

less he can show that in the crucial campaign of 1896, when the party began its fight for reforms, he helped Wall Street or that he has since that time been converted to Wall Street methods.

Can the voters of the democratic party be deceived? Will it allow the organization to pass into the hands of those who stand for the exploitation of the people. When, sixteen years ago, the Wall Street crowd controlled the party the name democrat almost disappeared in the west and the populist party became a formidable force in the south. At the present time socialism is appealing to the dissatisfied and the adoption of a reactionary policy by the democrats is sure to swell the ranks of the socialists as their ranks were swollen in 1904.

When the plutocratic papers join the democratic party they do it to disgrace it—the reason given by the young fellow who married into a family he did not like.

LAFOLLETTE'S PROPHECY

In April, 1906, Senator LaFollette delivered his famous speech on the railroad bill. While the senator was speaking Senators Aldrich, Hale and others retired to the cloak rooms. Then Senator LaFollette said:

"Mr. President, I pause in my remarks to say this. I cannot be wholly indifferent to the fact that senators by their absence at this time indicate their want of interest in what I may have to say upon this subject. The public is interested. Unless this important question is rightly settled, seats now temporarily vacant may be permanently vacated by those who have the right to occupy them at this time."

A similar note of warning to the "system" senators was struck by Senator LaFollette during the debate on the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill a year ago, when he said:

"When I began this fight in this chamber four years ago in behalf of the public interest and against the forces of special privilege, I stood alone as a republican senator. Now there are ten of us engaged in the same fight. I warn you that if you refuse to consider every proposition advanced in behalf of the public and carry out your determination to make this tariff legislation but the instrument by which special interests may, through special privilege, enrich themselves by unjust exactions from the public, the public will hold you responsible and prove its resentment as certainly as elections are held."

These cloak room senators learned a great deal on the evening of November 8, 1910.

POOR PLACE FOR FORCE

A five round hotly contested boxing match was "pulled off" by a prize fighter and his boxing partner before a state hospital for the criminal insane at Matteawan, New York. New York papers say that the inmates of the institution "greatly enjoyed the treat." Undoubtedly the insane should be given entertainment, but the display of force or physical prowess is not the thing for an asylum. Entertainment that leads these unfortunates away from the very sort of thought that has made them what they are should be presented to the inhabitants of the Matteawan institution. Miss Breckenridge of the famous Kentucky family, who has devoted her life to the service of the insane, has the right idea when she pleads that these unfortunates be treated as children and so entertained and trained. Surely no one would "pull off" a hotly contested boxing match before the kindergarten.

MARTINE'S "CHIEF ABHORRENCE"

The New York World, a newspaper that is unfriendly to Mr. Martine, the democratic nominee for the United States senate from New Jersey, prints the following:

"Martine was an advocate of direct primaries twenty-five years ago; he is an inveterate tariff reformer, and in the platform he published before the primaries he stated his views thus:

"I favor a tariff for revenue only, and oppose the scheme of present republican protection as un-American, unfair and unjust, in that it does not favor all alike; its burdens are paid by the consumer and bread-winner to enhance the wealth of a special few. In its workings the present tariff has built up great combinations and trusts that are conniving against the cardinal principle of free government, though depriving the citizens of our land of equal opportunity. The cost of living has enhanced through its operation from fifty to sixty per cent, while wages have increased but from fifteen

to eighteen per cent. Its enforcement is robbery for the masses; hence I oppose it.

"I hold that the blessings of government should, like the dew of Heaven, fall on all and equally alike."

"Martine was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Bryan when the Nebraskan was candidate for president, and subscribed to his sixteen to one theories. He believes in the initiative and referendum and in state and federal control of public utilities.

"Martine's chief abhorrence is the rule of the 'special interests.' In his public utterances for years he has laid most of the ills of misgovernment in New Jersey at their doors. He asserts that the public service, railroad and insurance interests are still dominant and he is for measures that will curb their power."

It will occur to a great many people that the public will not suffer by the election to the United States senate of a man whose "chief abhorrence is the rule of the special interests," and who holds that "the blessings of government should, like the dew of heaven, fall on all and equally alike."

THE REORGANIZED SUPREME COURT

Wall Street pronounces the supreme court as now constituted to be "conservative," but it makes the mistake of counting Justice Vandevanter among the "radicals." Judged by his record he is ultra conservative.

The New York news bureau organ of Wall Street says: "Members of the bar of the United States supreme court, in trying to classify the probable attitude of the court in its new membership, reached the conclusion that the court is now more conservative than it was when the oil and tobacco cases were on hearing last term. Of course, no man would attempt to forecast the actual division of the court on any of the questions before it, but lawyers here align them in about this way:

"Conservatives—Chief Justice White, Justice Day, Justice Holmes, Justice Lurton, Justice Hughes. Total, five.

"Radical—Justice Harlan, Justice Vandevanter. Total, two.

