

**Morgan's Interview**

Editor Independent: Believing from the name and tone of your paper that you are free enough from party prejudice to encourage independent thought, I ask a small space in your paper to comment on the famous interview of senator Morgan of Alabama as published in the Atlanta Constitution of December 29.

I have wondered why this interview was not published in all the papers, but suppose it was too cutting, and too independent to suit the partisan editors. Under the following double column head-lines is what the Constitution says of it:

**"BOTH GREAT PARTIES BOW IN TERROR BEFORE COMBINES."**

"I cannot see," says Senator Morgan, "that there is any great difference between the lead of the democratic and republican parties on the question of trusts; whichever party is out of power, cries out against the octopus; whichever party is in power, hugs the octopus to its breast."

Senator Morgan says that in his opinion, neither party is more anxious than the other to find and apply a remedy. He says a cure will be found, but fears before that is done the chastening rod will be laid heavily upon the American people.

"A political revolution that may sweep out of existence both of the great parties as they are now organized, he sees among the possibilities of the future. How soon the solution comes depends on how soon the American people are awakened to their peril. He inclines to the belief that there will be dark days before the awakening. 'The president and congress,' he continues, 'are figures compared with the strength corporate wealth has attained in the United States; democrats and republicans alike rave and shout and profess to engage in mortal combat with the giant.'

"The Alabama senator considers a graduated tax upon the capital stocks of the corporations, the rate increasing with the size of the corporation, as the most plausible way to start the fight. He says reduction of tariff schedules might afford relief, but would not cure. He thinks the trusts will be much discussed in the campaign of 1904, but cannot be a real issue as both parties will fulminate against trusts, each charging the other with insincerity. The crisis may not be reached in the next two years, but no man can tell. He adds: 'The existing order of things may be upturned before the presidential election.'

I have quoted at length from the Constitution, some of the sayings of this grand old man, because I agree with much he says, and because the plutocratic press of both old parties instead of giving publicity to these grand truths, seem, rather, to want to suppress them, and to criticize Mr. Morgan for saying what he did.

Could populists say more than he has said? Yes! We can say we have found a remedy and are willing to apply it. We agree with him that neither of the old parties are willing to apply the remedy, for have they not both had a chance? Our remedy, which is the only solution for the trust evil, is public ownership.

We say that what would pay a corporation to do, would pay all the people to do. I agree with Senator Morgan that reduction of tariff rates will not cure the evil. How would tariff reduction affect the great banking and money trust? How could it even touch the great railroad, or transportation trust? Or how could it affect the oil trust? When we know that this country produces an abundance of oil? Over seven millions of gallons per day for the year 1901, with a great increase since, which runs it to about a half gallon per day for each family in the United States. Is not that a sufficiency? Who can think of any trust, except the sugar trust, that tariff reduction would affect much?

To put sugar on the free list would hurt the American sugar grower. If tariff tinkering is the remedy for trusts, why has not one of the old parties cured the evil? Have they not both had a chance? But, says somebody, "old Grover" was in the way of the democratic party, when it had its chance. This excuse will not do, for when they had both house and senate, they passed the Wilson bill without his help. It is true when old Grover refused to sign it, he said it contained party perfidy and party dishonor.

We all learned, by dire distress, that the passing of this law, and throwing the balance of trade against us, and the out-lawing of silver by this administration, caused the worst panic that this generation ever saw. The people will be slow to vote for another such administration.

I believe the liberty loving Ameri-

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can people have been kept divided long enough by the two old parties, by a sham battle over the tariff. Again I agree with Senator Morgan in his prediction that a political revolution will arise that will sweep both old parties from the field. May God speed the day. Let reformers get together for the fray under the banner of populism, government money, public ownership, a graduated income tax, direct legislation; in short, for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and let those who want to hold with plutocracy, go.

J. J. HOLLOWAY.

Clem, Ga.

### Sundry Suspicions

The legal presumption that one charged with a crime is innocent until his guilt is proven, seems a failure when applied to either business or politics. And this reminds me that in the good old days of the farmers' alliance the members of that organization were about as suspicious a lot of men as one could find. Well, they had reason to be—they were the real political Ishmaelites of those days. As my friend, Judge Hartigan of Hastings, used to tell me, the populists had good reasons for being suspicious; their apprenticeship in either the republican or democratic party had taught them that—

"For ways that are dark And for tricks that are vain,"

The old party politician is peculiar.

And that reminds me of Billy Crane of Steele City, one of the original alliance men, a good public speaker; wrote frequently for the heavier magazines of the east. Billy's forte was stampeding pop conventions with a hair-raising speech in support of his favorite candidate. Billy had plenty of both brain and lung, but it sometimes seemed that he was dead-set on having the convention nominate men who had more lung-capacity than any other qualification. The last stampede he attempted was followed by a counter-check from Billy Barnes—but that's another story.

What I started to tell was how suspicious Billy Crane always was of the "money power." Even the sacred \$50 "per capiter" (as Papa Gere of the State Journal understands it) would not help any, because those "Shylocks" down on Wall street would simply gobble it up like—

"The noble cassowary.

On the plains of Timbuctoo, Gobbled up a missionary,

Flesh and bones and hymn-book,

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too."

The subtlety scheme wouldn't do the farmer any good, because "Shylock" would buy up all the grain and then control all the government advanced on it. And so on all through the second declaration of independence. Finally Billy struck his gait: Mark Hanna came to Nebraska with a dinner pail full of hot air, and Billy climbed into the red band-wagon.

Our socialist friends are suspicious of public ownership. They are quite sure it's simply a capitalist scheme to head off the co-operative commonwealth and keep on yanking "surplus value" out of the wage-slaves. And the single taxers are equally suspicious because public ownership will simply make land more valuable and render it more difficult for the fac-

tory-hand to raise potatoes on the vacant lot adjoining.

Fact is, I am myself getting a trifle suspicious. I just now received a proof of Dr. Victor Rosewater's paper, "The Case for Municipal Ownership of Electric Lighting," read before a convention in New York a week or so ago. It is an able paper and preaches pop doctrine of public ownership without a flaw.

Why am I suspicious? Not because I'm afraid of public ownership, no matter who advocates it; but because I am forcibly reminded of a remark made to me one day by a Lincoln (D. E. T., not Abraham) republican: "The republicans intend to steal the pop platform before long."

I am suspicious that they have such designs.—C. Q. D.