

# MR. BRYAN'S PANIC PRIMER (Continued)

Last week Mr. Bryan used one chapter of his "Panic Primer." There are three chapters in the primer and in this issue he uses the second and third. They are as follows:

I have in the first chapter brought out the historical fact, that of the three panics that have come since the republican party elected its first president, the panics of 1873 and 1907 came under republican presidents and with republicans in control of both the house and senate, and that the only remaining panic of that period, the panic of 1893, came under a president who was elected by the democrats but helped to elect a republican to succeed him, and that this panic came under republican laws—the McKinley law and the Sherman financial law being still in force.

I now present another answer to the panic threat which is even shorter and more easily understood.

Q. Is Mr. Taft afraid a democratic victory will bring a panic?

A. His friends are threatening a panic in case of his defeat.

Q. Is Mr. Roosevelt afraid that a democratic victory will bring a panic?

A. His friends are threatening it.

Q. If Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt really believe that a democratic victory will bring a panic or hard times why did they not stand together

and try to defeat the democratic party? Why did they enter into a personal fight and make democratic victory certain? Do they not know that the democrats, with six million and a half of votes four years ago and more now, can defeat either branch of the republican party?

A. Of course they know that neither one can be elected with the republican party divided.

Q. Why did they divide then in the face of their political opponents?

A. Either because they do not fear a panic or hard times in case of democratic victory or else—is there anything else that they might fear more? Yes. Mr. Roosevelt may think that a second term of Mr. Taft would be worse than hard times and Mr. Taft may think that a third term of Mr. Roosevelt would be worse than a panic.

The democrats believe that Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt are justified in their opinion of each other but are sure that a democratic victory, instead of bringing a panic or hard times, would bring a greater and more equitably distributed prosperity.

But let us approach the panic question from another angle. What is there in industrial conditions to suggest a panic at this time? We have had no period of depression; we have had no era of falling prices to drag debtors to the verge of bankruptcy. From what direction does the fear of panic come? There is only one thing that can bring a panic at this time and under

present conditions, namely, the deliberate withdrawal of money by the money trust. Is it possible that a few financiers can bring a panic at will? Will any republican say that? Will any republican say that ninety millions of people are helpless and can be thrown into bankruptcy at the whim of a few financiers? And, if a few financiers have it in their power to bring a panic, would they be heartless enough to do so? If we have reached a point in the centralization of wealth permitted and encouraged by the privileges and favors granted by the republican party—if we have reached the point where we are not at liberty to consider public questions or to adopt remedies but must purchase industrial peace and prosperity by submitting to the dictation of a few financiers who have enthroned themselves in Wall street—if this is the situation, we are not a nation of free men but a nation of serfs and the sooner we rise in revolt the better. If we are slaves, then the first need is emancipation. No other question can be considered until we have demanded and secured the right to decide upon public policies, unawed and untrifled. Whether the panic threat is considered from the standpoint of history, from the standpoint of politics or from the standpoint of finance, it ought not to be allowed to influence a single vote unless it be to make the people more indignant at the emissaries of plutocracy who are now attempting to lash a nation into subjection to the will of the plunderbund.

## IN NEBRASKA

The prospects for a democratic victory in Nebraska are excellent. In the opinion of careful observers Governor Wilson will have a strong lead in this state and democratic candidates generally will win. The democratic candidate for United States senator, A. C. Shallenberger, made a good record as a member of the lower house of congress and as governor of Nebraska. He will carry the same painstaking effort to the senate that he displayed in other public positions.

Governor Wilson will undoubtedly be elected president. The lower branch of congress will be overwhelmingly democratic. It is of the most vital importance to the democratic party and to the entire country that the democrats also come into control of the United States senate, thus placing all three branches of the government under democratic control. Unless the United States senate is democratic, it will be almost impossible for the democratic party to carry out its pledges to the people and give them the legislative relief that they have been promised. It is therefore important that democratic candidates for the legislature in Nebraska should be elected and that Mr. Shallenberger receive a large popular majority for the position of United States senator.

John H. Morehead, democratic nominee for governor is one of Nebraska's successful business men. He has carried the republican county in which he lives whenever he has been a candidate for office, thus demonstrating that the men who know him best have full confidence in him. Mr. Morehead stands upon a strong progressive state platform and he promises to devote his energies to build for the democratic administration in Nebraska a thoroughly constructive policy. The democratic state ticket will compare favorably with any other nominated in this state, the candidates being men of good character and worthy of election.

