

**"BIG BUSINESS" SHIFTS**

From The Philadelphia North American

That portion of big business who are corrupt are just now busy trying to establish between themselves and the democratic party that same freemasonry which has existed for the past sixteen years between them and the standard element of the republican party. They are especially alert in trying to capture the new democratic senatorial seats in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia and Ohio. They are trying to provide themselves with a democratic Aldrich.—Collier's Weekly.

The speech of Woodrow Wilson at Jersey City Thursday night was a splendid advocacy of government by the people versus government by special privilege. It was an unanswerable indictment of the bad faith and insolence of James Smith's candidacy for the United States senate.

But, for the first time since New Jersey's governor-elect converted us to faith in his progressive patriotism and his bigness and clear-sighted courage, we find in his utterance cause for criticism.

There is truth in every sentence, but not all the truth, in these passages of his fine, forcible address:

"Do you know what is true of the special interests at this moment? They have got their baggage packed, and are ready to strike camp overnight, provided they think it is profitable to them to come over to the democratic party. They are awaiting to come over bag and baggage and take possession of the democratic party.

"Will they be welcomed? Do you want them? \* \* \*

"Business interests are involved in this matter and not political principles. These business interests intend, if they can, to own any organization that is the governing organization in the affairs of America.

"I pray God we may never wake up some fine morning and find them in camp on our side. \* \* \*

"This system consists in an unholy alliance between business and politics. Politics under this system is considered the means of securing and promoting certain financial and business interests. Wherever the greatest power is brought to bear, the greatest power of money, the greatest power of individual influence, there politics is made to yield. \* \* \*

"You might possibly induce James Smith, Jr., to retire, but if Smith did retire, somebody else would take his place. The interests are not of a retiring nature. They have a great many presentable persons whom they could put forward, and if you look them over hastily you would not recognize them. For my part, I would rather have somebody that I know is their representative than somebody that I did not know and who has not disclosed himself."

Big business ready to strike camp? Big business, with baggage packed waiting to come over and take possession of the democratic party? In the name of all the gods of all oculists and opticians, why this errancy of vision of one of the most enlightened of Americans that makes him fail to see that the move already has been made and the capture well-nigh completed?

Big business has been bipartisan from its beginning, shifting only to concentrated support of whatever party mattered not only when the opposing party became committed to popular welfare.

Havemeyer, who testified that he split the campaign contributions of the sugar trust between democratic and republican committees, simply was the spokesman of big business, as Jay Gould was when he shielded his Erie iniquities just punishment of being "a republican in republican counties and a democrat in democratic counties."

Quay was as good a democrat as Jim Smith of New Jersey was a republican when they won the stigma of "perfidy and dishonor" by trust serving. And so today a party label is a farce when applied to agents of privilege of the democratic breed of Bailey and his nominal republican brother Gallinger.

Republicanism perverted into Hannanism, Aldrichism, Cannonism and Ballingerism suited big business admirably for fifteen years. But insurgency, the offspring of Rooseveltism, made the ever-watchful masters of privilege make the change of camps many months ago which Mr. Wilson sees only in the light of a future peril.

Big business feels certain that 1912 will take

care of itself with such "safe and sane" men as Harmon, first choice, and Taft, second choice, the probable presidential candidates.

But the immediate business of big business is to clinch its long-held control of the United States senate by the election of the "right" sort of democrats.

There was much repetition long before November of the ancient campaign phrase, "As Maine goes, so goes the union." And the way Maine has gone, with democrats in control for the first time in half a century is to replace Eugene Hale with Hale's democratic selection, a good lawyer—as Bailey, of Texas, is—with a record indicating that he would be as useful a republican democratic corporation senator as Hale and Bailey combined.

New York, in any case, would have served the country by retiring the railroad hand, Depew, after being blessed by the death of Express Agent Platt. But triumphant democracy at Albany is hesitating between the arrant, reactionary corporation attorney, Shepard, and the Tammany-Tom Ryan machinist, Blue-Eyed Billy Sheehan.

And the most striking commentary upon the present political conditions is that the finest public service yet done by democrats anywhere in this country has been in states such as Wisconsin and Washington, where they deliberately consented to the temporary obliteration of their party organization in order to prevent the purchases of the defeat of such senators as La-Follette and Poindexter by corrupt, bipartisan big business.

As corollary to such patriotism we see every honorable, progressive republican newspaper and individual wishing Godspeed and more power to Woodrow Wilson in his fight. And every spokesman of Wall Street and every frank journalistic representative of rotten politics and every hypocritical newspaper drab openly censoring or assailing with cowardly slurs the fighter for the people's rights, whose solitary error is imagining that the worst of all public enemies has not already moved its war chest and its whole armament into his party's camp.

**ARIZONA CONSTITUTION**

The constitution makers of Arizona have finished their work. It represents the high water mark of democracy in the United States.

