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A Sham Argument

The opponents of popular election of senators are up to their old tricks—they are raising false issues in order to deceive the voters and cover up their own nefarious purposes.

One of the papers is demanding that with the change in the method of election there shall be a change to proportionate representation; that is that the states shall be represented in the senate in proportion to their population. There is no demand for this; there is no complaint among the people because the states have an equal voice in the senate; it is that the corporations do the talking and the people have no voice at all.

Another paper proposes that the senate shall be abolished; this too, is a false issue. There is no popular demand for the abolition of the senate—the demand is simply that it be brought into harmony with the people. The states have two branches in their legislatures and the value of two bodies is recognized the world over, but there is no reason why either branch should represent plutocracy.

There is no answer to the arguments made in support of the direct election of senators; therefore the friends of the predatory interests find it necessary to evade the real issue and divert attention, but the people will win their fight soon—next congress, if not this.

CERTIFICATE FOR THE WORLD

The New York World prints a double column certificate of character written by Mr. Thomas E. Watson of Georgia. Mr. Watson says he does this in reply to "The Commoner's attack on the World, allowing that it is spokesman for certain special interests." Mr. Watson grows almost hysterical in the tribute he pays to Joseph Pulitzer and his newspaper and he assures the American people that there are but "two points of difference" between Mr. Watson himself, and Mr. Pulitzer or the World.

That is all very interesting, but the fact remains that democrats are quite as capable of judging a newspaper as Mr. Watson is, and democrats know that when the World makes a real fight against a corporation candidate it is in the interest of another corporation candidate; that when the World proposes reorganization of the democratic party it speaks for the special interests whose representatives hope to dominate the party.

If this is not true how does it happen that the policy and the candidates supported by the World have the support also of the known representatives of special interests. In its issue of January 16 the World laid down the rule for Mr. Sheehan and it must be judged by the same rule. In that issue the World said:

"Judge Parker assures us that William F. Sheehan 'is as free from alliances that would hinder his usefulness to the people as God's free

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GENUINE VICTORY

The democratic party should make an aggressive fight for progressive democratic principles. It is not essential that we always win, but it is essential that we be true to democratic ideals. It is not necessary that we succeed, but it is necessary that we keep the faith if democracy is to live. More was gained for the people in the Bryan campaigns that ended in apparent defeat than would have been accomplished by the barren victory of leaders controlled by the powers that prey. These campaigns wrought a revolution in the public conscience, and aroused the people to the need of reform. Underlying these campaigns, and greater than any special issue, was the struggle of humanity against the oppression of plutocracy, of men against dollars and of conscience against greed. Through these campaigns the people were awakened and they are ready now to give the harvest to be reaped from the sowing of the seeds of truth. While it is better to lose with the right than to win with the wrong, we can be right and win also.—Joseph W. Folk, in The Commoner, January 20, 1911.

air.' Such being the case, will Judge Parker explain to us why all of Thomas F. Ryan's political influence is back of Mr. Sheehan's candidacy? Will he explain why all of Anthony N. Brady's political influence is back of Mr. Sheehan's candidacy? Will he explain why all the political influence of the Ryan corporations and the Brady corporations is back of Mr. Sheehan's candidacy? We have never known the time when either Mr. Ryan or Mr. Brady was greatly interested in the election of public officials whose most conspicuous merit was their 'usefulness to the people.'

CANAL TOLLS

It is to be hoped that congress will set its face against canal tolls beyond the actual cost of maintaining and operating the canal. Every dollar exacted in tolls on vessels carrying freight between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts will be added to the freight charges of the trans-continental railroads. Every dollar added to freight going to or coming from South America will lessen our trade with the South American republics. Every dollar added to freight going through the canal will be used as an argument in favor of a new and cheaper canal at some other point on the isthmus, thus involving us in diplomatic controversies.

If the canal is a naval advantage to us we cannot afford to make others pay for it. We claim to be paramount in the Western Hemisphere; we are opposed to other nations owning a canal on the isthmus, and we ought to be willing to pay for the prestige. We could not in any other way so establish ourselves in the confidence and good will of the people of South America. Let us have a free canal.

OLLIE JAMES WINS HIS FIGHT

Kentucky democrats will have the privilege of nominating their candidate for senator. The Louisville Evening Post of February 4, says: "At the session of the democratic state executive committee, at the Louisville Hotel, this afternoon voted, nine to three, to include the senatorship in the state primary that will be held May 27 next. The result, which came as a great surprise to the politicians outside, was a great victory for Congressman Ollie James, who urged that this be done. This action undoubtedly greatly enhances the chances of Mr. James in the race for the senate."

The Denver Platform

The Denver platform contained the following plank on the securing of depositors:

"The panic of 1907, coming without any legitimate excuse when the republican party had for a decade been in complete control of the federal government furnishes additional proof that it is either unwilling or incompetent to protect the interests of the general public. It has so linked the country to Wall Street that the sins of the speculators are visited upon the whole people. While refusing to rescue the wealth producers from spoliation at the hands of the stock gamblers, and speculators in farm products, it has deposited treasury funds, without interest and without competition in favorite banks. It has used an emergency for which it is largely responsible to force through congress a bill changing the basis of bank currency and inviting market manipulation and has failed to give to the fifteen million depositors of the country protection to their savings.

"We believe that insofar as the needs of commerce require an emergency currency, such currency should be issued, controlled by the federal government and loaned on adequate security to national and state banks. We pledge ourselves to legislation by which the national banks shall be required to establish a guarantee fund for the prompt payment of the depositors of any insolvent bank, under an equitable system which shall be available to all state banking institutions wishing to use it.

"We favor a postal savings bank if the guarantee bank cannot be secured and that to be constituted so as to keep the deposited money in the communities where it is established. But we condemn the policy of the republican party in proposing postal savings banks under a plan of conduct by which they will segregate the deposits of rural communities and redeposit the same while under government charge in the banks of Wall Street, thus depleting the circulating medium of the producing regions and unjustly favoring the speculative markets."

Since the election, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas have followed the example of Oklahoma, and enacted bank guaranty laws, and the United States supreme court has recently, by a unanimous vote, sustained these laws. The decision is so sweeping that other states are likely to take it up and in the end the national banks will be compelled to establish a similar system.

The postal savings bank, which the platform endorsed as an alternative system, has been established, but it lacks the safeguards recommended in our platform.

DEATH INVADES THE SENATE

It is seldom that death has made so many inroads on the United States senate in so short a time as during the past few months—and it has dealt quite impartially with the various elements and sections. First Senator Dolliver was called—a leader of the insurgent republicans and a representative of the central west. Then the summons came to Clay of Georgia, a conspicuous southern democrat. Next it was Elkins, a tower of strength to the standpat element in the republican party; and now it is Hughes of the farther west, a leader on the democratic side and one of the ablest lawyers in that body. The King of Terrors "loves a shining mark," it is said; he has been proving it.

A BURDENSOME RECORD

One of the house democrats who voted against free lumber, and thus repudiated the national platform, complained that his record was raised against him when he aspired to a place on the ways and means committee. He protested and said: "If this record makes me ineligible to serve on the ways and means committee it makes ineligible to membership in the democratic party a large proportion of my constituency whose views I represent and hold."

That is illogical. He may represent the wishes of his constituents on this subject and his con-