

A WINNER

Gouverneur, N. Y., Points the Way for 1904
—The Independent a Power

At the charter election lately held here, the democrats carried their full ticket for the first time in over a third of a century. The normal vote is four republican to one democratic, yet we elected a mayor by over 62 per cent of the total poll. This victory was achieved in spite of the bolting of 30 machine democrats upon every candidate save the mayor. The bolters were the Cleveland-Hill goldbugs of 1896 and 1900 and they voted solidly against the democratic ticket as they did then.

The victory was achieved through fusion of the democratic democrats and the labor unions. The 30 traitors voted with the republicans as they voted twice for McKinley. Here is the way to a rout of plutocracy in 1904. The large circulation of The Independent here is to be credited with the victory. And Gouverneur is to be credited with pointing the way for 1904. J. S. CORBIN.

Gouverneur, N. Y.

Unite, Unite!

Editor Independent: A few weeks ago a short article appeared in your paper over my signature and as I have received letters and cards from different parts of the country expressing approval of that article, I am prompted to try it on again along the same line.

Of course the republicans are expecting to elect a president in 1904, and it is more than probable that they will succeed, for the indications are clearly demonstrated that the fools are not all dead. I want to lay down a few propositions, and I desire the readers of The Independent to give them the strictest scrutiny. My first proposition is that if the republican party elects a president in 1904, it will be by a minority vote of the voters of the nation. My first proposition is founded upon the truthfulness of my second proposition which is: that a majority of the qualified voters of the nation are not in accord with the republican party, and will not cast their ballots for a republican president in 1904; and yet a republican president may be elected.

In a former article I stated that it looked to me as though it was the republican party against the field; and if this is true, why is not the republican party doomed to defeat? The field against the republican party is going to carry with it a majority of the voters; and if it does, why will it not elect the next president? I answer if the field, against the republican party, fails to elect the next president, it will be because its forces are divided. "United we stand, divided we fall," is an old and true proverb and it is as true in politics as in anything else. If the political field, pitted against the republican party, would organize and consolidate its strength, and put one good, strong ticket in the field its success is assured. And is not that business? Is not that an exhibition of good sound sense? Is not that the identical thing that every voter should desire to see, and that every voter should labor to bring to pass; I mean every voter who does not desire to see the republican party elect the next president.

There are some things that are political impossibilities; the Bryan democrats cannot elect a president next year. The Cleveland-Wall street democrats cannot elect a president next year. The populists cannot elect a president next year. The socialists cannot elect a president next year.

Now, if all these that I have named should each (independently) nominate a ticket it is certain that in the aggregate they would poll more votes than the republican party would poll, but because of the divisions in their ranks they would fail to elect. Now suppose that these various factions should consolidate their strength, and unite upon a single ticket, is there any doubt about their being able to elect a president next year?

Unfortunately for the people and for the common good of our country, the field against the republican party is divided, and herein lies the hope of success of the republican party. The republicans are pleased, yea, rejoiced to see their enemies cut up into slices and bits. With proper intelligent effort I feel sure that the anti-republican element that exists in our country could be so firmly united, and so completely welded together that next year a president could be elected that would be a credit to the country and a blessing to the people. Shall we hope for such a healthful change? Yes, we may hope for it, and we may realize it if we work zealously and faithfully for its accomplishment. The bankers, millionaires, trusts, corporations

and syndicates can pleasantly endure a prolongation of republican rule, but it is sapping the vitality out of the wage-earner and the common people. It is said, that in a general way, those who dance pay the fiddler, and so it is the workingmen, the wage-earner that has the fiddler to pay in running a government, and as we have the fiddler to pay it stands us in hand to be careful, very careful, who we secure to do our fiddling.

REV. W. M. KAIN.

Ashtabula, O.

Referendum Vote in New Hampshire.

The people of New Hampshire have recently voted on 10 proposed amendments to the constitution. The vote is notable, not more for the things it decided than for the illustrations it gives of the working of the referendum.

In the first place the number who turned out at the election was about half the total vote in the preceding state election. Those who remained at home were principally the ignorant and careless voters. This is shown by the fact that the largest majority on the ten amendments was for an educational qualification for voting.

That half the voters stayed at home demonstrates that there was no vote-purchasing in the election, although one of the amendments places in the legislature the entire power of the state to prevent the operation within its borders of all persons, associations and corporations, who endeavor to raise the price of any article of commerce. It was because of the absence of money in the campaign that most of the ignorant and careless voters remained at home. This self-disfranchisement of unfit electors is one of the strong features of the referendum. Under the optional referendum scarcely a bill goes to a vote of the people—the mere existence of the system is effective.

The voters who go to the polls take an intelligent interest in what they are voting upon. In New Hampshire not only was the highest majority for an educational qualification for voting, but 20 per cent of the voters refrained from voting Yes or No on five of the questions, owing to their abstruse nature. And more than one-half of the entire number who voted Yes to any proposition also voted No on some other proposition. They did not vote Yes for everything or No for everything, as some theorists say who are opposed to popular government.

Criticises Clark's Plan

Editor Independent: In reading your call for suggestions along the line of Mr. C. M. Clark's suggestions for subject of debate, this occurs to me: That organized labor and organized capital should never be placed in the same relative position to the organized people. For this reason: that organized labor is organized people—organized capital never is. Their good and their evil should never be considered on a plane of parity.

