

The Commoner.

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Commoner Readers Should Act

Wall Street is making every possible effort to discourage the democratic house of representatives from making an investigation of the money trust. Every reader of *The Commoner* is asked to immediately wire or write his member of congress to support Robert L. Henry, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, House of Representatives, in his efforts to have the democratic house push the Money Trust investigation. Mr. Henry is a brave and conscientious man and is heartily in sympathy with the proposed investigation. Democrats have for years been complaining of the dark deals. Now that they are in power in the house they should not hesitate to turn on the light.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT

The recent break between Governor Wilson and Col. Harvey illustrates the impossibility of co-operation between men who look at public questions from different points of view. Col. Harvey became a supporter of Mr. Wilson when he was selected as the democratic candidate for Governor of New Jersey, and he continued his support when Governor Wilson began to be discussed as a candidate for the presidency. Of course, it is absurd for Col. Harvey's friends to talk about his "bringing Governor Wilson out." No man or paper could have made Governor Wilson available as a candidate if he had not himself attracted attention; it would have been impossible for Col. Harvey to have prevented a discussion of Governor Wilson's availability.

But let us assume that Col. Harvey was doing all that he could for his choice, what was the situation? His conspicuous support was not only of no advantage but it became actually a disadvantage; it did not bring to Governor Wilson the class for which Col. Harvey speaks, but it alienated men just as honest as Col. Harvey's friends who could not understand why Col. Harvey praised Governor Wilson personally without indorsing the things for which Governor Wilson stands. It naturally aroused suspicion as to the sincerity of one or the other, and when Governor Wilson was asked the question he admitted that he regarded the support of Col. Harvey as a liability instead of an asset. Should he have PRETENDED that he thought Col. Harvey was helping him when he was not? And why should Col. Harvey complain? If he really favors Governor Wilson he must desire to aid him; why should he be offended then at Governor Wilson's frankness? Is he more interested in being known as "the man who made Governor Wilson famous," than in advancing Governor Wilson's cause?

Col. Harvey should recognize the situation and face it like a man. There is an irrepressible conflict between aristocracy and democracy; it is a world-wide and continuous contest. Governor Wilson used to be, consciously or unconsciously, on the aristocratic side. He was there when Col. Harvey saw in him an available can-

didate for governor; and the presidential boom was launched before the governor had allied himself with the reformers.

Then came a change—if not a change, at least the open manifestations of it—and Governor Wilson's support shifted. As soon as it became apparent that he was a progressive democrat the predatory interests were shocked, and this anger has grown hotter and hotter every day. The masses, on the other hand, were attracted and his political strength today is in exact proportion to the confidence that they have in the completeness of the change he has undergone. His former friends are now his bitter enemies and they are proving the sincerity of his present position by the violence of their attacks upon him. They are now publishing his former utterances in the hope of alienating his new found friends, but they forget that former utterances only prove the EXTENT of the change while the venom of his adversaries removes all doubt as to the REALITY of the change.

A realignment of political friends is necessary whenever a fundamental change takes place on important questions. The most conspicuous Bible illustration of a fundamental change in life is found in the experience of Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul. He was as honest when he persecuted the Christians as he was afterward when he risked shipwreck, stripes and even death to preach the gospel. He doubtless retained many of his personal friends, and some of them may have undergone, later, the same change of heart, but he would hardly have entrusted to an unrepentant persecutor of the Christians the planning of one of his missionary tours. His epistles, after the change, were not to his early friends, but to the brethren of the church.

Col. Harvey has shown no signs of conversion; if he communes with Ananias it is not with any consciousness of blindness. He has seen no new light; and when he does, he will feel so ashamed of his life-long fight against progressive democracy that his first desire will be to bring forth fruits meet for repentance—not to assume leadership. It must pain Governor Wilson to break with old friends, but the breaks must necessarily come unless he turns back or they go forward. "A man is known by the company he keeps"—and he can not keep company with those going in opposite directions. Governor Wilson must prepare himself for other

desertions—they will distress him but there is abundant consolation in the consciousness of duty done. It should matter little to him whether he reaches the White house or not—that depends on circumstances which he can but partially control—the joy that comes from the faithful rendition of service surpasses any satisfaction that one can derive from the gratification of political ambition—a joy that makes one strong enough to endure even the severest of strains, namely, the breaking of the bonds of friendship.

THE WORLD'S JOKE

The New York World has taken a poll and finds Wilson and Harmon neck and neck. It then comments editorially on the situation. It declares that "the blunder of 1904 is not to be repeated." Then it insists that it is a minor question whether "sentiment swings toward Wilson, Harmon or Underwood." "The important fact is that the country has a united PROGRESSIVE militant democratic party, etc." That is a good joke. If Harmon and Underwood are PROGRESSIVE who are the reactionary candidates? Why not be honest?

"TRUE PATRIOTS ALL"

Messrs. Morgan and Frick have both gone for indefinite visits in Egypt. Surely the Stanley investigating committee has made a high record for efficiency. It has not secured all it went after, but there is ample proof that the trust magnates have a wholesome respect for the fidelity of the Stanley committee to the public interests.

The democratic party has reason to be proud of the good efforts put forth by this committee. It is one of the few investigating committees in the history of the American congress that has won public confidence.

ABOUT PLATFORMS

The Washington (D. C.) Star says: "A good platform for the democrats this year would be one that wouldn't suit some of the extremists who are calling themselves progressives."

A better one would be one that would impress the people with the belief that the democratic party means to be true to its principles by providing the people with relief from trust oppression.