

ever since refused to enact, relating to con- tempts in federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

"Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We deem that the parties to all judicial proceed- ings should be treated with rigid impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any cases in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.

"The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgment of the right of wage earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

"We favor the eight-hour day on all govern- ment work.

"We pledge the democratic party to the enact- ment of a law by congress, as far as the federal jurisdiction extends, for a general employers' liability act covering injury to body or loss of life of employes.

"We pledge the democratic party to the enact- ment of a law creating a department of labor, represented separately in the president's cabi- net, which department shall include the sub- ject of mines and mining."

The progressive republicans in the senate would doubtless help carry the measure through the senate and the president would then have a chance to sign or veto.

PORTO RICO

The democratic national platform of 1908 promised a territorial form of government to Porto Rico; the promise should be kept. The democratic house should take the initiative and pass the necessary law for the creation of the territory of Porto Rico. There should be no hesitation about this matter; the people of Porto Rico are entitled to a territorial form of govern- ment. It ought to have been given to them be- fore this; if there is any further delay, let the blame fall upon the republican senate rather than upon the democratic house.

WORDS FITLY SPOKEN

Below will be found extracts from speeches delivered at Kansas City recently in opposition to the Aldrich currency scheme. They are words fitly spoken:

Speaker Clark said:

"Laying no claim whatever to the character of a financier, I am utterly opposed to the creation, chartering or authorization of any institute which will deliver into the hands of a few men, I care not who they may be or where they may live, the powers of life and death, not only over the bankers of the country, but over every business in the land. Even financiers of renown differ widely as the poles on the Aldrich plan. Many great financiers indorse it, some emphatically, some mildly and some doubtfully and hesitatingly. Such eminent and successful business men as James J. Hill and Leslie M. Shaw are openly against it on the ground that the Aldrich plan is essentially a monopoly. Mr. Shaw says it would be so profitable to a few men who would really run it that they could well afford to pay the entire national debt for a perpetual charter, asserting that it would make them absolute masters of the American business world. Now, if such eminent financial physicians as Doctors Aldrich, Vreeland and Laughlin on the one hand, and Doctors Hill and Shaw on the other hand, disagree so radically on this subject, would we not be acting the part of wise and patriotic men to wait long enough at least to hear both sides in this important and far-reaching matter before making up our minds? So far it has been largely in the nature of an ex parte proceeding. Only the advocates of the plan have had an inning. Why, then, rush pell mell into such an important matter? Why render a verdict prematurely? Why not take time—not too much, not too little, but ample time—thoroughly to investigate, to find out the sponsors, to discover the motive of this undertaking, to ascertain who are to be its beneficiaries, to learn with definiteness the powers to testify before committees of house and senate, vigorously to cross-examine, to discover jokers, if any, in this plan—in short, to in- form ourselves as we ought to be informed touch- ing a problem of such intense interest to 93,000,000 American people now living, and untold millions yet unborn? Individually, I am not enamoured of the Aldrich plan. Quite the contrary. I certainly will vote against it if an attempt is made to rush it through under whip and spur. It should be thor- oughly ventilated and the light let in on it. The safe rule, which I adopted years ago, is to vote against any bill or resolution about which I have not had opportunity to inform myself, thereby giv- ing myself and my constituents the benefit of the doubt."

United States Senator James A. Reed also spoke in opposition to the Aldrich plan.

"I am against any currency scheme written by bankers for bankers. I do not mean to attack the banks or the financial centers of the country, but I protest against any plan that will lessen the con- trol of the people over the finances of the country."

Is it possible that the Steel trust would rather be prosecuted by its friends than to be investigated by its enemies?

The Situation in New Jersey

Charles W. Bryan, publisher The Commoner: In response to the request that I should make some statement concerning the late elec- tion held in New Jersey, and the result of that election, and its effect upon Governor Wilson's administration, and the progressive legislation for which he stood, and which was enacted dur- ing the last legislative session, would say:

That the late election was what may be called a by-election at which local officials, county officers and a proportion of the state senate and the members of the house of assembly were bal- loted for.

There were no prominent or absorbing state issues involved.

The democratic party in this campaign pledged itself to further legislation in the interest of the people, and where necessary, to enlarge the legislation of 1911; the republican party pointed to the legislation of 1911, and its support of the same.

The great measures in the interest of the people and for the re-establishment of repre- sentative government in the state and aimed at the destruction of the "machine" and the elimination of the "special interests" as an in- fluencing factor in the public affairs of this state, were enacted at the last legislature and were written upon the statute books, by the persistent fight of the democratic legislators under the leadership of Governor Wilson.

I now refer particularly to the extension of the direct and open primary; the safeguarding of the ballot; the enactment of a corrupt prac- tice and anti-bribery act; the commission gov- ernment act; the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and control of public utili- ties in the state with rate making powers; the workmen's indemnity and compensation act. All of this legislation had been secured.

