

form, and promising a large corruption fund, they, of course, attract those who want to handle the money, but they have not reached the incorruptible mass that furnishes the votes. As the fight progresses it will become more and more apparent that it is a battle royal between the money power and the common people. The line will be drawn between those who want to make the party the defender of monopolies and those who desire to keep it the champion of popular rights. We lost some of our leaders in 1896—and some went over into the republican party. We shall lose some more this year, but we shall obtain recruits from among those who recognize the demoralization wrought by commercialism and desire the restoration of higher ideals. If to urge the democratic party to be true to its principles and honest in its methods is to subject Mr. Bryan to the charge of trying to dictate, he will bear the accusation with fortitude.

OWEN ANSWERS JONES

Senator Jones of Washington is getting more notoriety than he bargained for when he took his baggage over to the Lorimer camp. He started out to answer Roosevelt's criticism of him by making a shallow attack on the recall. In the course of his remarks he tried to use the conduct of Pilate as an illustration but soon got into trouble. First he was interrupted by his colleague, Senator Poindexter, who asked him if he meant to compare Lorimer to Christ. Senator Borah also embarrassed him by some pertinent questions and then Senator Owen gave him more information on the Bible than he has had since he attended Sunday school. Senator Owen said:

"The senator from Washington has ventured to repeat on the floor of the United States senate the precedent of Pontius Pilate delivering Christ to be crucified as an example of the folly of permitting the judgment of the common people to prevail over the decision or conduct of an upright judge.

"This Pontius Pilate precedent has been repeated many times in the public press recently as an argument against the progressive program of the 'rule of the people' in this country.

"This argument implies that Pontius Pilate was a fair example of an upright judge who was compelled to yield to the clamor of the unthinking people to 'the inflamed opinion of the multitude,' as the senator from Washington says.

"I take issue with the senator from Washington in his apparent interpretation of the Pontius Pilate precedent. I believe in the recall of such a judge as Pontius Pilate. I should even prefer the recall of unjust judgment of Pontius Pilate rather than to allow to stand the criminal judgment of yielding innocence to murder."

Senator Jones here interrupted to say:

"It seems to me the senator fails to appreciate just the position I took. My position is that Pontius Pilate should not have yielded at all, but should have sacrificed his office and his life, if necessary, to avoid the conviction of a man who he thought was innocent."

"I agree with that view of the senator from Washington," Owen replied, "but the fact is that this judge did not do that. This wicked judge sent to death this innocent prisoner at the bar before him, and the common people are charged with his political crime by using the Pontius Pilate precedent."

"The only difference between Pontius Pilate and myself on that proposition," said Jones, "is that I am not going to yield to the clamor."

"I congratulate the senator from Washington on having established an important difference between himself and Pontius Pilate," Owen replied: "In the first place, Pontius Pilate was not an upright judge. He was a stand-pat, pie counter politician from the house of Tiberius Caesar, serving as governor in Judea under the patronage system of the Roman empire.

"He had but little conception of justice or mercy or of the progressive movement of today, which stands for equal rights to all, but he well understood how to stand pat with the political machine in Rome and in Jerusalem that gave special privilege to him and his allies at the expense of the common people.

"His master, Tiberius, under whom he was trained, found amusement in having men and wild beasts fight to the death in the arena at Rome for his entertainment. When Jesus Christ was brought before Pontius Pilate and Pilate found no wrong in him the chief priests falsely charged Christ with seeking to be 'king of the

Jews,' and threatened Pilate as an office holder. 'If thou let this man go,' they said, 'thou art not Caesar's friend. Whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.'

"Then it was that this governor, this political judge from Rome, the direct product of political patronage, yielded the innocent prisoner at the bar to be crucified, in the face of the justice and prayers of his own good wife to save himself from possible inconvenience or misrepresentation at Rome. And he was sufficiently a villain that he wrote a false title and put it on the cross: 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.'

"This unspeakable scoundrel, who ended his base career by suicide is held up by the stand-patters, who used the Pontius Pilate precedent as a model judge who wanted to do right, and the common people are charged with being to blame for his unspeakable crime.

"The common people were not responsible for the death of Christ. They, in reality, admired and loved Christ. It is of record in St. Mark, that 'the common people heard him gladly'; and throughout the scriptures it is manifest that great multitudes of the common people surrounded Jesus and hung upon his teachings which, though no records were so engraved in the memory of those same common people who heard him that the wonderful prophecy of Christ, after nineteen hundred years is still verified, 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.'

"I remind the senator from Washington that the essence of the doctrine of Christ is the moving force now of the progressive movement in America and throughout the world. It is the doctrine of the brotherhood of man; the doctrine of altruism; the doctrine of service. It is a doctrine which was utterly opposed to the system of government in Judea in the days of Pontius Pilate, which Christ expressly criticized and condemned. He opposed the exercise of unjust authority by the rulers over the people, and advised his followers to the contrary.

"This is the doctrine of the progressive movement in the United States—that the people shall rule and the official shall be a minister, a servant, and not a ruler.

