

For President—WILLIAM M'KINLEY, Of Ohio.

For Vice-President—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, Of New York.

WERE THEY DECEIVED?

"It" (the election) "will be decided by the common people—the wealth producers of the country. Four years ago they were deceived into following the lead of the favored class, but this year they are doing their own thinking."—Times-Mountaineer.

Who deceived them? In what way were they deceived? Four years ago millions of the "common people" were either absolutely idle or working at starvation wages, or living a hand-to-mouth existence, or on the verge of actual want. The only flourishing industries were the free soup houses. Four years before that time they had listened to Cleveland's siren song of "tariff reform" and this was what came of it. They wanted a change and got it. They voted to destroy the "robber barons" and in the collapse that followed the "common people" found themselves in the basement of the ruins. All this is history, true as words of holy writ. Along came Bryan with his "crown of thorns and cross of gold," his brand new 16-to-1 soap bubble, a panacea for all the ills that afflict humanity. The gold standard was the crime of the ages. It was grinding the "common people" in the dust. Open the mists and poverty will vanish as the mists before the rising sun. But the people heeded him not. This, too, is history. They had been deceived before and too recently and too bitterly to soon forget. Then above the roar of Bryan's silver trumpet, from the "vine clad porch" of a little cottage in Canton, Ohio, came a voice which said, "Open the mills, and the mints will take care of themselves." This voice the "common people" heard with gladness and as gladly obeyed.

Have they been deceived? Let the fact that wages were never higher, remunerative employment never more easily obtained, the masses of the people never more prosperous, money never so cheap and plentiful, answer. They followed the lead of the "favored classes," four years ago, did they? Well, suppose they did; they showed infinitely more wisdom, as the results prove, than they did when they followed the lead of the enemies of the so-called "favored classes," that is to say the enemies of thrift, in 1892. Does the American voter need a reminder of what followed the last time he followed the lead of the democratic party? Here is one from the Chicago Inter-Ocean, descriptive of the prevailing conditions in that city in the winter of 1893:

"Thursday night was the climacteric of poverty and hunger. Whether it will stand as the sad climacteric or whether its pitiful record will be surpassed by the record of future nights, depends upon whether the shaken confidence of the mercantile and manufacturing classes can be restored speedily. Never before since Chicago had a name and a place among cities was it in such an evil case that, after the station house and all the charitable institutions were crowded to excess, there was an overflow of a thousand penniless, shivering and hungry men sheltering from the storm of a winter's night in the city hall, and fighting with the ferocity of brutes for a few mouthfuls of bread. We do not care to comment upon the sad story. It is its own comment. Narrated in the plainest words it is horrible. It needs no other adjective. The famished, frozen crowd was not made up

of tramps. It was made up largely of honest men who would be industrious could they find work to do."

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