"Uncertain—Justice Lamar, Justice McKenna. Total, two.

"Some are inclined to put Justice Hughes in the uncertain list because he is regarded as a politician, but Hughes' friends say that he will decide according to the facts in the case and that his mental make-up in law matters is conservative."

THE MOTHER KNEW

An attorney speaking in a Vincennes, Ind., court room in defense of a man charged with killing the despoiler of his home, referred to the dead man as "a friendless black scoundrel." The dead man's mother sitting in the court room sprang to her feet and shouted over and over again: "It's a lie—a lie—a lie!" No wonder that in the uproar of hisses there was also much applause. It is not safe to refer to any man as "friendless" so long as his mother lives—for the mother-love may be depended upon to assert itself under all circumstances, and the men who applauded that fine show of mother-love in the Indiana court room probably knew what they were doing.

A BIT LATE

Heads of departments in the federal government have reported a cut of fourteen million dollars per year in the estimates for the operating expenses of the government during the next fiscal year. It would have been better had this cut been made last year, but it is never too late to do good and so the people will be thankful for this concession even though it may be suspected that the results of the recent election had something to do with it.

NEWSPAPER INACCURACIES

The following true story, prepared for The Commoner by a citizen of Beeville, Texas, illustrates the inaccuracies that sometimes creep into items of news. What you see in the papers cannot always be relied upon, even when there is no motive for misrepresenting:

William Longsdorf, an aged and one-time prosperous bachelor of Beeville, Tex., retrieving the habiliments of former days, rammed his feet into a pair of old boots which he had some years before cast aside. An obstruction in the toe of one of them, much to his delight, proved to be a \$50 bill. The village newspaper man duly recorded the find in the columns of his paper, and also sent it to the nearest city paper of

which he was correspondent. The telegraph editor, acting on the reflection that a naught, more or less, made little difference, added to the importance of the item by increasing the find to \$500. In the same office the correspondent of the Associated Press abided. The item was passed to the patrons of that great news-gathering agency, but with the added improvement of a naught. Mr. Longsdorf's distant and remote relatives, some as far away as Germany, immediately sat up and took notice and he was the recipient of many kind and congratulatory letters over his good fortune. Years passed, and the incident was forgotten by its original chronicler until one day he happened to pick up a family story paper, and among the flotsam and jetsam headed "Items of Interest" he observed the following interesting bit of news:

"William Longsdorf, an aged and eccentric bachelor of Beeville, Texas, has just found \$50,000 in bank notes in an old boot, where he had placed them years ago and forgotten the incident."

But, most unfortunate of all! When Mr. Longsdorf took his \$50 note to the village bank to get it changed, the cashier was dubious of its looks, and forwarded it for inspection to the nearest subtreasury. It was returned with the following legend stamped across its face: "Counterfeit."

ADVICE TO BOYS

Replying to a recent inquiry Mr. Bryan said: There is no NEW advice to give to boys, and there are no NEW boys to advise. The boy is the same that he has been and he is not likely to change much in the years to come. His impulses are the same that they were centuries ago; the dangers that confront him confronted his father and his grandfather in their boyhood days. If I were suggesting a warning to boys I would not suggest a better one than that embodied in the text, "The wages of sin is death." That is the law, and it cannot be repealed. The honest, truthful, industrious boy will succeed in proportion to his intelligence, but no intelligence can make up for lack of honesty, truthfulness or industry—especially is it impossible to substitute anything for honesty and truthfulness. Laziness will limit one's accomplishments whatever his other good qualities may be, but he can outgrow laziness just as he can outgrow lack of education or intelligence, but it is much more difficult to outgrow a lack of honesty or a lack of truthfulness.

Possibly I ought to suggest that patience is a virtue which should be added to the ones already mentioned. Impatience has led many young men to ruin; they have not been willing to wait for a fortune to come through legitimate accumulation, and through their haste to get rich they have fallen. The boy should "learn to labor and to wait." Character is built slowly; but it can be lost in a day. The farmer must wait from seed time until the harvest, however long it may seem, before he gathers his crop, and so the boy must be willing to plant in the springtime of life for the harvest that he will gather when he is grown.

What a change there will be when the senate freezes out the men who over-reach the people by manipulating legislatures.

AN OLD SCHEME

The change that has come over some of the democratic congressmen since the election recalls a passage in Little Dorrit. The great novelist, in discussing the circumlocution office, says: "It is true that from the moment when a general election was over, every returned man who had been raving on hustings because it hadn't been done, and who had been asking the friends of the honorable gentleman in the opposite interest on pain of impeachment to tell him why it hadn't been done, and who had been asserting that it must be done, and who had been pledging himself that it should be done, began to devise, how it was not to be done."

This is quite an accurate description of the conduct of those gentlemen who won office by denouncing the republican party and its methods and now protest against reforms which they so recently advocated.