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WHAT FOR?

The man who enters upon public life and seeks and gets office merely for the benefit of himself—for the money and not the honor—is actuated by motives similar to those which animate the burglar. The "practical politician" and the journeyman burglar are as much alike, in impulse, as two frogs jumping in the same direction.

The ambition to do something good and great for one's country is noble, and ought to be instilled into the mind of every American youth. But instead of that inculcation, too often, the schools and the press and the pulpit teach that the government is something which can do much for each citizen—a paternal affair that will furnish employment, remuneration, and a good living to various classes of its citizens and certain kinds of its industries. The privileges of citizenship divorced from the duties of citizenship are constantly the talk of vote-catchers who seek office for their own rather than the public good.

The man who has been able in the professional or business walks of life to

For Self.

accomplish nothing for himself and his family is generally the most importunate beggar for public prominence and political position. And it is a singular fact that, in a political convention, where local offices are to be parceled out, the prosperous, competent and successful man—and it makes no difference what party is holding the county or city convention—can seldom win a nomination over an incompetent and unsuccessful one. The candidate

who can show the most failures and woes in his career will, nine times out of ten, be awarded nomination, on any political ticket, over any citizen who has acquired a competence by industry, good business methods and self-denial. The man who parades his lack of success and declares that he *needs* the office will, as a rule, always secure nomination when pitted against a competitor of known ability and established financial credit.

This sympathy which puts imbecility, which has failed in the management of private business, in charge of the business of the public by awarding it office out of which to subsist is too general, too active and as wrong politically as it is morally. Those who make office-seeking and office-getting a means of living, a profession, are dangerous citizens in any community.

The rules of business, the careful management and economy which make success in the commercial and professional careers of individuals must, sooner or later, be applied to the discharge of public duties, or government of the people, for the people, by the people prove an ignominious failure. In every county, city and precinct men of high character, known experience and success in affairs must be selected for local offices if taxation is to be reduced and debts wiped out.

STANDARD OIL.

The people in the villages and cities and upon the farms of Nebraska are getting good oil at very low prices. There is no complaint either of the quality or prices by consumers in town or country. The cost of oil is less now than it was twenty-five years ago by more than fifty cents on the gallon. It has been cheapened, and its quick distribution among consumers provided for by the Standard Oil Company.

But a wise, or otherwise, or sidewise attorney-general sees political capital, or thinks he sees it, in bringing an action against the Standard Oil Company and stirring up the prejudices of the people against incorporated capital generally.

Sharp and self-seeking, as Smyth is admitted to be by all who know him well, he is in this matter, only endeavoring to store up capital for renomination to office. But he, forgetting at

the same time the Silver Smelter trust, at Omaha, can hardly make the people of Nebraska believe that it is their interest to drive out of business in this state a corporation which has reduced the cost of a staple article to all consumers.

The enormous combine to put up the price of silver bullion has its headquarters within the sound of the eloquent voice of Smyth. And that combine is avowedly to raise the cost of its syndicated product. In fact, Smyth himself has been pronouncedly in favor of putting an artificial price of \$1.29 an ounce on silver, when normally, without class legislation to aid it, the bullion of that metal is worth less than sixty cents an ounce. Now if Smyth will bring an action against the Silver Smelter trust, and that combination can secure the ardent and efficient services of that old and tried friend of silver, Senator John M. Thurston, to defend its interests, there will be something in court which may interest tax-payers generally.

THE CONSERVATIVE awaits the commencement, in Nebraska courts, of a suit to dissolve, set aside, "bust" up or drive out the Silver Smelter combine by the Honorable Attorney-General Smyth. When will that luminous and erudite officer enter upon a crusade against the Silver Bullion trust?

GENEROUS.

In 1859 THE CONSERVATIVE, with absolute faith in his ability and honesty, gave a young man a general letter of commendation. The youth was just starting for Pike's Peak to search for wealth and reputation. He was pale-faced, bright, attractive, but almost effeminate in physique. He whacked his oxen through to Cherry Creek, however, and fattened and strengthened on his coarse camp food and his out-of-doors sleep in the pure air of the plains.

In a recent paragraph we see that the youth of 1859 has become a man who, in 1899, presents one of his employees a hundred thousand, another seventy-five thousand dollars as a token of his esteem. The name of the youth whom THE CONSERVATIVE endorsed in 1859 and who is scattering cash that way in 1899 is David H. Moffatt. He banks, a little, in Denver.