that either the president or congress can govern any person anywhere outside the constitution.

"Because we thus believe, we recommend our friends and fellow citizens to withhold their votes from William H. Taft, who stands upon the republican platform which denies independence to the Philippines and looks to local home rule as the only goal to be attained.

So long as these islands are held as possessions in defiance of the principles of the declaration of independence and without constitutional authority, the United States is pledged to the tremendous task of fortifying them and their defense in time of war, while they remain a continuous menace to American labor and American industry.

"Though other ways of opposing the attitude of Mr. Taft may be welcomed, it is obvious direct support of Mr. Bryan is an effective means of rebuking imperialism, because of his sincerity and his earnest purpose to secure to the Filipinos their independence, and because he stands upon a platform which meets upon this vital issue our unqualified approval.

"We recommend to our members and to the members of allied leagues and to our friends generally that they preserve the independence of the movement, take the most active part in the pending political campaign and in particular in their respective districts vote and work for the candidates for congress who will oppose the policy of imperialism.

"ANTI-IMPERIALIST LEAGUE,
Per Executive Committee: Irving Winslow,
Secretary."