

## Why the Democrats are Denouncing Trusts.

Many people must have wondered at the tremendous hullabaloo made by democratic speakers and newspapers over the trusts or industrial combinations. It is perfectly well known to the public that many men who are prominent in the leadership of that party are engaged in the promotion and management of just such enterprises as are so unsparingly denounced by its mouth-pieces. The Ice Trust of New York City is merely one of many illustrations easily given (probably one of the worst.) Such an incongruity of position between the party and a number of its leaders tends to throw suspicion upon the sincerity of the outcry.

The course of the leaders in Congress and out confirms that suspicion. The question of how to deal with industrial and commercial combinations, to ascertain which are innocuous and which are injurious to the public weal and therefore proper subjects for restraint, and what remedies to apply, is admittedly a complex and difficult one. It could fairly be demanded of a party that was constantly denouncing all manner of combinations that it should present an efficient remedy; that, indeed, its diagnosis and proposed treatment should be so clear and complete as to command easy comprehension, if not general assent.

About the only remedy proposed by the democrats has been to repeal the Tariff laws applicable to the goods of all trusts or combinations. Beyond that simple panacea the physicians of that school are dumb. It has been repeatedly shown to them that similar trusts or combinations flourish and make higher prices in England, where they have no Protective Tariff at all, than here, but our democratic friends stick to their one proprietary medicine with dogged insistence.

In Congress recently the republicans, pursuing a constructive policy as usual, prepared a bill for the regulation of industrial combinations. This bill was not of the skyrocket order, but proposed the exercise of indisputable powers, and, if enacted into law, would be pretty sure to impose an effective check upon the arbitrary smothering of competition and the undue enhancement of prices. Probably the bill represented the extent of the Federal power, but it did not tinker the Tariff, and lo! the six democratic members of the committee having the bill in hand voted solidly against it.

After that and similar performances, of what use are protestations of hostility

to trusts? Apparently the position of the opposition party is merely one of opposition. If its leaders would but make a candid confession of aim and purpose it might read about like this:

"We are knee deep in trust stocks—gas, electricity, traction, steel, ice, etc.—but we have got to have a party cry. We must cuss something. The Philippine war is over; the Porto Rico incident didn't pan out much for us; the imperialism bugaboo has collided with past history of democratic policy and with the obvious purpose of McKinley to do the right thing by our new half brothers; Tariff reform and free silver are has-beens. What can we do but make the most of popular discontent with the trusts? We must make the people think that the republicans and their Tariff are responsible for the trusts. Of course, we don't mean to harm our own folks, and so, when the republicans in Congress proposed some practical anti-trust legislation, something real and definite, we looked the other way. In fact, we are a good deal like the Irishman who was looking for work and praying to heaven that he wouldn't find it."—American Economist.

### Anti-Imperialism Run Mad.

The open declaration of the anti-imperialist Free-Traders and mug-wumps that they are fully prepared to support Mr. Bryan if it comes to a choice between the popocrat and republican national tickets moves the New York Times, itself a Free Trade and mugwump journal, to raise its voice in earnest protest against a course so destructive to the country's best interest. In the opinion of the Times there is nothing in the existing situation that can justify or palliate this extraordinary attitude on the part of Messrs. Schurz, Atkinson and their brethren of the Anti-Imperialist League. Should these men, who four years ago were among the most active foes to the populist propaganda, succeed this in throwing to Mr. Bryan the votes necessary to make him the next President of the United States, theirs will be a heavy responsibility. In such an event, says the Times "they will be everywhere detested as the authors, in part, of the ruin and affliction that will follow swiftly upon the appalling disaster of that election day."

This is strong language to come from a newspaper noted for its vigorous antagonism toward republican doctrines and policies for the past quarter of a century. Stronger still is the picture

which the New York Times draws of the consequences certain to follow the defeat of McKinley and the election of Bryan as follows:

"The arrest of the country's industrial and commercial progress, the abrupt destruction of its prosperity, the conditions of business stagnation, bankruptcy, loss of employment, panic and the weary years of distress and loss while the country is waiting for the opportunity of the election of 1904 to correct the awful blunder, drive out the wreckers and install a safe government, will all be charged to their account. The maledictions of ruined men will follow them wherever they go.

Plainer truths than these have seldom been put into words. Each and every one of the dire conditions predicted as the result of Bryan's election would surely and inevitably come to pass. Dread as they may the horrors of an imperialism that has no place in the policies and intentions of the republican party, and no existence save in their own exaggerated fancies, Messrs. Schurz, Atkinson and their associates of the Anti-Imperialist League should heed this earnest remonstrance of the Times. Hate they McKinley and "McKinleyism" ever so much, they must surely hate their country even more if they are willing to inflict upon it four years of "Bryanism" and all that that implies.—American Economist.

### How Can They Do It?

The great democratic hullabaloo at Kansas City still echoes through the land. William J. Bryan, John P. Altgeld, Richard Croker, James K. Jones, and the lesser organs of Democracy proclaim in chorus that the prospects of the democratic party never were brighter.

Men who went to Kansas City to fight to the bitter end the silver plank, and men who went simply to obey Mr. Bryan's demand for 16 to 1—those who got what they wanted and those who didn't—are declaring that the very best possible thing for the democratic party was done at Kansas City and that victory is sure.

Is there any warrant for this tumult among the prophets?

By declaring against expansion the Kansas City convention put on the democratic party the heaviest load that it has carried in any campaign since the civil war. The average American citizen is a jingo. He is always opposed to surrender or retreat. Seward almost wrecked the Lincoln administration when he decided to surrender Mason and Slidell. President Cleveland united the country behind him with his Venezuela message. When the battle-ship Maine

was destroyed in Havana harbor the demand for war was almost universal. When the American commissioners went to Paris to draw the peace treaty with Spain the whole country was aflame with the expansion spirit. The American voter is neither a non-resistant nor a scuttler.

On the anti-expansion issue the democrats thus defy the spirit of the average American citizen. On the free silver issue they challenge the opposition of every man who has anything to lose. What this means requires no explanation. It was revealed in 1896. On the silver plank the Democracy cannot hope to recover such Eastern states as New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. On the anti-expansion declaration it will lose most of the Pacific states that voted for Bryan four years ago.

The platform adopted at Kansas City is no better in any part than was the platform of 1896. In many particulars it is worse. It must meet with the same opposition from business men that the Chicago platform met with four years ago. In addition it will be opposed by the masses of the American people who believe in the flag and take pride in the glory of the country.

Who then will be deceived by the outcry from Kansas City or by the prophecies of success that come from Bryan, Altgeld, Croker, and Jones?

The American people are against the Democratic party on the paramount issue of the day. The event of the campaign depends not on braggadocio and oratory, but on facts and votes. How then can the Democrats win where they lost, under more advantageous conditions, in 1896? How can they do it?—Inter Ocean.

Another great factor that is aiding the republicans in the West is the prosperity of the farmers. No class of citizens has received so much benefit from the return of good times as have the farmers of the West, and they are showing a very natural disposition to help keep the good times by their votes. Even Utah and Colorado voters are showing signs of returning common sense, and are deserting the Bryan craze for the good business principles of William McKinley.—Springfield Mass. Union.

If it is argued that Mr. Bryan's cheap money theories are of no consequence, since the free silver issue is dead, the Philadelphia Record, Dem., wants to know whether Mr. Bryan's adhesion to a dead issue is likely to enhance confidence in his judgment as a statesman upon other questions.—Boston Journal.

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