Furthermore, the right of the people to ex- press their choice for United States senators was firmly established by the election of James J. Martine, through the insistance of Governor Wilson.

At the late election, from the figures of the vote in the state on the legislature, they show a falling off of 85,294 votes compared with 1910, when Woodrow Wilson was a candidate for governor, and of 62,548 compared with 1909.

Notwithstanding this great falling off of the vote, the democrats carried the state by a popu- lar vote of upwards of 3,100.

By the county system of electing a legisla- ture, existing in the state of New Jersey, a poli- tical party, that is in a minority of the popular vote, can elect a legislative majority while los- ing the state.

This is a remarkable showing for the demo- cratic party when it is considered that the state is normally republican.

Since 1896 down to the election of Governor Wilson last year, the chief executives of the state have been republicans.

The candidates for governor of the republi- can party have received as high as the following pluralities: 26,900 the plurality of Governor Griggs in 1895; 17,133 the plurality of Governor Murphy in 1901, and 51,644 the plurality of Governor Stokes in 1904.

During these administrations the political complexion of the legislature from 1895 to and including 1910, has been strongly republican, except on one occasion, which was in 1907, when the house consisted of thirty-one demo- crats and twenty-nine republicans.

In the days when the democrats controlled the state, the highest majority ever received by a democratic candidate was that of Gover- nor Abbott in 1889, when his plurality was 14,253; the same candidate's plurality in 1883 was 6,809, and in 1886, when Vice Chancellor Green was elected governor, his plurality was 8,020.

The election of Governor Wilson in 1910, and the carrying out of his policies, have undoubt- edly resulted in maintaining the state of New Jersey in the democratic column by a majority of the popular vote.

There is no question, that had the issues been the same at the last election as they were in 1910, the state would have gone as strongly democratic this year as last.

From an examination of the returns just at hand, it would appear that in most of the coun- ties of the state the democratic vote has been increased, and in the republican counties, the majorities reduced.

In Hudson county, the banner democratic county of the state, Governor Wilson and his

policies were made an issue by the candidates on the democratic ticket themselves. The can- didates for mayors in the large cities, the can- didate for sheriff of Hudson county, and the candidates for the house of assembly, all an- nounced their loyalty to Governor Wilson and his policies, and approbation of the reform and progressive legislation enacted through his in- fluence.

The popular democratic majority in the county was about 22,000.

The democratic candidate for mayor in Jersey City received a phenomenal majority, the largest popular majority ever received by a candidate for mayor in that city.

Under the county system of electing legisla- tive representatives, the republicans gained the house of assembly; the democrats gained one of the senators.

The republicans would again have lost the house had it not been for the vote in Essex county.

This is the largest county in the state, the home of ex-United States Senator James Smith, who dominated the democratic organization in that county. This county has twelve assembly seats, all of which were lost, the democratic and independent voters refusing to support the can- didates on the democratic ticket because they were nominated by the "machine" and were running on an anti-Wilson platform.

New Jersey went democratic outside of this county by 10,000, Essex county, however, gave a republican majority of 7,300, which still left the democratic majority in the state 3,100.

To show the disgust of the voter with the legislative ticket in Essex county, it appears that the non-voters in that county numbered nearly 23,000 votes.

Governor Wilson absolutely refused to go into this county during the campaign, and speak for the ticket, in view of their open antagonism to his policies and opposition to the progressive legislation of last year.

As goes the county of Essex, so goes the state politically, and during the last election, this is exemplified, so far as the legislative majority in the house is concerned. Had the democrats carried Essex county and secured the twelve votes in that county, it would have been in a majority in the legislature.

Under all the circumstances, it is apparent that the democratic party, because of the pro- gressive legislation adopted last winter, and the confidence of the people of the state in Gover- nor Wilson, and his great popularity, gained a great victory at the late election.

I might say in conclusion, that there will be no attack on the progressive legislation of last year by the republican majority. It would be like touching off a high explosive if any attempt was made to disturb this legislation, excepting along the line of perfecting or enlarging the same.

The republican party and its leaders were very careful during the late campaign as to criticisms in connection with this legislation. On the other hand, although it put the party in a ridiculous and grotesque position, in view of its attitude towards this legislation heretofore, that of hostility, yet they claimed much of the credit of the legislation in question.

R. S. HUDSPETH, Member National Committee from New Jersey, Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 22, 1911.

TWO "HIGH FINANCE" STEEL TRUST COUPS The Steel trust got the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by exchanging its own second mortgage bonds selling at 84 for Tennessee stock on a basis of 116 during the panic of 1907. Cost to the trust in actual cash, NOTHING Value to the trust.....\$50,000,000 The Steel trust got the Mesaba iron mines and the Duluth, Missabe and Northern railroad by John D. Rockefeller calling loans on the original owners during the panic of 1893. Cost to the trust (on the basis of the Rockefeller transaction) less than...\$11,000,000 Value to the trust.....\$700,000,000 —New York World.