

however, keep down expenditures to any great degree, and the republicans inherited a legacy of overlaps that they have been making up every since."

The truth is, as every man knows who has any knowledge at all about the subject, that the populists instead of increasing the state debt by "overlaps" or in other way, reduced it in your years \$677,093.10. Eli Perkins could not beat, if he should try for years, the News, and Eli was famous in his day as the biggest liar on the American continent.

But the News need not feel proud over this feat and claim that it is the champion liar of Nebraska, for there are a score of other republican editors who have been telling the same lie in almost the same words and having been the first in the field, the News can only claim the second place.

SAME OLD KIND

That Carter Harrison's city council in Chicago is the same sort of thing as the republican city councils all over the United States that have been stealing the streets and giving them to private parties. In fact it is a little worse than the republican brand for it has direct orders from the people what to do and is proceeding to do exactly what the people forbid it doing. A vote was taken in Chicago on the following propositions with the result given:

"Shall the city council upon the adoption of the Mueller law proceed without delay to acquire ownership of the street railways under the powers conferred by the Mueller law? The vote: for, 121,957; against, 50,807.

"Shall the city council instead of granting any franchises proceed at once under the city's police powers and other existing laws to license the street railway companies until municipal ownership can be secured and compel them to give satisfactory service? The vote: for, 120,863; against, 48,200."

With the above staring them in the face the Chicago city council is engaged in passing a city ordinance that would give the traction company rights and privileges and earning powers never dreamed of in traction legislation in Chicago before. It would take away by contract the general powers of the city to regulate street cars. It would entrench the traction companies in the streets for all time and sound the deathknell of municipal ownership.

That is what the Carter Harrison democracy is doing for Chicago. It is same old thing and always will be.

POPULISM A SUCCESS

Where ever populism has been tried, either in this country or in other lands, it has always proved a great blessing to the people. Chicago's experience with municipal electric lighting for public purposes will be a hard nut for corporation statisticians to crack. According to the report of the city authorities the total cost of the average number of arc lights in 1903-4, 827—was \$262,888. Under the system of renting from private corporations these lights would have cost \$559,936. The saving, therefore, was \$297,048. Yet the city paid in wages from 15 to 33 per cent more than the private corporations. To have rented these lights for the sixteen years of municipal ownership and operation would have cost \$3,895,812, and the city would now have nothing to show for it all except a package of vouchers and a memory of street lights that had glimmered in the past. But under municipal ownership and operation, in spite of high wages and incidental grafting, the city has spent only \$3,720,099 (\$175,713 less than the rentals would have aggregated), and has to show for it besides a memory of lighted streets a lighting plant of its own, which has increased from a system of 165 lamps in 1887 to one of 4,827 in 1903.

TRUSTS "IRREVOCABLY" ESTABLISHED

All that is necessary to "irrevocably" establish the trust system according to a recent dispatch, is to get it in such powerful control of things that if it is interfered with or prosecuted in the courts, a financial panic will result. That is the position taken by Roosevelt as detailed in a special dispatch in the Pioneer-Press. It appears that H. H. Rogers recently visited the president. What occurred is described as follows:

"The president told the financier that the administration had no intention of 'running amuck' of all the combinations that had been formed in recent years. It was realized, he said, that if suits were to be immediately instituted against all the corporations whose legality under the latest decision was open to doubt, that a financial panic might ensue."

The Morgan interview was widely published in the eastern press, but this

Rogers' interview was suppressed. Shortly after these two interviews, the Sun and Harper's Weekly flopped over to Roosevelt, and Wall street quit booming Parker.

There is on exhibition at the World's fair at St. Louis a telegraph mechanism that sends 1,000 words a minute over wires a thousand miles long. Yet under the special privileges granted to private telegraph companies in the United States, the people are charged 25 cents for sending ten words ten miles. The Independent has often called attention to the fact that the great telegraph companies refuse to utilize any of the improvements in telegraphy, for fear that public opinion would force a reduction in rates. There is no way of escaping the extortions practiced by the corporations aside from the populist way, namely, public ownership.

