

say. The closing of the house was brought about by the wrath of a well-to-do grocer of the city, who discovered that his wife had lost considerable money there.

"The husband said his wife was making inroads on the family funds to such an extent that he was unable to meet his bills. He said he had heard that other women players were doing the like. He declared his wife had lost as much as \$70 in a single sitting. He said that when the card games were over the women were invited to buy tickets that entitled them in a chance in raffles of hand-painted china or other goods."

The New York Sun prints a letter signed by all the Episcopal clergy of Newport, R. I., rebuking the fashionable set for making Sunday a day of amusement. The letter was read in all the Episcopal churches and some of the ministers added comments upon it. Rev. George Vernon Dickey, for instance, said:

"Evil does not correct itself. The wages of sin," says the Holy Scriptures, "is death." The whole tendency of wrongdoing is downward. I think the history of Newport society will illustrate this pretty conclusively. Time was when with all her fashion and gayety Newport had some apparent outward respect for God's laws. Sunday entertainments and amusements found few to uphold them. The institution of marriage was regarded as sacred. There was not the gambling for high stakes at bridge which now is universal.

"But gradually Saturday night and Sunday entertainments became more elaborate. The excuse was that there were few men here except on those days. Sunday luncheons, at first informal and only for house guests, became formal and stately functions. Then music and finally dancing was introduced until the day of rest for the poor, tired men who toiled in business all week became the most strenuous day of all.

"As for bridge and its attendant gambling, it is only necessary to call attention to the fact that the laws of the state and God's laws are being broken. So universal has the habit become that no one can expect to have a very good time unless able to play the game."

These news items are a sad commentary on society as it exists in the cities. Is it not time for the ministers to lead a crusade against gambling. The trouble is that condemnation has been visited against certain forms of gambling only, when the attack should be made upon the PRINCIPLE. Every form of gambling is wrong. It makes no difference whether it is bridge, poker, the lottery, wheel of fortune, slot machine, or betting at the race track, on the elections or in futures, it demoralizes those who engage in it. Every moral force in society should be enlisted against it and at once.

WHY OMIT 1896?

Approving the passage of the Rucker campaign publicity bill, the New York World pretends to give the history of political corruption funds.

The World quotes the late President Arthur as having intimated that money was wrongfully used in the presidential campaign of 1880.

The World says that money was wrongfully used in the presidential campaign of 1884, but its use failed to swing the election, the democratic nominee being victorious. It says that in 1888 money was again wrongfully used to swing the election to the republican party.

But what about 1896? The republican committee had more corruption funds in that year than its representatives could spend. The New York World knew about it, yet it was found supporting the republican candidate.

THE REPUBLICAN STORM

Plainly a storm is brewing in the republican party. Senator Cummins of Iowa makes a particularly effective arraignment of President Taft, and Senator Bristow of Kansas is uncompromising in his denunciation of the administration. The statements of these two republican senators will be found in another column in this issue. Upon one point Senator Bristow puts into a nutshell the whole tendency of the Taft administration. Senator Bristow says:

"The New Mexico constitutional convention was controlled by the railroads and reactionary politicians, and its constitution was just what the interests wanted it. It was ultra reactionary. Yet Mr. Taft could find nothing to criticize in that document. The Arizona constitution placed power in the hands of the people, and it met the violent denunciation of the president."

A WARNING

If big business can scheme and dictate the presidential nomination of the two great political parties next year, big business will probably have its game won for four more years as far as the presidency is concerned.

By making the most of party precedent which promises a renomination for a president, by popularizing reciprocity as a Taft product and by discrediting Senator La Follette and his candidacy with the republican rank and file, the convention success of the present incumbent of the white house is now practically assured.

If big business can only bring about the nomination of Harmon or some other "safe and sane" man by the democrats, it will feel that it can sweetly slumber until the smoke of the sham battle has cleared away.

A short time ago I thought this second grade could not be made, but my optimism has been succeeded by pessimism. Do you follow me? Do you see the plan?

Bryan is to be depopularized and discredited with the leaders in the democratic party.

It is to be made to appear that no candidate who has the indorsement of Bryan will be able to defeat Taft next year.

Logically every really progressive candidate who is a genuine friend of the common people will have the indorsement of Bryan.

Resultantly Folk, Wilson, Marshall, Clark and other progressives will, in the interests of "harmony" and "good politics" be eliminated from the race.

This method of procedure, if it is not side-tracked by an awakened patriotism and common sense, will leave Governor Harmon, a man acceptable to big business, as the only logical and the inevitable candidate of the democracy.

It is time for a Paul Revere to "spread the alarm, through every city, village and farm" for the progressive folks "to be up and to arm."