We do not think of organized capital existing at all except in the form of an extraordinary dummy created in violation of all law by the courts and legislative bodies. Organized labor can become such a dummy, it is true, by availing itself of the legislative regulations for such a purpose, and when it does it must be damned with all the other dummies; but my understanding is that the striking unions under Mitchell, like honorable men, persistently refused to avail themselves of all dummyfication legislative acts and remained every man of them to the last responsible for his own acts. They are therefore in the position of human beings in the act of exercising their own natural rights.

Now, the corporations or organized capital have no such rights; if they had, what honorable need could they have for a legalized charter that gives them that they never possessed—a human right? Without it they have neither presence nor defence in court. It is a self-evident fact that any court or any legislative body that has at any time endowed them with such rights are guilty of the blackest crime known to man—treason against the entire human race with cannibalistic results accruing to the beneficiaries. Such acts by courts or congresses or by a unanimous vote of a people are plain outlawry. There is no logic that can disentangle them from the horrible fact.

We do not need to draw such lines as that between the good and evil of labor unions at all; but to indict the courts, high and low, and the legislative bodies that have been the sources and abettors of this unspeakable shame, of high treason against man and other misdemeanors, after having taken the official oath to support the declaration—that denies human rights to that which is not human—and to prepare by arming to execute all con-



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WHAT SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS SAY:

<p>103 1-2 Bushels Per Acre. Lewis, Cass Co., Ia. Feb. 1, 1902. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Shenandoah, Ia. Dear Sirs: We planted fifteen acres to your "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine" and we have just completed gathering it. On five acres which we measured, the yield was 103 1/2 bushels per acre, the remainder of the field was equally as good. With kindest regards, I am, Sincerely yours, OLIVER P. MILLS.</p>	<p>100 Bushels Per Acre Lancaster Co., Neb., Feb. 2, 1902. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Shenandoah, Ia. Dear Sirs: You doubtless remember my order for 10 bushels of seed corn, sent you last spring. I found the corn all right and as good as advertised, especially your "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine." Some of my crop from your "Silver Mine" went over 100 bushels per acre. Yours truly, C. H. ARMANN.</p>
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ALL ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED. ADDRESS

RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE
SHENANDOAH, IOWA, U. S. A.

cerned in the culture of the nefarious schemes wherever found, if they do not stop it. These are the only lines that the matter can ever permit of being drawn. To compromise with cannibalism is to compromise with death. There are no half-way positions that death does not hold. The irrepressible conflict is pressing and one or the other of those two lines must before long be deliberately chosen. They will not be evaded by such makeshifts as placing labor in the non-human class, and Mr. Clark is virtually doing the same with his class of the organized people.

H. ELLINGSTON.
Minnehaha, Minn.

Government Paternalism

The Independent acknowledges receipt, through the kindness of Congressman Stark, of House Document No. 323, 57th congress, 2nd session, showing the national banks holding United States deposits. The Nebraska national banks, specially designated as depositories, had each \$50,000 of government funds which was neither increased nor diminished during the year 1902. These were:

First National, Beatrice.
First National, Hastings.
City National, Lincoln.
Nebraska City National, Nebraska City.
First National, York.
City National, York.

For the \$300,000 so deposited the banks paid \$3,000.01 interest to Uncle Sam, the average time being about six months; and the customers of the banks paid probably \$13,000 for the privilege of using it, counting simply once loaning and taking no account of the reloading of the same money as it was re-deposited.

The regular depositories were as follows:

Average balance.	
1st National, Lincoln.....	\$ 59,370.25
1st National, Omaha.....	85,892.64
Merchants' Nat'l, Omaha..	100,000.00
Omaha Nat'l, Omaha.....	257,631.02
Nebraska National, Omaha.	125,762.26

U. S. Nat'l, Omaha..... 100,000.00

Total\$728,656.17

For this sum the regular depositories paid Uncle Sam the sum of \$14,375.22 interest. There was probably a profit of \$40,000 to \$50,000 in this transaction for the banks.

The populist sub-treasury scheme was the height of financial folly—but this sort of paternalism is patriotism! What fools these mortals be.

Postscript: Just wait a minute—there is a mistake somewhere. These banks did not pay a cent of interest to Uncle Sam for that million dollars. That \$17,375.23 which it is stated above the eleven banks paid, is simply a calculation of what they WOULD HAVE paid if they had been required to pay TWO per cent on average monthly balances. Accordingly, whatever interest they got from their customers for the use of Uncle Sam's money was all clear profit.

Majority Rule the Slogan.

Arkansas is among the states where there is public speaking for the establishment of freedom. Mr. L. W. Lowry, of Little Rock, is holding meetings for majority rule, writing for papers, distributing literature, and talking. He has secured in the legislature the introduction of a bill for the referendum and initiative. The member who introduced it, Hon. J. A. Burke, has been billed to speak at a public meeting in Little Rock on "Majority Rule, or Where Should the Veto Power be Lodged."

Hurrah for Arkansas! When the reformers in other states begin speaking for the termination of the rule of the few and the establishment of majority rule, the people will come out to hear them and will contribute to the work of a state federation for majority rule, and for a local federation. They are tired of party politics—simply a squabble to elect rulers. The people want to be free. Freedom is dear to every human breast. When will reformers learn to address themselves to this strongest of all desires?