

cuse for not doing this in view of the vote he received. His commission from the people is all that he can ask. If Roosevelt does this, a realignment of parties may follow.

Will he do it, or, is he simply making a grandstand play? Many things indicate the latter. He is a stand-patter on the tariff, notwithstanding its abominations and the demand within his own party for relief, and many of his appointments to the very highest positions within his gift are the very ones that would be suggested by Standard Oil & Co., those he essays to overthrow.

Roosevelt has, however, accomplished some good. It is too soon yet to anticipate the condition the public mind will be in at the end of his term. It is certain, however, that if he maintains his popularity to the end of his term, it will be impossible for Standard Oil & company to put one of their dummies into the White House as his successor. Roosevelt and Lawson together have accomplished other things that are of great value to the country. The shackles that held millions of partisans in intellectual bondage have been broken. Ten years ago, on railway trains, or in hotels, in any portion of the country among a group of men all strangers if by chance one of the number would make a remark deploring the change taking place in our industrial systems, and suggest that competition in industry was being displaced by industrial despotism, every republican present would at once challenge the statement, deny the fact, and instantly show resentment to what they considered an attack upon the republican party. Such is no longer the case. So much is a distinctive gain.

THE ISSUE

Elections always turn upon one issue, never upon two. It matters not how many wrongs are waiting to be righted, or how many issues are discussed in the newspapers, one always becomes pivotal in an election.

Issues are not made or unmade by political parties or conventions. They are born of conditions, and, when they are ripe, woe unto the political party that fails to recognize them. When an issue is due it cannot be set aside or evaded. The action of a political party in seeking to evade an issue, when it is due, is on a par with the wisdom of an ostrich, who, upon the approach of danger, buries its head in the sand as a means of safety.

The elder Cameron of Pennsylvania, credited with being the most consummate politician of his day, used to remark, that, "The only sure way of leading the people in politics was to follow just a little behind them." What issue occupies the front place at this time? What reform are the people demanding today? The answer is so plain that none may mistake it. It is to rescue the government from the control on monopoly and restore it to the people.

In the forefront of monopoly stands the railroad clothed with despotic power over industry and commerce. Being as indispensable to commerce as are the common highways of the

country, and possessing the power to tax commerce, and to discriminate for or against those engaged therein it is able to build up or tear down communities and individuals. The railroad has abused its power in every conceivable way. Its motto has always been to "tax the traffic all it will bear." It has discriminated in favor of favorite cities, towns and individuals and has become a gigantic machine of injustice and oppression. In the wrongful exercise of its power, it has built up and fostered monopolies through a system of rebates and discriminations. It has finally, with the aid of its pampered pets and kindred monopolies, seized the governments of states and the nation in order to augment the work of plunder and perpetuate its power. Favored shippers who receive rebates are generally active and willing tools for the railroad in politics, and shippers in general to avoid the disfavor of the railroad are silent regarding them, for fear of persecution, by being discriminated against and driven out of business. In addition to the horde of attorneys, lobbyists, special employes and others who derive their incomes from the railroad, the free pass as a means of bribery is perhaps the most potent instrumentality it employs in politics. The free pass acts as an anesthetic to the conscience, and thus honest men by thousands unwittingly become the victims of a bribe. It is accepted openly as a bribe by the venal and freely paid for in political services.

The abuse of power on the part of the railroad has at last reached the limit, and the people of the country, from one end to the other, are crying out "Halt!" The railroad issue is here. Who doubts it? Look at the election of 1904. The republican party leaders hated Roosevelt, but were powerless to prevent his nomination, and when nominated, the democratic and populist leaders were unable to hold their party vote. In Nebraska, two candidates were actively supported on election day that year, Roosevelt for president and Berge for governor. Roosevelt carried the state by 86,682 plurality, and Berge received 30,174 more votes than the combined votes cast for Parker and Watson. Why this strange anomaly? It may be asked. Not strange at all, neither is it an anomaly. Roosevelt ordered his attorney general to dissolve the Northern Securities company, a consolidation of competing railroad lines. This is why Roosevelt was invincible in the year 1904. And Berge with an eloquence and power seldom equaled in the arena of politics, charged the responsibility for railroad government in Nebraska to the free pass bribery system and the professional lobby. This accounts for the phenomenal votes cast for Berge, for phenomenal it was in the towns where the fusion candidate spoke during the campaign.

