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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

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John R. Tanner, governor of Illinois, and notorious as a corrupt politician, announces himself as a candidate for the United States senate to succeed Senator Callahan, and the worst of it is he stands a chance of election. Let it be said to the credit of the Chicago Times-Herald and the Chicago Evening Post, two clean republican papers, that they oppose Tanner's candidacy and show him up in his true colors. But the service those papers will render the people of Illinois will, probably never be appreciated.

At a conference of the leaders of the silver republican party it was decided to issue an address, in which the belief is expressed that the time is come for giving up the silver republican party organization and merging its members into the dem.ocracy. The forces opposed to the republican party, as at present organized and administered, are getting together, apparently with the view of standing together. This is as it should be. Defeat has shown the wisdom of it. "Sweet are the uses of adversity."

The republicans will be in full national control after March 4, 1901, and with it they will be under full national responsibility. In the next national house of representatives there will be 200 republican members, a clear majority of at least 45 over all. In the senate the republican majority will be 22. This means that for two years at least, beginning with the assembly of the first regular session of the fifty-seventh congress, in December, 1901, the republicans will be entirely responsible to the people for all the mistakes of the national government and will not be able to shirk it.

The failure of W. L. Strong & Co., one of the big firms of that big town, New York, coming so soon after the election, is a great surprise. One would have thought that the promise of four more years of prosperity would have given this firm a new lease of life. If Bryan had been elected and this firm had failed it would have been charged to him. The "big houses" of the "big cities" are in most cases like a house of cards. They rest on a mountain of debt. One life stands between them and ruin, in many instances. If this life is taken the house goes to the world. This is the case with the house of Strong & Co. Mayor Strong, the senior member of the firm, died suddenly, just prior to the election, and there was no one to succeed him, capable of financing the immense business, and thus, for the sake of the creditors, a receiver had to be appointed and a failure recorded. The liabilities of Strong & Co. exceed, it is stated \$1,000,000. The firm was engaged in the wholesale dry goods business.

The assessors in Oregon, as well as others holding public positions, should not indulge so freely the pass abuse. There is soon to be a meeting of assessors in Portland and it can be asserted, with slight chance of contradiction, that not one of them will attend this meeting who does not ride on a pass to Portland, furnished by the railroad companies. The assessors when they travel around on public business should have their fares paid by the county in which they hold office and not be beholden to railroad companies for favors. The pass abuse has reached such a stage that it should be corrected, by legislation, if it cannot be accomplished otherwise. Over in Washington there is a law which provides: "It shall not be lawful for any person holding public office in this state to accept or use a pass, or to purchase transportation from any railroad or other corporation other than as the same may be purchased by the

general public, and the legislature shall pass laws to enforce this provision." If there was such a provision in Oregon doubtless there would be less favors shown to public officials with the view of influencing their official acts at certain times. The railroads themselves should encourage anything that would promise to break up the pass evil among public officials.

When George M. Pullman died a few years ago he left property valued at \$5,000,000. Now his executors, Robert T. Lincoln and Norman B. Ream announce that the Pullman property has developed to over \$14,000,000 and yields a satisfactory annual income on this amount. Now, the question arises, if the Pullman estate can secure \$6,000,000 by a rise in value, from whom is it drawn? If the estate gains it in this way somebody must lose it, even if they lose it by having to contribute small amounts from time to time. The fact of the matter is, the estate gets this gain because the almighty dollar is made self-accumulative by man-made statute, which would not be the case if we did not allow individuals and corporations to capitalize and monopolize a wealth which was not created by labor, and which, therefore, is not the product of capital, nor should it be treated as private property. The increase of population, as well as the advance of civilization, adds to a certain kind of wealth, and this makes the dollar self-accumulative, thus giving to the idler with money large amounts he does not earn or deserve, which, in turn, robs industry and enterprise. If we had a taxation system that would take this "unearned increment" to meet the needs of government, the dollar would not be such a power and taxation would be equitable and just, while fortunes would not accumulate after their owners had ceased their efforts to and labor.

