

The Commoner.

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Where Folk Stands

The Plattsburg (Mo.) Democrat prints the following striking sentences from the writings and speeches of Former Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri:

"All the democratic party needs in order to succeed at the next election is to keep the faith of the people, and be true to its own principles."

"There is an embezzlement of power, as well as an embezzlement of money."

"Some think so little of their obligation to the general welfare that they are indifferent to being robbed, so long as they do not feel the effect directly."

"The indifference of voters is the greatest menace to a republican form of government."

"There is no such thing as an automatically good government; we must have good men in public office."

"Political bosses are usually of strong mentality and of feeble morality."

"As privilege increases, opportunity must diminish, and as opportunity diminishes the rights of the individual are destroyed."

"Criminal wealth, when assailed, always tries to hide behind the skirts of legitimate business, and claims that business is harmed when attacked."

"If the people can not be trusted to govern themselves, who can be trusted to govern them?"

"Progressive democracy is constructive, not destructive."

"A municipality must either be governed by the people, for the people, or it will be a syndicated form of government."

"Individuals are of passing moment. Principles are immortal."

"The need is for more citizens who can be aggressively honest."

"Negative honesty is the next thing to dishonesty."

"No man, no nation, no party can stand still—we must progress or decay."

"The great question before the country is, 'Shall there be government by the people for all, or government by privilege for a class?'"

"There is little danger from error when public opinion is enlightened and reason is free."

"The only purpose of the privilege accorded by a high-protective tariff is to stifle competition and give monopoly."

"It is neither fair nor just for ninety millions of people to be taxed in order to make a few very rich."

"The time of the hermit nation has passed. American ships should carry American products into every land."

"We should have reciprocal trade relations, not only with Canada but with all the leading nations."

"Legitimate commerce follows in the wake of peaceful industry, fair dealing, and freedom from artificial restrictions upon trade."

"No city, no state, no nation can be injured by the enforcement of the people's laws."

"The same logic that would deny the right of

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recall to the people could be used against the election of their officials by the people."

"I advocate the initiative and referendum as a means of lessening corruption in our legislatures."

"The demand for direct election of United States senators shows the growing desire of the people to take the government into their own hands."

"If a government anywhere neglects the people, it is because the people first neglect the government."

"Predatory interests have nothing to fear from passive opposition, but they must yield to active and aggressive fighters."

"The first difficulty was not to uncover bribery, but to prove that bribery was a crime."

"Liberty is no fair young maid, with light and delicate limbs and flowing locks. It is a bearded man, full armed and seasoned to war and conflict."

"The democratic party must convince the people not what it purposes to do for itself, but what it can do for them."

"Contempt for the law is no less reprehensible when plotted over a directors' table than when shouted under a red flag at an anarchists' meeting."

"The doctrine of equal rights should be made a living, vital, controlling force in government."

"The record of every candidate should be scanned to see whether he is so situated as to be able to serve the public without bias in favor of any interest antagonistic to the people."

"There should be a greater individual responsibility to the criminal laws on the part of operators of corporations."

"What has been accomplished in applying moral ideas to public and private acts has been brought about because good people have gotten into politics."

"It is a question for us not of founding a new party, but in the preservation of the ideals of the old party."

"On one side are the advocates and the beneficiaries of special privilege; on the other side are those who stand for equality of opportunity to all."

"The capacity of a people for self-government is to be proven by the happiness and welfare of the average man."

"Let us have neither the conservatism of stagnation, nor the radicalism of indiscriminating destruction. We want progress along right lines."

"The government does not guarantee the farmer, the lawyer, the doctor or the banker a 'reasonable profit,' and why should the manufacturers alone be so favored?"

"Under our system of government the rights of individuals and corporations are protected, but the rights of the public are not protected."

"The rising tide of democracy is not for the democratic party, no matter how controlled, but in favor of real democratic principles."

"Women can have suffrage when they want it. Every fight for better things to be successful must have the moral support of the women."

