

Rodenberg idea of "practical politics." The reform needs friends, not enemies, in its chief administrative officers. The civil service commissioners, and Pension Commissioner Evans likewise, have justified their appointments by executing laws, rules and regulations. The civil service commission have, therefore, incurred the inveterate dislike of the most relentless and malignant of all "good haters," the disappointed and disqualified place-hunters. There is good ground for the belief that Rodenberg will eventually become the head of the commission. In the assault of the spoilsmen upon the civil service regulations the securing of the appointment of one of their kind to the defence of the citadel; probably later to its chief command, is a master stroke of strategy.

The republican party stands pledged to the preservation of the civil service laws and to the maintenance of the "efficiency of civil service rules." The appointment of Rodenberg flies in the face of this doctrine. It is totally irreconcilable with the president's own record when, as a member of congress, he took a position with respect to an appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the commission diametrically in opposition to that taken by Rodenberg a year ago. On April 24, 1890, Mr. McKinley, in speaking on a motion made in the house to strike out the appropria-

tion for said salaries and expenses, said, with fervor:

"If the republican party of this country is pledged to any one thing more than another, it is the maintenance of the civil service law and its efficient execution. The law that stands upon our statute book today was put there by republican votes. It was a republican measure. Every national platform of the republican party since its enactment has declared not only in favor of its continuance in full vigor, but in favor of its enlargement so as to apply more generally to the public service. * * * For four years under a democratic administration nobody on this side of the house had the temerity to rise in his place and make a motion similar to the one now pending for the nullification of this law. We thought it was good then, good enough for a democratic administration, and I say to my republican associates it is good enough for a republican administration. * * * Mr. Chairman, the republican party must take no backward step. The merit system is here, and it is here to stay, and we may just as well understand and accept it now and give our attention to correcting abuses, if any exist, and improving the law whenever it can be done to the advantage of the public service."

By what perversion of language or gloss of comment can it be made to appear that Mr. Rodenberg's elevation to the commissionership squares with the republican doctrine, which the president himself so eloquently and so forcibly applied and defended in the foregoing extract?—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

POPULAR UNIVERSITIES IN FRANCE.

It has escaped general attention that the university extension movement has recently commenced to make more rapid progress in France than in any other country. Over there they call it the "Popular University, and the persons who are taking advantage of the new opportunities are the working people of both sexes and of the lower and middle classes. It was not until 1900 that this movement was started, but already Paris has twenty of the popular universities and there are nearly twice that number in the provinces. A new movement of this sort always has a leader, and the originator of the present praiseworthy enterprise in France is George Deherme, a former typesetter and a self-taught man. Members of the Paris University and prominent literary men have given it cordial support, and scores of professors are lecturing in the recently established People's Universities or "People's Houses," as they are sometimes called. Almost all fields of knowledge, including politics, economics, medicine, hygiene, architecture, astronomy, and chemistry, are covered by the courses given. The universities have associate members who pay \$2 a year, while the workingmen pay only the small sum of 10 cents a week to enjoy the advantages afforded. It is believed that one of the great benefits of this sudden progress in popular education in France will be to obliterate at least partially the class lines and to promote a friendly spirit which will greatly strengthen the republic.—Oakland Enquirer.

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