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whether the violation of law was "reasonable" or "unreasonable" the supreme court opinion (now upheld by Mr. Taft although in his message of January, 1910, he practically condemned it) gives to the federal court the power of passing upon any violation of the anti-trust law as a "reasonable" violation.

And there is not the smallest difference between this power than the power of a court to say that a case of burglary was "reasonable" burglary, or that a case of horse-stealing was not "unreasonable" horse-stealing. Mr. Taft admitted this when, in his message of January 1910, he said: "This is to put into the hands of the court a power impossible to exercise on any consistent principle," adding that it is to give to courts "a power approaching the arbitrary, the abuse of which might involve our whole judicial system in disaster."

## "AFTER A TIME"

Press dispatches from Peoria, Ill.—two days following the defeat of reciprocity—said that President Taft had "a heart to heart talk" with the people and that he was in "a serious mood." The president said: "What the future is I know not. I only know this, that I am going ahead and do the best I can. I have confidence that the American people can always be trusted, not only to exercise their sober second thought, but also a discriminating sense as to what is fact and what is fiction, after a time."

The people do sometimes have "a discriminating sense as to what is fact and what is fiction" particularly "after a time."

In 1908 the people were made the victims of the fiction that Mr. Taft was a progressive.

To be sure, they should have known better.

But Mr. Taft permitted Mr. Roosevelt to select him as the Roosevelt successor and to herald him as a progressive leader upon whom reform republicans might depend.

But Mr. Taft has been anything but progressive. On the contrary he has been a stand-patter of the standpatters and his entire administration, becoming worse and worse every day from the insurgent republican standpoint, has presented the strongest sort of standpat fact against the most lurid sort of insurgent fiction.

The republican party has often fooled the American people.

But the people were never so badly fooled as they were when they were led to believe that Mr. Taft had some conception of popular government or some sympathy with those who would perpetuate it.

## "Shall the People Rule" the Overwhelming Issue

If You Say "Yes" Then Organize a Democratic Club

The following charter was taken out in pursuance of instructions given at a meeting of United States senators, congressmen and others at the democratic conference room, Senate Office building, Washington, D. C., August 23, 1911. The same meeting instructed that by-laws be adopted after the charter should be taken out, and that a national executive committee of nine members be chosen, to consist of four United States senators, four congressmen and one other member, with power to add to their numbers, and all to be subject to recall. A committee on organization was named, consisting of United States senators Robert L. Owen and George E. Chamberlain, and Mr. George H. Shibley.

## CHARTER

The federation is chartered under the laws of the District of Columbia, as follows:

"City of Washington, District of Columbia. We, the undersigned, being citizens of the United States and of full age, and a majority being residents of the District of Columbia, hereby form an organization, the Federation of Democratic Precinct Clubs of U. S. A., to be composed (1) of affiliated Democratic Precinct clubs, one or more in each voting precinct throughout the United States, (2) of affiliated Democratic clubs other than for voting precincts, these affiliated clubs as a whole to be grouped together into (3) city and county federations, (4) state federations, and (5) a national federation. Each federation shall consist (1) of the individual members of the territorial area, (2) of a general committee which may be designated as follows for the several federations: City or county council, state council and national council, (3) of an executive committee, which may be known as president, vice presidents, secretary and treasurer, lecturers, organizers, and such others as the federation may choose to elect, and (5) an advisory body which may be known as advisory council.

"The term for which the federation is organized is perpetual.

"The object is to promote the art of self-government.

"The number of directors for the first year shall be nine, who shall be known as the national executive council.

"A charter shall be issued for each of the several federations except the national one.

"Each city federation, county federation and state federation may be designated as a branch; for example, the McHenry county (Ill.) branch of the federation of Democratic Precinct Clubs of the United States of America.

"Witness our signatures and seals this 24th day of August, A. D. 1911."

(Signatures of incorporators.)

Filed with the recorder of deeds, Washington, D. C., August 24, 1911.