"The fight of the farmer is not to obtain privileges for himself, but to keep others from securing privileges at his expense."

"Taking the tariff out of politics sounds well, but what does such a move mean other than taking it out of the hands of the people?"

"The new type of citizen is demanding no special advantages for himself, but is asking legislation for the common good."

"Insurgency in the republican party is what there is of conscience in that party."

"Bad citizenship is nearly always aggressive, whereas, good citizenship is too often apathetic."

"One good, honest vote for the right is worth an eternity of private declamation against the evils of corrupt politics."

"Whether the political party shall remain or not is not so important as how it shall perform its duties while here."

"The democratic party is not against wealth, but the conditions that create poverty."

"Behind every political question there is a moral question."

"Honesty is not only the best policy; honesty is the best politics."

"A tariff other than for revenue is a legalized graft."

"There is as much patriotism in the ballot as in the bullet."

"Those who profit by abuses are usually the loudest in denunciation of those who point out abuses in public affairs."

"Safety lies in placing law above lawlessness."

"Give us more of the kind of patriotism that

will go into battles of peace as readily as into the battles of war."

"Publicity is the best cure for corruption."

A FINANCIAL WATERMELON PATCH

An analysis of the first 40 annual reports of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad company, filed in compliance with the New York statutes, shows that a clear net profit of a fraction over 24 cents remained to be divided among the owners of the bonds and stock, from every dollar of income from all sources during the entire 39 years and 8 months of operations covered by those reports.

Aggregating the operating expenses during the first 40 years of this company's corporate existence—

included in which expenses are—
liberal amounts alleged to have been expended for repairs to—

road bed,

rolling stock and

buildings—

together with prodigious sums reported to have been paid for

printing and

advertising,

insurance,

legal expenses,

all costs for damages to persons and property,

the clearing of all wrecks,

the generous salaries paid to officers,

millions for oil and

waste for locomotives,

other millions said to have been paid for water

for locomotives.

many millions reported to have been disbursed

but for what specific purposes does not appear

except that they are said to have been paid for

"other expenses,"—

and to this aggregate add—

all disbursements for purposes other than

operating expenses,

the aggregate taxes of 40 years,

rentals for leased lines,

considerable sums reported as real estate ex-

penses, and

several millions reported to have been set aside

to redeem financial obligations without explain-

ing how or when they were redeemed or offer-

ing evidence that they ever were redeemed;—

adding all those disbursements together, all

which are indicated above, all of them, and de-

ducting the grand total from the aggregate in-

come or revenue reported for the same period,

and the remainder shows the profit of twenty-

four cents net on each dollar of income.

It is a clear profit of several thousand dollars

in excess of 457 millions—about \$1,315 for

every hour, day and night, from October 31,

1869, to July 1, 1909.—Levi Stevens Lewis, in

The Public.

WHY?

Commenting on the Oil and Tobacco decision, President Taft said:

"The most extreme critic can not instance a case that ought to be condemned under the statute which is not brought within its terms as thus construed."

"A reasonable restraint of trade at common law is well understood and is clearly defined. It does not rest in the discretion of the court."

"Mere size is no sin against the law. The merger of two or more business plants necessarily eliminates competition between the units thus combined, but this elimination is in contravention of the statute only when the combination is made for the purpose of ending this particular competition in order to secure control of and enhance prices and create a monopoly."

"The suggestion is made that we may have a combination of two corporations which may run on for years and that subsequently the attorney general may conclude that it was a violation of the statute, and that which was supposed by the combiners to be innocent turns out to be a combination in violation of the statute. The answer to this hypothetical case is that when men attempt to amass such stupendous capital as will enable them to suppress competition, control prices and establish a monopoly, they know the purpose of their acts. Men do not do such a thing without having it clearly in mind."

Why not then cause the arrest of the Standard Oil magnates and the Tobacco trust magnates under the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law?