THE PARTY OF ALL DEMOCRATS.

Hearst's Chicago American says: The democratic party is going to be reorganized. That is a settled fact. It is going to be again the party of all democrats, instead of merely a majority of them. It is going to have a policy that will appeal to the honest intelligence of every class.

But the conservative democrats who are to be welcomed back to the party councils must not be under any illusions. It would be an illusion, for instance, to imagine that the past six years could be wiped out and the party brought back to the conditions that prevailed in the middle of the second Cleveland administration.

It is a trite but true saying that revolutions never go back to the original. The democratic party has received an impulse that can be neither stayed nor reversed. It can merely be wisely directed.

The democracy cannot be made a mere party of negation or of obstruction, as some would like to have it, not yet the obedient servant of the great financial interests that control the republican party, as would be the desire of others.

There is room and need in our political system for two parties in a vigorous opposition to each other. There is neither room nor need for two parties, of which one shall be merely the other's pale reflection.

If the democratic party were to be merely a feeble copy of the republican party, the American people would rather see the republican party ousted with the responsibility of carrying out its own policies and held accountable for its own faults than to see the democracy warring the spoils of office by ignominious defeat.

The democracy must be the progressive party. The mistakes it has committed are not to be charged to its past aggressiveness. Free silver was not, as many imagine, an example of a reckless rush into an untried experiment. It was a case, not of retrogression, but of return to a system which had served the world well for centuries. It was not a Utopian scheme for advancing from the railroads to the flying machine; it was a plan to go back to the old system.

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startling in free river, nor would Pitt, or Surgot, or the first Rothschild. It was well adapted to the business methods of those days, when payments were small, trade local, and transactions usually settled in actual money. But in our time, with the development of international trade and the development of a vast credit system that takes in the whole world and is operated largely by voluntary undertakings dependent upon a standard of value of universal acceptability, it has been superseded. It has no logical connection with a progressive program, and as a matter of fact the progressive parties of Europe are all opposed to it, and it finds its chief support among the extreme conservatives, like the agrarians of Prussia and the theorists of England.

The democratic party was in a healthy condition in 1892. It had a good, reasonable, progressive program. It was headed in the right direction. It had won the confidence of the country, and if it had kept on as it was going then it would probably have retained the confidence and have reached a position today quite as advanced as the one it actually occupies. But it did not gather the fruits of its victory in that year. Its policy was not carried out. A republican policy was substituted, and from the fact came all the demoralization and wreck that followed. It is wisest, therefore, to think of setting up the second Cleveland administration as the model for the reorganized democracy.

It is what the democrats thought they were getting in 1892, not what they actually did get, upon which we should fix our eyes.

Nor can the leaders of 1896 and 1900 expect to have the present leaders of the party vacate in their favor. They will all be welcomed back, and will have all the influence to which their abilities and their good will may entitle them. There will be a general amnesty, but not an abdication.

It must be remembered that while seven millions of voters cannot win a victory if half a million of their associates are resolved on defeat, the seven millions have rights which they cannot be expected to surrender to the half million.

Finally, the conservative democrats must accept the fact that the great masses of the party still love and admire the brilliant leader who, like Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, has failed to win the presidency. Mr. Bryan has made mistakes, but how many of the old-line leaders are in a similar position?

Seven millions of democrats are proud to have voted for the man who, alone and unaided, with neither wealth nor influence to draw upon, has won an imperishable name in American history.

The democrats of the United States have lost seven years in fighting among themselves. There has not been a straight party contest within that time. The swollen republican victories of these years have all been won by democratic votes. The civil war has lasted long enough.

The time has come for democrats to get together. Those who have stood by the flag through the years of defeat and discouragement are ready to strike hands with those who abandoned it. But they do not expect to give up their voice in the party councils.

Gold democrats and silver democrats, like Locofocos and Greenbackers, have become antiquarian names. They have no present or future political significance. Henceforth there are only democrats. But a democrat is necessarily an advocate of progress. The democratic party cannot possibly be an under-study for the republican party. This is something the conservatives will do well always to remember.

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