The democratic candidates for congress in Nebraska are worthy of support by men who are interested in the triumph of the principles of his first term service; in the Third district Dan gressman Maguire, who has made a splendid record, is candidate for re-election; in the Second district Mr. Lobeck is a candidate for second term, winning votes upon the quality of his first term service. In the Third district Dan V. Stephens, present congressman, is appealing for re-election on his good record which is an open book; in the Fourth district Charles M. Skiles, who as state senator, introduced the initiative and referendum measure, is the democratic nominee and his excellent record in the

state legislature is full assurance of the good work he will do in congress; in the Fifth district R. D. Sutherland, who, during several terms in congress, rendered most faithful service to the people, is again a candidate and is receiving the support of those who are familiar with his splendid efforts for the public good; in the Sixth district W. J. Taylor is the candidate, and Mr. Taylor is known to the people of Nebraska as one of the most able of all the men serving in the Nebraska state legislature and a man upon whose fidelity to the public interests the people may rely.

## THE PANIC BUG

The panic bug is a sort of a four-year locust. It comes out of the ground about the middle of October; grows rapidly for two weeks, reaches its majority the day before election and dies the next day. There are three kinds of insect powder that are fatal to it.

First, the history of panics: for history shows that of the three panics which have come within the past fifty years, two have come under republican presidents and republican laws, and the third under a democratic president, but before the republicans laws could be repealed.

The second remedy is logic. If Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt really thought that a panic would come with a democratic victory they would not have jeopardized the country by entering into a personal quarrel which divided the republican party and made democratic victory certain.

The third specific for the panic bug is patriotism. If a few Wall street financiers can bring a panic whenever they desire and are heartless enough to punish the country for not submitting to Wall street dictation, then the sooner they are driven from political power the better.

## THE "ARMAGEDDON" SLOGAN

We hear a great deal now of "meeting at Armageddon" and "battling for the Lord." Unless Mr. Roosevelt insists on the doctrine that "the first shall be last and the last first," the democrats ought to have some credit for reaching Armageddon before he did. They deserve some credit for having battled for the Lord in matters of reform for from five to twenty-five years longer than Mr. Roosevelt has. But returning to Armageddon, when I saw that Mr. Roosevelt was using this as a campaign slogan I turned to the Bible to refresh my memory as to the connection. I generally do this, for I find that, as a rule, the republicans find it necessary to misapply the Bible in order

to use it at all. I found Armageddon referred to in the 16th verse of the 16th chapter of Revelations. It reads as follows:

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Now I find that the verse just before that has been strangely overlooked by Mr. Roosevelt and his friends. Verse 15 reads:

"Behold! come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments lest he walk naked."

I recall that when I followed Mr. Roosevelt at the constitutional convention last March the Ohio State Journal welcomed me with a cartoon illustrating the idea set forth in the 15th verse. The hero of the modern Armageddon was represented as having taken my clothing and, according to the cartoon, I had to content myself with fig leaves until I could get up some new reforms. Of course, the cartoonist did me honor over much when he represented Mr. Roosevelt as taking my clothing, but Mr. Roosevelt has robbed himself, in so far as his political clothing is worth wearing, in the garments of the democratic party. My regret is that they do not fit him better, that he did not take more and that he was so long in picking out what he did take.

Mr. Bryan then proceeded to show the date when Mr. Roosevelt appropriated the democratic garments and how long the democratic party had worn the garments before they attracted Mr. Roosevelt's attention.—From Mr. Bryan's speech at Cleveland, Ohio.

## LOOKOUT FOR CONGRESS

President Wilson must have a democratic senate and a democratic house in order to carry out the great reform to which he is committed. Do not overlook the importance of striving hard for the election of democratic candidates for senator and representatives in congress. Place the democratic party in power in every branch of government and that party will bring about reforms that will make for the prosperity of all the people.

## GOVERNOR WILSON'S APPEAL

On another page will be found Governor Wilson's appeal to the voters. It is plain, direct, and candid. He presents the one paramount issue—put the government into the people's hands—let them run it in their own interest.

Mr. Roosevelt believes that the trust has come to stay—that it should be accepted as a permanent institution. Why shouldn't the Standard Oil contribute to his election?

Every Commoner reader is asked to hand this copy of The Commoner to some neighbor with the request that he read it