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THE PARTING OF THE WAYS

The republican party, nationally and in many of the states, has reached a parting of the ways. It can no longer serve the "interests" and yet retain the confidence and support of the people. It must now either abandon the trusts, railroads and protected interests, else it will be abandoned by the people. Insurgents are of recent origin, in congress. They are the members who, seemingly, are attempting to serve the interests of the people. They seem to be able to interpret the people's wishes much more correctly than the regulars or majority portion of the members of that party.

It is claimed by the regulars or "stand pat" republicans, that insurgency does not stand for anything and that insurgents advocate no principle nor policy. The fact that insurgents do champion the cause of the people as against that of the trusts and protected interests, is sufficient ground or principle for any congressman to stand upon. It is the only ground upon which any congressman should stand, who conscientiously desires to serve the men whose votes placed him in office. It is the ground to which the regulars must come to, else be retired to private life. The fact that the people are replacing those "stand pat" republicans with democrats as rapidly as possible, should be warning sufficient to cause a halt to Cannonism and Aldrichism.

In Oregon these same "stand pat" republicans are endeavoring to overthrow the spirit of the primary law. They are especially bitter against Statement No. One which means that they are opposed to the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. Their evident purpose is, to either restore the old boss system, else wreck the party. It is either rule or ruin with them.

The Tremendous Power of the Contributors to Republican Campaign Funds

Secretary Shaw and congressman Vreeland, chairman of the house committee on banking and currency, indulged in a joint debate over the central bank before the New York City Republican club at their luncheon Saturday.

It is not so important what they said concerning a central bank although they presented vigorous arguments pro and con, as it is that Secretary Shaw again took occasion to point out the tremendous power of Senator Aldrich, and to remark on its "affiliations." Secretary Shaw will not be believed in Iowa to be an alarmist over the threat of trusts, nor will it be easily credited that he has suddenly taken up the gage against Wall Street. What he says is not from the standpoint of insurgency.

After making several references to the great, wise and astute man who bestrides the senate, Secretary Shaw said:

"We now have a commission headed by this great man, and we are told that he wants a central bank. His report is not yet out, but we have no doubt as to what it will be, nor need any one, if he will consider who is the chairman of the senate committee on finance and what are its affiliations."

Now what did Secretary Shaw mean when he said no one need be in doubt if he would consider that the man in charge is Senator Aldrich, and the look at his "affiliations?" The answer is easily got at for he gives it himself. The steel trust and oil trust want a central bank, and Senator Aldrich is their spokesman. Here are a few scattered sentences:

"Do you know any important city in the United States where the Standard Oil company does not own one or more banks, or where the interests that control the United States steel corporation do not own likewise?"

"I believe that they could afford to pay the debt of the United States as the price of the charter."

"What did they pay the other day

for the Equitable Life? What was the worth of the \$600,000,000 or so of assets which they got through the control of \$100,000 stock with a dividend limited to 7 per cent? Was it \$9,000,000—I forget the exact amount."

"Now I am going to assume for the time being that it is a slander—although some people believe it—that the United States steel interests swiped the Tennessee Coal and Iron company. I will assume that they did not, but if they had a central bank they certainly could."

"Morse said the other day and rightly that the affiliated banks of New York could declare that any security whatever was not good as collateral. That was no more than the truth."

And finally: "These interests can fix the price of every product we have. If you are in New Orleans and want to borrow they can say whether cotton shall be seven cents or whether it shall go to ten or fifteen cents, according as they are on the bear or bull side of the market."

It is not so important whether this connection between the Standard Oil and steel trusts and the proposed central bank can be established as definitely as Secretary Shaw assumes; there are many able men who will dispute with him as to that. But it is important that the secretary expresses his own belief as to the connection between "the leader of the senate, and the great trusts, and it is important that it is Secretary Shaw who tells us what these trusts are in position to do and have already done.—Des Moines Register and Leader, Rep.

Concerning Nonpartisans

Standpatism is as mischievous in the Democratic party as in the Republican party. Chairman Thomas of the Multnomah county Democratic central committee denies to any Democrat the right of independent action, and says in a public interview that he will "oppose the man or men who pose as non-partisans." That is to say, it is Mr. Thomas' view that for the good of the country partisanship comes first and

The republican party, by a large majority, assisted in placing the primary law, including Statement No. One upon our statute books. Nor has there appeared any dissatisfaction, of consequence, with the law as it now stands from the rank and file of the party. It is only the disgruntled and dethroned bosses, peanut politicians of ward and precinct, who are roaring for the assembly. Later developments will show this statement to be true.