## LET US ORGANIZE!

Constitution of Democratic Precinct club—you are invited to join:

## PREAMBLE

The real political contest in this country is between the people and the holders of special privileges—the special interests.

This country is governed through party organizations and the special interests have for years controlled the regular republican organization, and through it have controlled the national government and many of the state governments.

This regular republican organization—the stand-pat "machine"—is being driven out of power by the people, who have elected a progressive democratic house of representatives, and the people now partially control the senate through the democratic senators and the revolted republican progressive senators. It is obvious that the democratic party is about to come into control of the government in 1912, and the great danger of the democracy is that the advocates and holders of privilege will rush into the bosom of democracy for shelter, with protestations of party loyalty and zeal and urgent advice as to party policy and choice of candidates.

Already the special interests are making secret efforts throughout the nation to control the regular democratic organization, and will endeavor to guide the choice of the democratic nominees. For this reason the people must control the primaries, the conventions, the nominations, the elections and the men elected, and in their own interest.

In this contest the advocates of privilege have unlimited funds, and an army of skilled workers and strikers, a powerful press, a host of beneficiaries, and will under cover contest the field from end to end, while the people are unorganized. The present regular democratic organization, consisting of national, state, county, city, township, ward and precinct committees, and officeholders, have no right and no duty, as an organization, to take sides to determine the nomination and election of their successors in office. This work of nominating and electing must be done by the people. The work of the regular democratic party organization begins after it has been elected by the people, and after the democratic candidates shall have been nominated by the people.

It follows that the need of the hour is organization of the people themselves for self-defense in the governing business, and, first of all, in the governing business is the selection of the regular party organization, city, county and state committees and delegates, from the precinct to the national convention. The democratic party should be safeguarded in every precinct, and from the precinct to the national convention, so that the democratic party may nominate a progressive democrat for the presidency, nominate absolutely trustworthy men for every party and public place, and have an organized army of a million precinct men able, willing and anxious to elect a democratic president in 1912. This makes necessary the organization of the people themselves; therefore

Resolved, That we, the undersigned, citizens of this precinct, join in establishing a Democratic Precinct club, and that we adopt the following constitution:

Article I. Name. This club shall be known as the Democratic Precinct club, of the . . . . . precinct, of the . . . . . Ward (or township), of . . . . . county (or city), of the state of . . . . .

Article II. Object. The object is to take part in the nation-wide movement of patriotic democrats for insuring progressive control of the regular democratic organization, from the precinct to the national convention, and thereby place in office none but trustworthy citizens, especially a progressive presidential nominee, all of whom shall be pledged to the voters to support the following people's rule program:

First. To promote the establishment of a thorough system of actual self-government within the party by the members of the party;

Second. To promote the establishment of a thorough system of actual self-government by the people within the states and the nation; and

Third. To so legislate and to so administer the laws as to abolish privileges in industry, thereby lowering the cost of living and opening up the opportunities of life in full measure to the masses of the people.

Article III. Program. The program is in two main parts:

First. To organize a self-supporting and self-governing Democratic Precinct club in this precinct, open to all democrats, and enroll additional members. This club shall federate with other Democratic Precinct clubs in this county, city and state, and the nation, as a member of the federation of Democratic Precinct clubs of the United States of America, under the by-laws of the federation. The president of this club shall be the club's representative in the county or city council of the county or city federation of Democratic Precinct clubs.

Second. To promote the greatest possible publicity for the records, views and affiliations of the candidates within the party; to question candidates for party offices and for public offices, and to see to it that they are pledged to the people to support the people's rule program; to raise the issues of the people's rule program from time to time as may appear expedient to the club, the county or city federation or the state federation, as the case may be; to urge the members of the party to attend the primaries and all elections; to see that the laws against corruption are rigidly enforced, that the votes in primaries and the elections are gotten out, properly counted and returned, and that our principles are steadily advanced.

This organization shall be continued year after year for use in the primary election campaign and in the contest between our party's nominees and those of the opposing parties, and as an agency for assuring at all times the good conduct of party and public officials.