

# The Independent.

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## GOV. PERCY DANIELS

Veteran Kansas Reformer  
Gives Some Timely Hints.

Editor Independent: Partyism has led the industrial masses into the worst system of bondage that was ever imposed on a civilized and intelligent people, and it is the windlass by which the thongs that bind them are being constantly drawn tighter.

Patronage and the band wagon have become the chief inspiration of political effort.

Tossing pie to a crowd of heeled with a prodigal hand or landing a useless slice from the "pork barrel" appropriation have been made the cardinal tenets of modern statesmanship. No party now makes anything else its highest purpose. Neither makes the welfare of the masses a paramount project.

A vast majority of the people are earnest anti-monopolists, and this was the paramount principle of the alliance. It was the seed and soil and climate, the early rain and late rain and sunshine that gave it its wonderful growth; and this was what gave the party its prestige and power. The people's party inherited this great incentive—this righteous purpose—from that organization.

Had they stuck to their text and loyally kept the faith, monopoly would have now been unhorsed, and the multi-millionaires remanded to decent methods and honest efforts; while the great conservative, industrious and patriotic middle class—the bed-stone and keystone of our institutions—with rapidly accumulating prosperity, would be getting a stream of recruits from the two extremes.

The history of parties for the past fifteen years, of the promises made and the pledges broken, especially the trickery and deceit over this trust and monopoly question, proves that until we possess the sense and the nerve to push an offensive movement against the trusts and the vast piles of aggregated plunder they possess, on which their great power to rob and oppress is based, through the use of the progressive taxing process, we had better drop our whining over their plundering and our howling, as they continue to turn down the screws. The results of its use in New Zealand, where it

has been the main feature in making the prosperity of labor instead of the prosperity of the capitalist the prosperity of the country, is one strong proof of its unsurpassed value.

The vast majority of all parties are thoroughly tired of this duplicity. Several of the great combinations are paying at least 50 per cent on their actual investment. Republican governments are organized to protect individual citizens from the raids of such freebooters. If a government fails to do this from impotence it forfeits the right to the people's confidence. If it fails from friendship for the freebooters, it is because those who control its policy are getting a share of the plunder (either directly or indirectly).

These trusts are able to collect these rates that would be fabulous under honest or legitimate business processes, because they are monopolies. But they are not satisfied with prices that yield them 50 per cent dividends. No pirates are. They sell many of their products in other countries for less than the cost of production here, plus the cost of transport, for the purpose of crushing foreign establishments and making the lot of "the pauper labor of Europe" a harder one. Then they tax us for a bounty on exports to make up the deficiency occasioned by this heathen and greedy philanthropy, in addition to that required for the 50 per cent dividend.

Governments habitually have laws to restrain extortion and define usury, even where the field is open. Honest governments provide ways for enforcing such laws.

No honest government enacts laws limiting interest on loaned money, with open competition, to 6, 8, or 10 per cent, and defends monopolies in transportation in collecting 40 per cent net on cost.

No honest government limits the amount of a miller's toll in a free field to a reasonable profit and protects manufacturing combinations that are monopolies in collecting 50 per cent net on their investment, and a bounty on what they export so they may multiply the hardship, lessen the privi-

leges and increase the burdens of the foreign laborer whose lot we have heretofore been taught to lament.

The defenders of these iniquities may answer that tolls and interest are matters for state jurisdiction, but the government at Washington is simply made up of individual agents of the several states, and whether it were or not, a righteous principle is persistently violated, and the purpose and promise of the central government defiantly betrayed.

When we pause to consider that we are taxing our people ten dollars apiece to support the national government alone, we may be appalled at the public burdens they are carrying; but in this national tax of \$50 per annum per family, they are not without representation to protest, and power to prevent it if they choose. Half of this money, too, is honestly expended in their interest and for their welfare.

This great burden, if equitably distributed in proportion to ability to pay, would by itself be borne without destroying all chance for an improving economic condition among the masses.

But the day foreseen and foretold by our lamented Lincoln, when corporations would be enthroned, is here. They are enthroned.

They are the crowned usurper before whom legislatures and courts bow; the tyrant who gives statesmen their position; the despot who grants politicians their opportunities. The tax which this usurper imposes overshadows that of the federal government by 60 per cent. Corporations, through their combinations, are taxing us \$80 per family; they have the nation by the throat and their hands in our pockets. Fortified in their position, as they are by the legislatures they buy, and defended as they are by the courts they have leased, the people are now without a chance to protest or power to prevent. They can reclaim the chance and regain the power, if they so will it, but they are without them today.

There are two great questions that should draw the especial attention of

reformers in the pending campaign. They are:

First—Curbing the corporations and throttling the trusts.

Second—The initiative and referendum.

But above and beyond all other subjects, and all combination of questions, and all possible aggregations of issues, is the question of the trusts, with their armament of concentrated plunder.

For twenty years the people have tried to get effective legislation against them and for twenty years they have been defrauded and swindled by cunning party manipulators into making some minor issue the paramount question of every campaign.

Parties have always been promising, but their promises have been simply a delusion and a snare.

The Sherman anti-trust bill, while it was passed because of the party's promise in 1888, was not intended to disturb the trusts. It could not and did not pass the senate until it was amended into impotency. It was passed for the purpose of preventing hostile legislation against them. It was enacted for the purpose of deceiving the masses and defending the trusts and it has fulfilled its mission as a huge fraud for a dozen years.

This law has helped the trusts, as the silver purchase act helped the monometallists. Under its ample shield they thrive and grow as never before, and the republican conclaves "point with pride" to their legislation against the trusts, and they ought to. It has served them both—the trusts and the party. It has accomplished its purpose, and they should point to it with pride.

And when they point with pride to their bill against the trusts, they point with pride to hypocrisy enobled and to chicanery enthroned. They point with pride to a law that has failed. And more than that, they point with pride to the fact that through that chicanery, that hypocrisy and that failure, there are more people in this country now living from hand to mouth than ever before, as a larger