A better course to disrupt and defeat a powerful political organization could not be devised. Outside of the cities and towns, a vast majority of the republicans oppose the assembly plan. The grange is almost solidly opposed to it, while there are at least, a strong minority in the cities and towns who will refuse to "follow my leader" into the assembly camp.

If the democratic party possessed a good harmonious organization, it would be the victor in nearly every state and congressional election, next fall, wherein the "stand pat" element controls the machinery of the republican party. But democracy, in some states, seems to be dominated by the interests, as fully as are the republicans. So prognostications as to what will be the result of next November, is a mere matter of guesswork.

In Oregon the issue will be clear cut. Under our present primary law, the people rule more completely than in any other state in the union. "Shall the people continue to rule or will they surrender that rule at the command of the bosses?" will be the issue. There is no doubt but what the people will win out and administer a lasting rebuke to bossism, if they become properly aroused.

The assemblyites hope the opposition to their schemes will be divided—that there will be an anti republican ticket and a democratic ticket as well. With the opposition thus divided, the assembly hopes to elect its candidates. Such division should not exist. All friends of the primary law, as it now stands, should concentrate their forces upon the election of but one set of candidates. And all candidates should be required to express themselves in writing, that they are opposed to the assembly. Unless they do so, it may be taken for granted that they wear the assembly color. Therefore every candidate should be made to show his colors. Especially if he stands for the legislature, should he be required to subscribe to Statement No. One.

Unless the voter thus protects himself, he may rest assured that the primary law is in danger. True, no United States senator is to be elected next winter; yet state senators, elected next fall, will hold over for four years and vote for a successor to Senator Bourne two years hence. But wherein the immediate danger exists, is in amendments to the primary law, and all legislators elected can say whether the original purpose of that law shall be destroyed.

If those opposed to the primary law would be honest and fair, they should propose an initiative measure for submission to the people, either to repeal or amend the law to their liking. Then, should a majority of the people be of like mind, the old order of political matters could be restored. But the bosses well know that to make a square issue of repeal, is to court defeat. So they purpose to accomplish by the assembly trick, that which they cannot do in an open straightforward manner.

So let every friend of the primary, the initiative and referendum laws get busy. All should concentrate their votes for one set of candidates only. The preservation of these measures is of vastly more importance than the preservation of party. The assembly people boast openly that they purpose to set aside the spirit of the primary law, by dictating to the primary voter whom he shall nominate. They will do this, else wreck their party. Shall the people or the bosses rule is the issue, and which should be held up before the people continually until the closing of the polls on election day.

principle afterward.

The Journal believes otherwise. Party is not the end, but the means to an end. The first thing to be considered is what is best for the country, not what is best for the party. In state affairs this is emphatically true. Principles are eternal, but the creeds of parties are man-made and men are mortal. Principles never die and never change, but party platforms change with each varying wind that sweeps over the comparatively few men who constitute a convention. An immortal principle is a safe guide, but the changeable pronouncements of a party convention are unsafe. To surrender to and be guided by the dictum of the few men in a convention is to abandon the right of independent thinking and independent action, the most sacred right known to man. To hold that, right or wrong, the individual must accept the behest of party, act only with the party and never think for himself is absurd.

The men who are voting for their country, their state, their homes and themselves are those who are guided by principle rather than by party. The men who are voting always for party are voting for the purposes, and plans of the few men who make the platform. It is the men who think for themselves and act for themselves who are real, true exponents of self government, while those who follow party blindly as sheep follow the bell wether, are literally governed by a party oligarchy. The latter are not free to control their own action, but must swallow whatever policy or creed the oligarchical convention sees fit to fix or fashion. It is not an exalted conception of American citizenship.—Portland Sunday Journal

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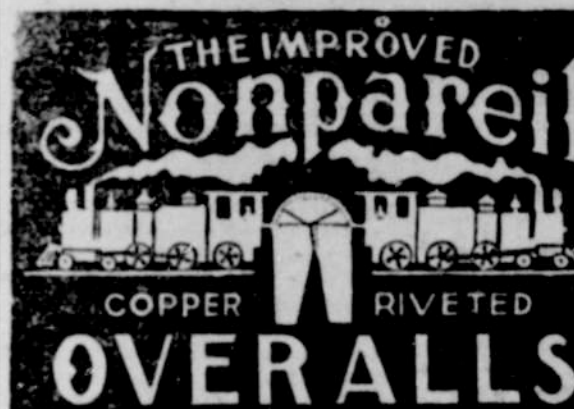
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