

Democratic Newspapers on Plutocratic Organization

MUST STAND FOR SOMETHING

The democratic national platform of 1908, declared that "The conscience of the nation is now aroused and will free the government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset of the favor-seeking corporations. It must become again a people's government, and be administered in all departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim, 'Equal rights to all, special privileges to none.' Shall the people rule? is the overwhelming issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion."

If the democrats elected to the general assembly of Ohio or to the congress of the United States fail to square their actions and their votes by the measure prescribed by the declaration above quoted from the national law of the party, the victory will be turned into a rout two years hence.

The victory of 1910 is the result of the war started under the leadership of William J. Bryan in 1896. It has been delayed by party traitors like the Baltimore Sun and these traitors are now actively engaged in an endeavor to rob the party of fruits of the first victory in all these years. These alleged democrats are always reading Mr. Bryan out of the party, not forgetting but ignoring the fact, that had it not been for his splendid leadership and persistent war on privilege and in favor of the principle of "Equal and exact justice to all and special privileges to none," the victory of 1910 would not have perched on democracy's banner.—Pomeroy (Ohio) Democrat.

Farmington, N. M.—Editor The Commoner: As per your request for clippings as to democratic sentiment in reference to the reorganization of the democratic party along the line as proposed by the Baltimore Sun, et al., I will enclose clipping from the Farmington Times-Hustler, a truly democratic paper which is ably edited by William Butler, a trounce of the common people. This clipping truly represents the democracy of the San Juan country and I would be pleased to have you make use of it. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year I am yours for a democratic democracy in the democratic party if we can get it; if we can't get it there then in some other party.
R. W. HAFFIN.

HANDS OFF

The day of the trial of the democratic party is at hand. The recent success at the polls has emboldened the System, or more correctly speaking has frightened it by the possibilities of an untrammelled democracy becoming successful in 1912, so that it is now busily engaged in seeking a presidential candidate for the party. It seems to be the fixed purpose of those who have so valiantly opposed us in the past, to now place us behind a presidential candidate who in no way represents the democracy we have been fighting for. Now that democratic success seems almost certain in 1912, they propose to hoodwink us with some candidate just as the progressive republicans were hoodwinked by Taft in 1908.

We warn these servants of greed to keep their hands off. We won the victory this year without their aid and we can do it in 1912, if our hands are kept unsoiled from clasping with the McLeans, Smiths and Guffeys, who are not now, and never have been, anything but spies for the enemy within our ranks. Whenever the faithful Bryan has led, these tools of plutocracy have labored within our ranks to defeat us.

Now these same men have undertaken the task of naming the presidential candidate for the party in 1912. And having assumed this task unrequested by the democrats who have borne the burden of battle until the strongholds of the enemy have been stormed and taken and practically nothing remains but to arrange the terms of surrender. They now boldly assert that the man who shall assume command, be one who has not earnestly supported the incorruptible leader whose unceasing advocacy of the people's right to rule has won us the present victory. Such conduct is as though the Tories of 1776 had appeared upon the scene after the surrender of Yorktown and had demanded that Benedict Arnold and themselves should dictate the terms of peace.

We warn them here and now that the real democrats will not accept such leadership. If

Believing that democrats do not desire to engage in a sham battle The Commoner confidently lays down these propositions:
 The democratic party must be progressive.
 No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote.
 Democracy must go forward and meet present day problems boldly in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson.
 The democratic victory of 1910 is the result of fourteen years of democratic fight for reforms.
 The party cannot retire now.
 It must go forward.
 What do the democratic editors of the country think about The Commoner's position? The Commoner will be glad to reproduce extracts from democratic editorials on this line. Let the weekly newspaper as well as the daily speak out. Send clipping of editorial in sealed envelope, addressed Exchange Editor, The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

they should capture the convention they will find it barren of results for the rank and file who do the voting will be gone.

Every democrat who believes in the rule of the people should be active in the advocacy of his principles. We should make it so plain that none can doubt its meaning, that a repetition of the mistake of 1904 will not be tolerated. And that we want the victory of the democratic party to mean a triumph of democracy or we do not want the victory at all.—Farmington (N. M.) Times-Hustler.

"WE DESIRE TO DISSENT"

The Commoner (W. J. Bryan) asks the democratic editors of the country what they think of that paper's position on certain propositions set forth in its columns, the answer to be printed in that journal.

