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SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1902.

CLEVELAND'S ADVICE.

Ex-President Grover Cleveland, a good man, too, in a speech in New York, already printed in the East Oregonian attempts to tell the democracy of the country how to win in the national elections and how to trim its sails to catch the popular breeze.

The East Oregonian respects Mr. Cleveland, in short honors him for good work already performed, but it must say his treatment of the theme is rather dull and heavy, bearing out his title of being democracy's "stuffed prophet." Mr. Cleveland's "way out" is not without point and earnestness, but it is certainly without interest and influence to a large number of democrats in all parts of the country.

The gist of his advice appears to be in the direction of making the democratic party as much like the republican party as one pea is like another, so that the "respectable element of the party," who left it on the money question in 1896 and 1900, will be prevailed upon to return to its warm and affectionate embrace.

Mr. Cleveland would raise as a battle cry "trusts and tariffs," and go before the country asking for support in the fight against these vicious things. He must know that such an effort would be barren of result, for even if success came at the polls the democracy in office would be unable to kill the trusts or remove the tariff wall, without pulling the House of Privilege down upon its head, and this would not do, in the face of the fact that Mr. Cleveland advises the democracy to do a little flirting with the members of that house who wish to align themselves with the party, if they are but given a chance.

Mr. Cleveland advises the impossible; he would have democrats fight under the banner of democracy without meaning what that banner should stand for; he would have them destroy the trusts and the tariff wall, but not go so far as to make war upon those of the party who live and have their being in the House of Privilege. The ex-president doubtless means all he says and more too, but the truth is the country—or rather the democratic part of it—has grown tired of a masquerading democracy, demanding the genuine article in that garb or they will refuse to follow its teachings or the goal it points out as the true one for a free country's good and equal rights to all men.

In other words, they want a democracy to practice what it preaches; to stand only for those things that guarantee equal opportunity or equal rights to all men, not to blow both cold and hot, not to condemn a republican money devil or monopolistic combine and take to its bosom another because it styles itself democratic. The democracy does not deserve to win until it is itself democratic and imbued with the democratic spirit; until it is alive to the rights of all men and the requirements of a free country; until it puts the spoils of office behind it and turns its back upon the altar of money—the golden calf. In short, when the democratic party gets really democratic there will be democrats enough.

Mr. Cleveland would have it pretend a great deal, promise more than it can perform, in a vain attempt to outshine in political delevtry its arch

enemy, the republican party, which just now has a "corner" on and a "combine" of all that money and monied interests hold dear; all that greed stands for, and that upholds Privilege and Monopoly with such a steady hand that no hope can creep in that the democratic party will ever be equal to it in like performance in the service of the few at the expense of the many.

The East Oregonian repeats, the democracy stands for nothing unless it is for democracy, unadulterated, and for it to re-enter the masquerading business would be the height of ridiculousness! It is the truth that no party on earth can compete with the republican party in the business of making politics pay those engaged in it for pelf, power and profit!

In brief, the republican party is the PARTY OF THE DOLLAR, and the hope of the democracy is in schooling itself to be, in preaching and in practice, THE PARTY OF THE MAN.

It is the old fight, the party of the class against the party of the mass. DEMOCRATS SHOULD NEVER BE IN DOUBT AS TO WHICH SIDE THEY ARE ON.

THAT COAL STRIKE EAST.

The coal trust is fighting to destroy the miners' union. The miners union is not fighting to destroy the coal trust, but to save its own life.

That is the vital issue in the strike, as is clearly revealed by the published correspondence between the members of the trust and President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers of America.

We know now why the coal trust has rejected, with sneers at the civic federation and at Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Potter, all the offers of the miners to submit the contest to arbitration.

The trust knows that it cannot go before a disinterested tribunal, a court of equity with clean hands. The coal trust is itself an embodiment of the union principle, carried beyond justice and law.

In declining to recognize the right of the miners to organize for their business advantage the trust seeks to prevent them from following its own example, even within lawful bounds.

