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MONDAY - - DECEMBER 20, 1897
**IS THE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM
IN DANGER?**

We would not willingly underrate the strength of the movement in opposition to the civil service law. Evidently a determined attempt is to be made in both houses of congress either to modify or to repeal it. An organization was formed some time ago in Washington for the purpose of destroying the system. We know that there are men of both parties in the senate and in the house who are outspoken in their denunciation of the law, and would do anything they could to break it down. But, after all, there is no occasion for great alarm, for ever since the law was placed on the statute books it has had its opponents in both branches of congress. Attempts have been made to repeal it and to starve it out by refusing to make the necessary appropriations for the work of the civil service commission. We have seen these attempts come to naught, and in the face of them we have seen the classified system expanded until it includes nearly all branches of the public service. Both parties have commended it in their national platforms, and declared that it ought to be maintained. Last year, when the Democratic party departed so widely from its traditions, it went on record against it, while the Republican convention at St. Louis commended it in stronger terms than usual. All the presidents for the last four quadrenniums have been true friends to the system; and the members of the cabinets, with very few exceptions, have given warm tributes to its effectiveness.

What has happened to change public opinion? Admitting that the Democratic party is not at present friendly, is it to be inferred from the remarks of Congressman Grosvenor and others that there has been a revolution of sentiment in the Republican party since the convention at St. Louis last year? We do not believe it. The whole trouble lies here: Since then the Republican party has come into power, and Republican congressmen find they have little patronage to dispense. There are many thousands who want offices and cannot get them. Our national legislators wish to pay off their political debts in the cheapest way they can. For this reason they want more public patronage at their disposal. They find many Democrats in office, and they would like the opportunity of turning them out so there will be vacancies to be filled by Republicans. This is why we hear so much clamor in Washington about the inequities of the civil service system.

It is significant that the attacks upon the system do not come from cabinet officers who are at the head of departments, and have many thousand clerks under them; not from those who administer and who know the results, but from congressmen and politicians who have no such responsibility. Those who hold positions of great trust, with thousands of clerks under them, are entirely satisfied with its workings; they believe it is far more effective and economical than the spoils system, and they know that it saves a great deal of the time and worry formerly given to applicants and of applications. Secretary Long, of the navy department, declares that it is infinitely better than the old system, not only for the appointing power, but for the congressmen themselves that the latter used to dis-

pense the offices freely, and where they pleased one, they made enemies of ten. He thinks congress ought to let the law alone, and we trust that congress will let it alone.

Our source of security lies in the fact of President McKinley's devotion to the system. It is well known that any bill which proposes to lead a retreat will be vetoed by him. He will not allow the law to be crippled. He has indicated that he is in favor of certain modifications, which the friends of the system are not induced to oppose. If congress goes further than this, and we do not believe it will, we may count on the interposition of the presidential vote.

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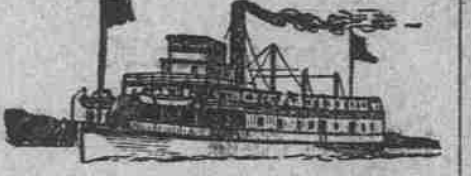


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do Grass Valley	1.00
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do Kent	1.00
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do Moro	1.00
do Deschutes	1.00
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