As to the Times' democracy, we will say that it is almost fifty years of age; that it has been democratic in all its history; that the writer has been its editor for thirty-six years; that it is printed in the banner democratic county of Minnesota—normal majorities ranging from 2,500 to 3,000; that it zealously supported Mr. Bryan for president three times. In 1896 this county gave him 2,033 majority; in 1900, 1,784 majority; in 1908, 1,221 majority. The latter year Johnson (Dem.) for governor received 2,998 majority. This year upon the county option issue (advocated by Mr. Bryan) Eberhart (Rep.) for governor carried the county by 827 majority. So much as to the democracy of the Times and the effect upon Sterns county voters of certain issues.

As to the first inquiry, we certainly believe "the democratic party must be progressive."

As to the second—"No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote"—that is true. It is also very true that the democratic party never has, and never will, nominate a Wall street candidate. What was meant by "Wall Street candidate" is ambiguous, and should be more clearly defined.

Right here we desire to dissent and protest against the insinuation contained in The Commoner's declaration. It is an intimation that no democrat of the east, especially of New York, can hold the democratic vote; and, insofar, it is unjust, undemocratic and a breeder of party dissension and discord. Indeed, it is in the nature of a threat directed towards a certain section of the country or element of the party which may not agree in all particulars with The Commoner's views. It is the arraying of class against class.

Instead of arousing a spirit of animosity and stirring up dissension, democrats should advocate peace, harmony, good will and a rallying of all elements in a united attack upon the enemy. The democracy can regain the confidence of the country if it will pursue a wise, conservative and judicious course, yea "in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson."

Let us bear this fact in mind; No candidate was ever elected president, or ever will be, who

did not possess the confidence of the business interests and conservative voters of the republic! By "business interests" we do not include trusts, illegal combines or "the interests," but all business down to the little corner grocery.

Let bygones be bygones, let us look forward not backward; let democrats "get together;" let our principles be "in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson;" let us choose as standard bearers men in whom the people have confidence; let us not endeavor to array class against class. This do, and the democratic party will win the victory.

To succeed, remember that we must have states from the east as well as the south and central west.—St. Cloud (Minn.) Times.

(The Commoner has never made accusation against democrats of the east or of any other section. No threat has been made against any section. The Commoner has merely insisted that the special interests must not control the democratic party in 1912. The editor of the St. Cloud Times knows very well what The Commoner means when it refers to a "Wall Street candidate." The republican party has nominated such a candidate on many occasions. The democratic party has not been entirely free from the fault. Wall Street had its way in the democratic party in 1904 and it is the purpose of the same reorganizers to give Wall Street control in 1912. "There are none so blind as those who will not see," and if the editor of the St. Cloud Times does not understand what The Commoner means in the protest it is now making then his thirty-six years in the editorial chair have been wasted. It is well that democrats advocate peace, harmony and good will among one another, but if the democratic party makes peace with the element that has carried the republican party to destruction then it will share the republican party's fate. In spite of the record to which the Times editor points with commendable pride he now speaks the language used by other editors whose purpose is known to be the subjugation of the democratic party for the benefit of the special interests.—Editor The Commoner.)

SOUNDING THE ALARM

The time has at last arrived when the democratic party is again in the good graces of that large floating vote which we call the independent vote. Twenty years ago the democratic party had the opportunity to do great things, things that would not only add lustre to the then fair name of the party, but also add to the comfort and prosperity of the common people. But it "fell down," as the saying goes. This democratic senator wanted his commodity "protected" and that democratic congressman wanted his share of the swag. Wall Street was not very far away, either. Then came the crushing defeat. But since Mr. Bryan became the leader of the party, democracy has set its face steadily towards the rising sun of progress and reform. For years it has stood the abuse of hide-bound republicans and that party organs, but happily has kept unswervingly on. Through years of defeats democracy has clung tenaciously to the rights of the people until they began to respect and then to recognize democracy's creed as their salvation. Hence in 1910 the deluge came. Plutocracy was overthrown and democracy enthroned. But hardly had the news of the election spread over the land, before Wall Street began to connive for a democratic nominee for president. The trusts realize that Taft is doomed to defeat in 1912 and are trying to control the democratic party—excluding of course, Bryan, Folk, Gore and others. Bryan is everlastingly right in sounding the alarm. Wall Street recognizes no party. It matters not who is in power, as long as trustdom is allowed to go on with the plundering of the people. But in our opinion the democratic party has learned its lesson and while Mr. Bryan may never run for the presidency again, some other candidate favorable to reform will. The way that Mayor Gaynor has cleaned up New York City, to a large degree, and his refusal to do Tammany's bidding, makes this paper declare for Gaynor. But as we said before Bryan is right. Here's hoping for strength to his arm and voice that he may write and speak against all efforts to make our party the tool for the interests.—Armour (S. D.) Herald.