

argument: "Accept our policies; submit to our demands, or we will bring on a panic!" Some think that they can make peace with the money trust and then fight the other trusts, but it is a vain hope. There is no middle ground. The democratic party must be with the people entirely or against them entirely. The moment it begins to compromise it loses more than it can possibly gain.

EQUALITY IN TAXATION.

The Ohio democratic platform demands that railroad and street car lines shall bear their fair share of taxation. The plank reads as follows:

Steam and electric railroads and other corporations possessing public franchises shall be assessed in the same proportion to their salable value as are farms and city real estate.

Who will deny the proposition therein stated? Who will assume to suggest a different basis of assessment? The railroad enjoys the right of eminent domain; it can take any property it wants for railroad purposes. The state surrenders to it enough of sovereignty to enable it to demand any man's land, even his homestead, upon the tender of its salable value. The street car line enjoys a valuable franchise, usually secured from the people's representatives without the knowledge of the people themselves. Why should the ordinary individual, who receives from his government no franchises, bonuses, subsidies, or special privileges, pay taxes upon the full value of his land, while the railroads and the street car lines pay taxes on but a small per cent. of the value of their property? Why should the farmer be compelled to pay taxes on the full value upon his horses, cattle, hogs, and other walking stock, while railroads and street car lines pay on but a small per cent. of the value of their rolling stock? Mayor Johnson is responsible for the insertion of this plank, and it is eminently just. The candidates upon the state ticket can afford to challenge their opponents to discuss this proposition before the people of their state. Equality before the law is a maxim that is being more and more ignored. The democrats of Ohio are to be congratulated upon their attempts to revive this principle in state affairs. They would have been wiser if they had applied it to national affairs as well.