It is time for the progressives of all parties to unite in a determined effort to force the nomination of a people's friend and defender on one of the old party tickets.

It is time for the progressives of all parties to become so organized and equipped and fortified that in the event of the triumph of the alleged nomination conspiracy of big business, the people will be able to place a third candidate in the field—a Lincoln with a great heart throbbing in sympathy with the toiling masses.

It is time for cool-headed, temperate, persistent patriotism.—Sault Ste. Marie (Mich.) Progression.

ANOTHER "GOOD" BET

The New York World prints a very interesting cartoon showing Mr. Bryan writing upon a blackboard these words: "Never bet on my election. William J. Bryan." Underneath the cartoon the World prints these words: "The One Best Bet."

There is another good bet. Never bet on the New York World's seriously favoring the election of any man who will require justice for the people at the hands of the special interests, in whose securities the great fortune of the editor of the New York World is reported to be invested.

GOOD FOR OMAHA!

The people of Omaha, at a special election, adopted the commission form of government. It indicates a determination on the part of the Nebraska metropolis to move along the lines of real progress, and the people of Omaha are to be congratulated. The fight in behalf of the commission form of government was led by the Omaha Bee, a republican newspaper. For the vigor of its good efforts the Bee is to be commended by all lovers of reform.

WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

The St. Louis Republic, which is known as a democratic newspaper, has a brand new editor. Under the new management the Republic has had many ill-natured things to say of Mr. Bryan. It has also given more or less strong approval of many such undemocratic plans as the Aldrich currency scheme.

Newspapers unfriendly to Mr. Bryan are now quoting the following editorial from the St. Louis Republic:

"Mr. Bryan's criticisms of Mr. Taft would be more agreeable to democrats if they were not always accompanied by worse strictures upon Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama.

"It happens that Mr. Underwood is the leader of the democratic majority in the house of representatives and as such it has been his fate recently to receive the blows of every agent of monopoly, privilege and plunder in the country. If democrats will not stand by him, where can he look for support?"

"The issue between Mr. Taft and Mr. Underwood is so sharply drawn that it now seems likely that the next presidential campaign is to be fought on that line alone. How, then, can Mr. Bryan, the idol of his party, appear upon the scene, smashing Taft with one fist and pummeling Underwood with the other?"

Democrats everywhere will be interested in knowing that the new editor of the St. Louis Republic was the gentleman who, for so many years, edited the Chicago Chronicle, owned by John R. Walsh. The Chicago Chronicle fought practically every democratic proposition that was advanced. It stood for the special interests. Its editor was one of the ablest among American newspaper men, and under his management the Chronicle gave genuine help to the special interests that were preying upon the people.

Will the St. Louis Republic, under the management of the former editor of John R. Walsh's Chicago Chronicle, undertake to serve the democrats of Missouri as the Chronicle served the democrats of Illinois? Will it become a democratic paper in name only, being in truth the organ of the special interests?

HOW MANY?

Now, that it has been shown that Mr. Underwood did oppose Speaker Clark's resolution instructing the committee to proceed with the preparation of other bills, including an iron and steel bill, how many democrats will admit that they applauded Mr. Underwood when he declared that there was no difference between him and the speaker? The Commoner will be pleased to publish the admissions.

WHAT A CHANGE, MY COUNTRYMEN

Hillsdale (Mich.) Daily: What a change has come over the politicians, my countrymen. Four years ago, a gentleman by the name of Bryan was marching up and down the land demanding the publication of political contributions to political parties before election as well as after. He was hooted at and scouted, defeated by Mr. Taft and has been abused, ridiculed, and derided more than any other great man in the history of the country. Yet a few days ago this same man had the pleasure of knowing that the president who defeated him had to sign the publicity bill he advocated, because his fight for the measure had made it so popular the president dared not veto it. It is one thing to be the president backed by a powerful machine, but a greater thing to be a private citizen, without a machine or a party, who by mere force of right is able to stir the public conscience up to the point that his opponent dare not veto the measure he has made popular. While history will never give to Bryan the position he is rightfully entitled to hold as America's greatest commoner, yet in spite of the antagonisms of organized greed more of the reform measures he has advocated and made popular in the interest of the average American, have been written into the laws of the nation and the state than will be accorded to any other man in the history of the country. Although he may never be president, the reform sentiment of the country may yet realize that to enforce its reform measures it will be necessary some day to place a man in the presidential chair whose heart beats in sympathy with the great mass of the people of America, and whose whole administration would be devoted not to preventing reform measures being placed on the statute books but to getting them on the books and seeing them enforced.

Some day people are going to realize that politicians and officials opposed to reform