"Anthracite mining is a business and not a religious, sentimental or academic proposition," wrote one of the railroad presidents in refusing to accept as arbitrators "so highly respectable body as the civic federation" or Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Potter.

If all the mine-owners had taken that frankly cynical stand, holding that "business is business" and that private morals and public obligation have nothing to do with it, the coal trust would have been in a stronger position than that in which President Thomas, of the Erie Railroad, places it.

"It is the inalienable right of man to labor," writes this politico-economic thinker and moral philosopher, "and this without regard to nationality, creed or association. To seek to prevent it is a crime, and we cannot, even by implication, sanction such a course."

So is it the inalienable right of a man to work in a coal mine to which he possesses legal title. So is it the inalienable right of that man to have his coal transported to market by the common carrier on the same terms as are given to other mine-owners.

But if the coal trust had gone before the civic federation to arbitrate, President Thomas—who is so nobly prepared to make every sacrifice for the non-union principle—would have been obliged to admit that his railroad, in conjunction with seven others, had entered into a union whose character and operations are thus officially described:

1. By discriminating against independent operators the railroads have forced them to sell their properties, until at the present time more than nine tenths of the anthracite coal deposits is owned, and more than three fourths of the entire yearly product

is mined, by eight lines of railroad that are substantially in entire union of interest."—Final Report of Industrial Commission, p 654.

2. "From the investigation of the Commission it is apparent that the most potent factor in establishing and maintaining monopolies has been preferential or discriminating rates of common carriers given by rebates or otherwise. One of our oldest monopolies, though not nominally in the hands of a single corporation or trust, is that which controls anthracite coal. This business furnishes a conclusive proof of the power of the railroads through discriminating rates to establish a monopoly."

43,000,000 tons of anthracite coal are yearly carried by rail to market at three-fourths cent per ton per mile in excess of the rates charged for carrying bituminous coal. This is \$322,500 per mile of excess charge for the year's product, or \$46,762,500 annually for the average haul of 145 miles to the general market, or over \$1 a ton. This overcharge, which is greater every year than the interest on our national debt, is made possible by the railroad monopoly."—Commissioner Phillips, Final Report of Industrial Commission, pp 654-655.

3. "None of the railroads, with the exception of the Central of New Jersey, perhaps, and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, is permitted by law to operate its coal mines directly. The latter company is able to mine and ship in its own corporate capacity owing to the antiquity of its charter. The other railroads all make use of subsidiary corporations for this purpose. * * * It is difficult to justify this system of indirect operation. Some of the greatest fiscal abuses of the time have been associated with reprehensible methods of accounting involved therein. The system has also made it possible for the railroads to discourage the development of independent coal mining by individual operators through the practice of charging excessively high rates for the transportation of the coal from the mines to the seaboard."—Final Reports of Industrial Commission, pp. 447-448.

Lawbreakers, monopolists and extortionists banded together in a union for mutual profit—these are the men who have the unspeakable impudence to deny to workmen the right to unite for the protection of their interests!

No wonder the coal trust has refused to go before the civic federation and state its case for arbitration. No wonder that it has turned away from Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Potter with a contemptuous shrug and the scoffing exclamation that "anthracite coal mining is a business and not a religious, sentimental or academic proposition."

The mercy that owners of coal mines, frozen out, and independent operators, crushed by thieving railroad rates, have received, is the mercy that the miners, helpless if not united, would get from this all-grasping coal trust.

The miners are right to struggle for the existence of their union.

And in that struggle they will have the active sympathy of all who desire laborers in this republic to be free men and not slaves.—Hearst's American and Journal.

General Miles has not yet succeeded in getting for enough back to suit the administration. When he does he will be allowed to remain seated.

AT THE TOP.

It is a laudable ambition to reach the top of the ladder of success. But many a man who reaches the topmost rung finds his position a torment instead of a triumph. He has sacrificed his health to success.

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