

BOSSISM.

The republican party and the Chicago-platform party are governed by bosses in nearly all of the states of the Union. And in every one of those states there is a revolt against such brutal and corrupt domination, by the most thoughtful and intelligent voters. Civilization is the development of individuality. Bossism and machine politics are the death of independent citizenship and therefore inimical to civilization.

Among savages, chiefs and head men are permitted to do the thinking for the whole tribe. The two greatest political organizations of the United States are practicing the methods and tactics of savages. The masses as in barbarism are forced to think and vote as the chiefs and braves direct. They think and direct only to promote personal and selfish ends.

The inexorable selfishness and despotism of machine politics in every state are evolving discontent in the republican and democratic parties. Out of this intelligent revolt against rotten rules and rotten methods there can be and should be evolved a realignment of the best voting citizenship of the republic.

If just government must depend upon the consent of the governed that consent must be given by an intelligent and virtuous people. The consent of ignorance and vice is not a safe foundation for decent, or even endurable, government. The consent of brutal and dishonest bosses, though affirmed and ratified by the ballots of their ignorant and vicious henchmen and retainers, is not a sound basis for either local or national administration.

When the consent of convicts in penitentiaries is used as a base for laws regulating, and rules governing penal institutions, and such laws and rules are found efficient and favorable to good order and discipline, it will be demonstrated that the consent of vice and ignorance in cities, states and the republic is a splendid foundation for all government. Intelligent consent, patriotic, deliberate, honest consent, may be good to build upon—no other consent can be.

FIENDS OUT OF FRIENDS.

THE CONSERVATIVE notices with sincere sympathy the painful paroxysms into which some populist papers have been plunged by the words "*fiends of free silver*" which should have read "*friends of free silver*" as telegraphed from New York City in a recital of the doings and sayings of the National Sound Money League. The phrase "*fiends of free silver*" has been attributed to the editor of **THE CONSERVATIVE** and although he has witnessed the conversion of seeming "*friends*" into seeming "*fiends*" once or twice during the last fifty years, he pleads not guilty to this impeachment

for a verbal misdemeanor. The World-Herald will therefore calm itself and resume its placid and ineffectual efforts in behalf of the free coinage of silver at sixteen-to-one and give a verification of its own forecasts of commercial ruin made during the incandescent campaign of 1896. The World-Herald is consistently the most constant, earnest and zealous advocate of the money fallacies and Bryanarchy in general in the whole United States.

THE FEDERAL PARTY.

The march of events and the expressed opinions of thoughtful men of all parties, point to the coming of a new political organization.

Of the three comprehensive names associated with our political history, federal, republican and democratic, the first, and only available one, best signifies the ends to be attained and recalls a party whose record stands pre-eminent.

The faults as well as the merits of the historic federal party are understood.

It is true that Jefferson declared the name odious.

Still there remains the fact of its great service in organizing the departments of government; of the enlightened spirit in which it grasped the science of safe and moderate administration, and the true correlation of liberty and law.

With this, which time has confirmed as the true American spirit the genius of Jefferson was never at variance.

It is this spirit which it is sought to revive in the new federal party.

To meet present conditions the federal principle as opposed to oligarchy and imperialism offers a rational incentive to party action.

Today the industrial question is on.

Natural development has brought conditions which render the old arguments irrelevant; free competition, individual initiative, are of the past.

Today there stands between the people and the Federal government a dominant power (*government de facto*) arbitrary and irresponsible.

All the important measures of government, concerning tariff, foreign relations, internal improvements, and finance are necessarily considered with relation to, and passed after conference with that power.

These measures affect the body politic only in a reflected way, modified by the laws of trade and relations of employer and employee.

The position is anomalous.

Palliative measures are inadequate and out of harmony with our form of government.

Class legislation, parentalism, usurpation, benevolent or otherwise, are abhorrent.

Therefore there has been submitted as a fit subject of consideration for a new party a proposition to further an amend-

ment to the constitution, adding an article (XVI), establishing representative departments of arts and industries (educational and administrative), and enabling congress to exercise governmental powers through these departments. The suggestion is made in a spirit of good will, with faith in democratic principles and loyalty to our federal institutions as the statutory expression of those principles, to the end that at all times, whether at leisure or at work, the citizens of the United States shall be subject only to the limitations of democratic self-government.

It is safe to assume that the state is fully competent to conduct the industries, and the reasons for our system of immediate self-government, representatives and constituencies apply as well to vocation as to location.

We have seen demonstrated in our public affairs the truth that, "Not to proceed is to certainly go backwards." May it never be left for this country to exemplify the melancholy fact that of all governments a sterilized democracy is the worst.

The birth of a new party appears to be near at hand. The question is whether it is to be negative or positive, to follow or lead, to engage in a stern chase or to steer its own course for a given port.

EARLY MISSOURI RIVER NAVIGATION.

In our issue of April 6th, we quoted a statement from The Kansas City Star, made in connection with the obituary notice of Mrs. Mary Chouteau, to the effect that she ascended the Missouri with her husband before that stream had been navigated by steamboats. This was a manifest error, as Major Long came up in 1819 as far as Council Bluff (Nebraska) in the steamboat "Western Engineer." He also made a short excursion up the Kansas. If there was any earlier use made of steamboats on western waters **THE CONSERVATIVE** would like to be informed of it.

A correspondent in Leavenworth writes that he thinks navigation to Fort Leavenworth, which was established in 1827, was continuous after 1832.

B. A. In Nebraska City a footpad was arrested for assaulting, knocking down and pounding into insensibility for the purpose of robbery, a drunken Indian. The culprit was arrested—upon arraignment he pleaded, "not guilty." His defence was:

"This heathen Indian needed Christianity and civilization. It was my duty to pound whiskey out of and piety into him; and for this practical philanthropy I am entitled to compensation; he is a Filipino; I am a saintly American. I am a 'benevolent assimilator' and not a 'criminal aggressor.'"

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