When an issue is due and finds a voice, the people recognize that voice as unerringly as swarming bees recognize the voice of their queen. When the people are ready for war, the heroes of their former battles and triumphs may come forward to command the armies, but unless they

grasp the new situation, the old heroes will be cast aside and new ones created for the occasion.

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Nebraska republican state officials reprimanding railroads is a case of "Satan rebuking sin."

If Ross Hammond were physician to the senatorial joker of the State Journal, he would prescribe a European trip.

The air is full of rumors of gigantic railroad consolidations. The frenzied financiers do not seem to fear the "Big stick."

The Independent will stand up for Nebraska, and it will not mistake the interests of a ring or clique for that of the state either.

McCarthy scored on Warner on the Third congressional district, and it was several days before Warner discovered that the joke was on him.

Chairman Allen of the democratic state committee has made elaborate arrangements for a dollar dinner to be given under the auspices of the committee at the Lincoln auditorium on Tuesday, March 6. See particulars on another page in this paper.

Outside the Free Pass Holders' brigade, the people of Nebraska are of one mind on the question of railroad rate regulation. How do they enjoy being represented in the United States senate by railroad senators that need so much watching at a time like this?

All that Senator Aldrich has to do to secure the votes of the Nebraska senators to his amendments to the railroad rate law now under consideration in the senate, is to couch them in diplomatic language. A diplomatic statement is a lie so phrased as to escape detection.

President Roosevelt is standing upon extremely dangerous grounds. He has the confidence and support of the people. They believe in him. He may make blunders and they will overlook them. But he must not forget that the more ardent the love the more furious the jealousy, if cause for it be found. He must so guard his conduct as to avoid the suspicion of insincerity. The moment the public mind questions his integrity, that moment his power is gone and his opportunity lost to him forever.

The candidate is of more importance than the platform.

The principles and policies demanded by the people, are often expressed in the platforms and resolutions of conventions, for the purpose of fooling the people and securing their votes for candidates that represent exactly the opposite. When politics are conducted honestly, the platforms adopted by conventions and the candidates named should stand for the

same principles and policies. It is difficult to fool the people on the platform, but they have been frequently fooled on the candidates.

One of the Nebraska railroads, having a mileage upwards of 1,000 miles in the state, shows net earnings, above all expenses, taxes included, of \$5,500 per mile last year. Still the railroad refuses to pay its taxes upon a valuation for assessment purposes many millions too low in comparison with the assessment of other property. The conduct of the Nebraska railroads in refusing to pay their taxes is the most foolish move that we have ever known them to make. They are prospering and piling up profits beyond the dreams of avarice, and yet refuse to pay their taxes.

Wall street is said to be the most sensitive and correct barometer of financial weather in existence. It has the reputation of having thoroughly discounted every financial storm that has occurred in forty years, long before the general public had the least suspicion that such a storm was coming. The fact that stocks and bonds have been soaring to higher and higher levels during the past year, and that they still continue their upward course does not indicate that the powerful interests that direct the course of the New York stock market have any fears that the railroad rate bill now before congress will interfere with their schemes of blunder.

The press of the country generally in commenting upon the vast fortune left by the late Marshall Field of Chicago, make special mention of the belief that his fortune was acquired honestly, that is, by methods considered legitimate. Why is this deserving of universal mention? Is it a hitherto unknown or uncommon thing for a great fortune to be legitimately acquired? Are all the editors of the country of the opinion that none of our other multi-millionaires secured their great wealth by honest means? What other inference can be drawn from the fact that they all call attention to the case of Marshall Field, unless it be an extraordinary and distinguishing one. How does Rockefeller and Carnegie and the others, enjoy seeing Marshall Field's memory immortalized upon such grounds?

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