WATSON AND TIBBLES BUTTONS

The Independent has made arrangements to get some Watson and Tibbles buttons, the button carrying a photograph of both candidates, which it will furnish to its readers at the following rates:

- 1 button 10 cents
- 3 buttons 25 cents
- 25 buttons \$1.00
- 100 or more, each 3 cents

The Independent advises parties ordering these buttons to send along \$1, \$2, \$5 or \$10 each for campaign expenses if they want the work of the party to go on. The national committee has received requests for nearly a million copies of Watson's Cooper Union speech, and hasn't money enough to pay postage on a thousand, even if it had the speeches already printed. If you really believe in populism, put up your money to back your words. The most of the little money that has been sent in, has come from the very poor. Shame on you rich farmers and business men. Are you among those who want the poor to bear all the burdens while you bear none?

THE NEW YORK CANDIDATES

The populist state ticket in New York has been made up with good judgment and great discrimination. The candidate for governor is Alfred J. Boulton of Brooklyn. Mr. Boulton is chairman of the Central Federation Labor union, known as a prominent union labor man and has been in attendance at labor union conventions as a delegate or officer for many years. He was candidate on the fusion ticket in 1903 for county clerk of Kings county. Other candidates were chosen with equal wisdom.

A HOST OF TRAITORS

The strike in the packing houses at Chicago and elsewhere, where ever the meat trust controls, has been a failure. The strike was a humanitarian move on the part of the union to get living wages for the common laborers, who on account of being employed irregularly were only able to get about a dollar a day. The unions have a very serious future awaiting them. There is a well planned campaign inaugurated against them by the rich which has in view the destruction of unionism in the United States. The rich have in their favor the government, the courts and the army and the wage earners have only their bare hands. The contest is very unequal. There is only one weapon in the hands of the working people that is at all effective and so far they have refused to use it. If the trusts and corporations had any fear that they would use it, they would never have organized for the destruction of the unions. That weapon is the ballot. The labor unions, like the people's party, have been full of traitors for the last few years. Most of the men that both of them have raised to leadership and high office have betrayed and deserted them as soon as they thought that there was profit in so doing. The populists, by great sacrifice and cost, elected senator after senator and they all, with the exception of Senator Allen, deserted and went over to the democrats or republicans. Two of these senators are today working in the republican ranks and the rest of them are with the democrats. Labor and populism have had a host of traitors.

The reports that have reached the United States, some coming via Russia, and some from English and American residents in China, concerning the wonderful change in the character of the empress of China are all the time being corroborated. The empress has allowed her portrait to be painted several times and of late has been photographed. This is in direct contradiction to all customs of China running back for 4,000 years. No empress or emperor of China was ever allowed

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to be looked upon before. Now the empress goes through the streets in a chair and even bows to acquaintances. She gives tea parties to the ladies of the foreign legations two or three times a week. It is said that the empress has chosen Mrs. Conger, wife of the American ambassador, as her special adviser and that Mrs. Conger has been given free entrance to the palace at all hours day or night. Mrs. Conger is an enthusiastic Christian Scientist.

The republicans made desperate efforts in Vermont to increase their vote and it all resulted in a failure. They sent the speaker of the house, representatives, senators and other spellbinders by the score into the state and during the last week held over 200 meetings and did not poll as many votes as they did in 1896 by 5,206, nor as many as they did in 1900. The cause of the increase in their majority was that the democrats, disgusted with Parker, did not go to the polls. The lesson taught by the vote in Vermont is that the people there are disgusted with both old parties, for with all the strenuous efforts put forth, even some of the republicans would not vote. If there had been a people's party ticket in the field the figures would look very different.

The Lincoln Star quotes a prominent democrat as saying: "As it is, Watson will be the cause of the defeat of the democratic ticket and in my opinion the democratic state committee doesn't care." Well, we are inclined to think that that is about the way it is.

Tom Watson is spending hundreds of dollars that come out of his own pocket, and the other candidate on the national ticket what little he can rake together, without hope of reward or prospect of office, and there are thousands of other populists, rich in this world's goods, who have so far not contributed a cent toward paying the expenses of the campaign. It is enough to make a preacher swear whenever one thinks of it.

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