

The Public

Fifth Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1902.

Number 235.

LOUIS F. POST, Editor.

Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post Office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last page.

Senator Hanna has sounded the Republican keynote for the Ohio campaign. It is worthy of the man and his cause. Listen to his words at the opening meeting of his party, held at Akron on the 27th: "I told you last year to let well enough alone; to-day I say, Stand pat!"

We are informed by amateurs in the uplifting game from which Mr. Hanna borrows his defiant vocabulary, that the player who ostentatiously "stands pat" may be reasonably suspected of trying to perpetrate a "bluff." With that explanation the meaning of the Hanna keynote becomes clear.

Even the party papers of this distinguished Republican recognize the "bobtailedness" of the "sickly flush" upon which he tells his party to "stand pat." A staff correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, for instance, in writing from Columbus on the 28th, observes that the Republican campaign in Ohio is a bare-faced bluff. "The Republican leaders," he writes, "have begun the discussion of national issues, tariff, trusts, Philippines, Cuban reciprocity, ship subsidy, and similar topics, but every one is aware that upon the action of the legislature at its present extraordinary session depends much in the present political campaign." He then explains that "a deadlock in the legislature, or a settlement of the code question in the interests of corporations, or a municipal system which benefits one community at the expense of another, would be disastrous to the Republicans."

That is Mr. Hanna's reason for "standing pat" with a handful of national issues. He wants to divert attention from local government, local taxation and local street car systems. As he himself has recently said, he expects, while he remains in politics, to make his political policy conform to his business interests. Therefore, while he works with the State legislature to promote his business affairs at the expense of the people, he "stands pat" on national issues.

With national issues also, the same bluffing spirit is to be observed. In that connection, to "stand pat," is to assert that times are good and that plutocrats have made them so. "Keep us in power, if you want good times to continue; should you so much as hint at a desire to put us out, our Joss will curse you with hard times!" is the never-ceasing cry of the plutocratic ring for whom Hanna speaks. Yet he knows, and all the Republican leaders know—you will hear them say so if the period of hard times begins before the people repudiate their leadership—that hard times result from general conditions, and cannot be controlled by political parties merely as parties. A more hypocritical pretense was never invented than the pretense of Republican leaders that business conditions depend upon keeping their party in power. It is a threat, a bluff, a "stand pat;" and while the people have allowed themselves to be fooled by it, they are not likely to do so always.

When Senator Foraker spoke at the Ohio keynote meeting where Senator Hanna ostentatiously "skinned his cards" and announced that he would "stand pat," Mr. Foraker found it necessary to discuss the trust question. In the course of that dis-

cussion he found it necessary, also, to make at least one inexcusable misrepresentation. He said that "trusts did not originate here, as a result of the tariff, but in England and European countries where they have free trade." Now, in fact, there is not one free trade country in Europe, except England, as Mr. Foraker must well know. Even England is not strictly a free trade country; but as her tariff is for revenue, Mr. Foraker may be excused for calling her one; while he cannot be excused for so referring to other European countries. Germany, Russia, Spain, Italy, Austria, all are protection countries. And though England be called a free trade country, it is not true that trusts flourish there. The aggregate capitalization of all the trusts of Great Britain is hardly more than a third of the capitalization of the American Steel trust alone. To see European trusts, you must go to the protection countries of Europe, like Germany, where they abound as they do here. Does Mr. Foraker intend to "stand pat" on his misstatement?

Further in the course of his speech at Mr. Hanna's "stand pat" meeting, Senator Foraker met the "Iowa Idea" with this response:

To admit duty free all articles the like of which are produced in this country by trusts, would probably stop the trusts, but only because it would at the same time stop everything else.

Since the learned Senator thus admits that the "Iowa Idea" would probably stop the trusts, it is unnecessary to say anything upon that point. It is conceded. Nothing remains to consider, then, but the question of whether it would at the same time stop everything else. After allowing fully for Mr. Foraker's epigram habit, which so often seduces its victims into mere phrase-making,