

NOTHING TO VOTE FOR

The republicans "redeemed" the state and now the apportionment for public schools is cut down fearfully and the rates on the railroads have been raised. Still there are some populist mullet heads who declare that there is nothing to vote for, so they stay at home. They got out of their sphere when they left the republican party in the first place. If they like increased rates on the railroads and decrease in appropriations for common schools, their place is in the republican party. They should, however, go to the polls and vote for them rather than play the "cornfield canarie" and not vote at all. A man who claims to be a populist and wont vote because some democrats vote for the very thing that he has been demanding, is a worse partisan idiot than the world ever saw before. Will you increase your local school taxes now, or cut short your school term and let your children grow up in ignorance? They could not possibly have duller intellects than such fathers have if they never went to school at all. "If we have nothing more to vote for than we had the last year or two, there will be droves of stay-at-home 'cattle,' as some of them dub us—and canaries, whole flocks of us." Nothing to vote for? There are no common schools to provide for? "I like to pay taxes for the railroads. I want to pay increased rates on the products of my farm. All that just suits me and so there is nothing to vote for. All I need to make me happy is the chance to vote a straight partisan ticket, even if by so doing it will never result in electing a man or enacting a law. Just let me vote 'er straight. That's all I want. It don't make a particle of difference whether we have schools or not, whether the roads take all the traffic will bear, whether I have to pay the taxes for them, there's nothing in all that. The one thing needful to make me happy is to allow me to vote 'er straight and keep any horrid democrat from voting the same ticket that I do."

MAKE HIM A DUKE

Ambassador McCormick has gone to St. Petersburg in the grandest style that a minister of a foreign power ever entered that city. He has rented a palace much larger than the White house and has taken with him from Italy his cooks, butlers, valets, grooms, horses and dogs, the whole forming a cavalcade that outshine the sultans of all the orient. These millions that McCormick is spending with such lavish hand were taken from the farmers of this country by means of an exorbitant tariff enabling McCormick and his father before him to charge prices that made the farmers work many a long day to pay them. McCormick ought to be popular in Russia for he has sold his machinery to the people of that country during the last fifteen or twenty years at one-half less than he forced the American farmers to pay. But that is just what the mullet head American farmer likes, and McCormick is just as popular with them as he is with the Russian nobles who own the big estates and buy his machines at 50 per cent discount. The czar ought to make a duke out of McCormick and keep him permanently in that country. His style is far better fitted to an autocracy than to a democracy. By all means make him a duke and never let him come back.

BLOOM IN THE SPRING

The Denver News wants to know "what has become of the Roosevelt anti-trust program which blossomed last spring, matured in the Fourth of July address in Pittsburg, the home of Attorney General Knox, and was exploited at 'one-night stands' during the president's tour of New England, with terrific applause from the galleries? Congress has been in session two weeks, but aside from mild refer-

ences to the topic in the president's message, with a caution to be careful of the 'goods trusts,' the public has heard little or nothing on the subject, which was graphically described as 'burning' in August, September and October last, 'just prior to election.'

That's all right. Just "stand pat" and "stay put." The Chicago Tribune has for twenty years been an advocate of tariff reform and an ardent supporter of the republican party for about three months previous to every election. Tariff reform and trust regulation are flowers that bloom in the spring, wither about November and hide their heads under the ground till blooming time comes again. About next May they will put forth their blossoms again, or, perhaps, a little later. These are "the flowers that bloom in the spring."

PERFECTLY HAPPY

The old moss-backed republicans, the "let well enough alone," "stand pat" and "stay put" rock-ribbed plutocrats are determined that this country shall go tagging behind all creation in everything that concerns the welfare of the great mass of the common people. Mexico is taking energetic action in regard to the trusts, especially the trusts organized first in the United States and stretching out their tentacles to gather in the people of Mexico. Meanwhile Teddy and the republicans of congress advocate "publicity." They seem to think that if the trusts are made to open their books to the public and show just how much they are making, how much water there is in their stock and other things connected with the running of the concerns, the people will be happy. If they charge twice as much for the goods that they produce as is reasonable, all the people demand is an official statement of that fact. Nothing must be done to stop the trusts from oppression and robbery. Just let the people know how much they are robbed and they will be contented. There is no necessity to stop the robbery at all. The chief delight of a mullet head is to pay taxes for the railroads and make contributions to the trusts.

Pretty soon these chaps will be called upon to pay their taxes. They will do it with a smile, for they all hope that some day the railroad political boss will come along and give them a pass to go to some political convention. They will cheerfully pay \$100 of taxes, that the roads ought to pay, to get a pass worth three dollars. They will haul hay when the snow is two feet deep to feed cattle, dress in canvas overcoats and burn corn cobs for fuel to keep themselves from freezing to death to get the money to pay taxes for the railroads and other corporations and do it with delight. They hope some day to get a pass. Why should any one seek to interfere with this sort of bliss?

RAILROAD MERGERS

Any man who does not know that a railway merger is created for the purpose of either creating or extending a monopoly ought to be tapped for the simples, yet the great dailies continue to tell us that they have been arranged simply to reduce cost of transportation and are entirely in the interest of the public welfare. The fellows who are troubled with the simples of course all believe what the dailies say. The interstate commerce commission, since the courts decided that it had no power to do anything has developed courage enough to tell a few truths which for years, when it supposed that it had authority to compel obedience to its orders, it never mentioned. Among other things in its late report is the following: "The progress of consolidation (of railroads) will at no distant day confine competition within narrow and unimportant limits, because the control of most railway properties will be merged in a few individuals, whose common interests compel them to act in concert."

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The editor of The Independent traveled all over the state, made speeches, got up meetings, often paid the expenses himself, wrote column after column trying to persuade republicans and democrats to adopt populist principles and vote for them at the polls. Many thousand republicans did adopt them, left their party and have "stood pat" ever since. Last year the whole democratic party of the state came over, adopted a platform that was indorsed by every genuine populist in the state and agreed to co-operate with the populists in electing men who would, as far as they were able, enact it into law. Just at that juncture, some men who had been the loudest in their demands for these reforms concluded if the whole democratic party was turning populist and was going to vote for these principles, they wouldn't—they would just stay at home and not vote at all.

When Clem Deaver proved traitor and claimed to be the "true populist," this editor was pretty mad, but when he thinks of these men who wouldn't vote the ticket because the democrats had been won over and were going to vote it, it makes him mad enough to "cuss the roof off the house." A republican mullet head is a Solomon in comparison with them. Clem Deaver got a big office for his treason, but these populist mullet heads will get nothing at all except the privilege of paying taxes for the railroads, shorter terms of school for their children, and the pleasure of paying higher freight rates on the stuff they send to market.

Cuming county is Treasurer Stuefer's home. This is how she fared: Fusion, smallest December apportionment (in 1899) was \$4,283.90. This year, \$3,542.80. Only \$741.10 smaller!