"It was not the common people who condemned Christ, as the senator from Washington erroneously believes. The men who were responsible for the crucifixion of Christ were Pilate, the political judge, the beneficiary of a despicable standpat military patronage and the machine politicians of the hierarchy in Jerusalem who had wormed themselves in authority.

"The common people heard him gladly. The common people threw their clothes and palm branches in the streets for him to ride over and shouted hosannas, and when Pilate and Herod yielded to the demand of the machine politicians of Jerusalem, of the reactionaries and conservatives of Jerusalem, and turned Christ over to the soldiers of Herod for crucifixion, the common people followed him with weeping and with sorrow.

"If the people of Judea had had the power which had been delegated to the machine politicians of Jerusalem, they would not have permitted Christ to be crucified.

"The senator from Washington evidently thinks that Pilate was a virtuous judge and that the common people of Jerusalem were a howling mob. The fact is Pontius Pilate was a typical machine politician from Rome, the beneficiary of imperial patronage, willing to crucify Christ himself, and write with his own hand a false epitaph over the cross rather than risk the loss of his political job.

"The 'mob' that led Pontius Pilate to this crime was not a mob of the common, but a mob of temple thieves, led by the 'high priests,' the 'captains of the temple,' the 'elders'—the beneficiaries of the hierarchy of Jerusalem, who, being possessed of delegated power, used it in defiance of the will of the masses of the common people of Jerusalem.

"Let us hear no more of the Pontius Pilate precedent. Even if it had been true that the masses of the common people of Judea had been as ignorant and as blood thirsty as the standpat politicians of Rome and Jerusalem, who murdered Christ under pretense of law, still no parallel is justified to be drawn between people worthy of this description and the common people of the United States of America.

"Nineteen hundred years ago the common people could not read; nineteen hundred years ago the common people could not write; nineteen hundred years ago the common people had no books, no newspapers, no telegraph, no telephones, no transportation; nineteen hundred

years ago the common people had no opportunity to understand the problems of government.

"In this day and generation nearly every single one of the great mass of the common people can read, can write, and has before him every morning the news of the world for his information. The average citizen of the United States knows more than Herod and Pilate and Tiberius Caesar rolled into one, and knows more than the chief priests, the captains of the temple, and the scribes of that era."

"BIG BUSINESS" WANTS THE COURT

"Big business" is busy just now laying its plans to control the appointment of United States judges. The federal courts are the bulwark of predatory wealth—even the supreme court is its friend, as shown by the reorganization farce through which the oil and tobacco trusts were permitted to go. The recent patent decision gives additional proof of the court's leaning to the side of privilege. President Taft's appointments have been satisfactory to predatory wealth—eventually so, but as there is danger of his defeat at the polls "the interests" are seeking to control the democratic convention. Their first choice is Governor Harmon, but they will be satisfied with Underwood. Morgan, a defendant in the suit against the steel trust wants Harmon; Hill, who organized the railroad merger, wants Harmon; Rockefeller prefers Underwood, but all of the plunderbund oppose a progressive. They want to control the bench and to do that they must have those who, by bias, lean toward the interests as Governor Harmon and Underwood do, or they must secure a pledge in return for promise of support.

GOVERNOR HARMON'S CONFESSION

In his Omaha speech Governor Harmon said: "It is said and I think truthfully, that I have the confidence of the men who conduct the business enterprises, great and small, which have done so much to make Ohio what she is; and if the same be true of like men throughout the country I am glad to know it." That is enough, governor. You are glad that big business wants you, are you? That is confession enough for those who know why big business wants a friend in the White house.

Again he asks:

"Are we to nominate for president some one whom the men of business fear or distrust?"

Never. No, let the "men of business" pick out the president and then run him in the interest of "business." Mr. Harmon uses the language employed by the subsidized press in 1896, 1900 and 1908 against the ticket. The "business interests" were afraid of the democratic party and Governor Harmon betrays his sympathy with Wall street when he employs the language of Wall street.

Big business has corrupted politics for a generation and has coerced the dependent in several campaigns and Governor Harmon reveals his reactionary position when he admits that he is the choice of big business.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND

The lovers of liberty throughout the world will rejoice at the prospect of home rule for Ireland. The outsider, who is unacquainted with the local conditions to be dealt with, may be excused if he confesses himself unable to discuss with intelligence the details for the measure. It is enough to know that the party in power and the representatives of Ireland agree that it is the best that can be passed and good enough to accept and defend. If it is not perfect it can be perfected later. It is the part of wisdom to secure today all the good obtainable today—no advance made today will prevent another advance tomorrow, and surely Ireland has waited long enough for this advance.

IN NEBRASKA

Although the Harmon forces made a desperate fight in Nebraska they were defeated, the democrats of the state instructing for Champ Clark and electing generally a set of delegates in harmony with the progressive idea. Mr. Bryan was elected delegate-at-large and early returns indicate that G. M. Hitchcock, a Harmon supporter, was also elected a delegate. A. C. Shallenberger, former governor, was nominated for United States senator, and John H. Morehead for governor.