- Here are its main provisions:
- Initiative and referendum; percentages of 10 and 5 respectively.
- Anti-child labor provision.
- Amendment to constitution by a majority vote of the people upon initiative of 15 per cent of voters.
- Nonpartisan election of the judiciary.
- Recall of all elective officers.
- Anti-lobbying law.
- Direct primaries.
- Direct advisory primary for senators.
- Instructions to legislature to enact a corrupt practice law.
- Rigid corporation regulation, with provision to abolish wild-catting.
- Physical valuation of railroads as a basis for rate regulation.
- Corporation commission with wide open powers.
- Employers' liability provision.
- Mandate for the enactment of a law.
- Restricting sale of public lands, to prevent land grabbing.
- Abolition of fee system of all public officers.
- Giving cities over 3,500 population right to frame their own charters.
- Prohibiting employment of aliens on public work.

This great instrument now goes to congress and the president for acceptance or rejection. If accepted it will mark a new epoch in the growth of American institutions.

Well done, Arizona! "Time's noblest offspring is the last."—Wichita (Kan.) Beacon.

**A GOOD BILL**

Representative Evans, a republican member of the Nebraska legislature, has introduced a bill providing for the selection of delegates to national conventions, selection of national committeemen and the expression of choice for president and vice-president by primary vote. It is a good measure and ought to pass. We cannot bring government too close to the people.

**CHANGE THE METHOD**

The Lorimer report, taken in connection with the senatorial contests in New York and New Jersey will tend to convince the most conservative that the time has come for a change in the method of election.

*Practical Tariff Talks*

A Commoner subscriber asks for some information about the rubber schedule, the increase in which Senator Bristow charged was brought about by Aldrich to the enrichment of a trust in which himself and family were interested. There is little data in the debates or hearings before congress regarding rubber. There was no body of men writing or talking against any change or for any change. Under the Dingley law crude rubber was admitted free of duty, as the growing of rubber is not an industry in this country. All manufactures of rubber, however, were taxed 30 per cent. The house bill carried the same rates, but Mr. Aldrich had his senate committee increase the rate on manufactures of rubber to 35 per cent. When this paragraph came before the senate it was read and agreed to without debate, no reason being assigned or asked as to the change. Mr. Bristow made the charge during the last campaign that just after adjournment or during the tariff session Aldrich, the Guggenheims and Ryan organized the Intercontinental Rubber company, with a forty million dollar capital, of which Aldrich's son was made vice president and general manager.

Mr. Aldrich made denial of this fact, but later developments proved that Bristow was well within the truth. There was not the slightest reason for the increase, save a desire to make money for men who do not need it. Manufactured rubber has been steadily mounting in price for years, and immediately after the organization of the trust referred to there were still further advances. During the first three months of its existence, says Senator Bristow, dividends aggregating over 18 per cent were declared on its preferred stock. The fact that the American manufacturer was still further buttressed against competition by this 5 per cent increase made it possible for a trust to more safely embark on the task of controlling the market. The demand for rubber has greatly increased the price, much of this coming from the automobile makers, but this fact ought to have argued for a decrease instead of an increase, in order to protect those who wear rubber coverings for their shoes, rubber coats and the like.

Another item in the rubber schedule was increased. This referred to reclaimed rubber, upon which a tax of 20 per cent is laid, whereas before, under the ruling of the appraisers, it was admitted free. The reclaimed rubber industry is one that stands between the people and extortion from the rubber manufacturers, furnishing, as it does, a second grade quality of rubber that represents only a small proportion of the cost of the original. The process makes use of the rubber boots, rubber shoes, tires, hose, etc., that are thrown away as worthless whenever a break occurs in them. Manifestly a considerable portion of these rubber goods is available for further wear or use. The rubber scrap goes into the junk pile, but is sorted and sold to manufacturers, who proceed to put it through an inexpensive process. Generally speaking this consists of sorting the scrap, breaking it into bits by machines, treating it to a bath of sulphuric acid, removing the acid by a soda ash bath, and putting it through machines so that it ends up by being a finely powdered mass.

This powder is mixed with oils and finally emerges in long strips of rubber, with which about 30 per cent pure rubber has been mixed. The processes through which the scrap goes from its first appearance at the factory until it becomes sheet rubber again number twelve. Skilled operatives are required, but as the work is nearly all done by machinery or through appliances, the cost is not great. Under the decisions of the treasury department, which admitted this product free, a great deal was exported from Russia, where the process has reached high development, but the 20 per cent tariff tax has stopped most of this. That tax was levied so that American manufacturers could charge their customers more than they would have to pay for the Russian product, and a study of the market tables will show that they have gladly proceeded to do so. C. Q. D.

It is possible that the people have placed too high an estimate on the senate. The Lorimer committee seems to think that a little fraud, now and then, is relished by the best of senators.