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The naval tournament in New England waters, in which one of the fleet commanders distinguished himself and shed glory upon the service by his reception to the American duchess of an English duke, has been highly successful in another respect. It has demonstrated, say the Washington dispatches, the absolute need for a larger navy. This will be appreciated by the steel trust, and is at the same time a proper rebuke to those spineless creatures who have taken the Prince of Peace at his word.

William J. Bryan's editorial criticism of President Roosevelt's trust apologetics, which appeared in the Commoner of the 5th, was accompanied in the same issue by Roosevelt's speech in full. The criticism is criticised in turn by Roosevelt papers, which allow their readers to see nothing of the article they criticise except a few sentences wrested from their context. That policy, though not commendable, is certainly shrewd. Few things could be more dangerous to Mr. Roosevelt and the trusts, than the publication, side by side in the Republican papers, of Roosevelt's speech and Bryan's criticism.

President Roosevelt protests his inability to relieve the strike situation; and, indeed, he may not be able to do anything. But so strenuous a man ought at least to be able to try. He ought to be able to do something besides explaining why he can do nothing. Could he not do as much to cripple the anthracite coal trust as he did to cripple the beef trust. If an in-

junction were issued against the coal trust, it would certainly have some effect. Why doesn't President Roosevelt apply for one, as he did when beef went up in price? It is becoming all too evident that the "grand stand play" is much more in his line than some of the things he boasts of. It must be admitted, however, that you can't fight trusts and get big campaign funds too, unless you are omnipotent; and Mr. Roosevelt is not omnipotent.

Intelligent newspaper readers were surprised a few days ago by press reports to the effect that the Anti-Imperialist League had come to the conclusion that President Roosevelt's colonial plans are satisfactory and had therefore decided to abandon further opposition to this un-American policy. As might have been expected, however, the dispatches were "fakes." The anti-imperialist leagues are correctly represented by the New England organization, of which George S. Boutwell is president. This league declares, over the signatures of its president, Mr. Boutwell, and its secretary, Erving Winslow, that—

the rumors which have appeared recently that the anti-imperialists would suspend agitation for the present and await the results of President Roosevelt's policy are without any foundation whatever. On the contrary, they declare that they have no confidence in President Roosevelt's policy or purpose, as declared in his recent speeches, and that the anti-imperialists will aid in the election of members of Congress who are opposed to continued occupation of the Philippines and who are in favor of the establishment of an independent government without delay.

Dispatches from West Virginia indicate that militarism is in a bad way in that State. A special to the Baltimore Sun from Huntington on Labor Day said:

Gov. A. B. White made an address at Union park in which he advised

the laboring men to join the state militia, but this advice was greeted with cries of "No, never!" from a chorus of union labor. He undertook to explain the necessity of sending the troops to the New River coal fields, which was received in silence, and the governor did not get the slightest applause during his speech.

Another dispatch to the same paper from Parkersburg said:

The soldiers, whose sympathies were all with the strikers from the first, have used their influence with the men who are at work, and have persuaded so many of them to join the strikers that the detachment stationed at Rush Run had to be recalled and sent to another point to keep it from emptying the mine.

It would seem that a way ought to be found to secure an injunction from Judge Jackson forbidding militiamen to turn themselves into walking delegates.

Tom L. Johnson is evidently worrying the plutocrats in a wider field, as for two years he has worried those of Cleveland. The indications are unmistakable. It is impossible now to pick up any newspaper that works in plutocratic harness which has not its sneer for Johnson. So badly is this press gang worried that Bryan is actually becoming respectable in their generous esteem.

The particular target at present for their attack upon Johnson is his use of a circus tent for his popular meetings in Ohio. Well may this circus tent give them concern. It is no new device with Johnson. He adopted it in his Cleveland campaigns with a degree of success that has made the plutocrats of that city turn white in the face, partly from anger and partly from fear.

The valuable secret about Johnson's circus tent campaign, as experience has proved, is not its novelty and picturesqueness. It is the fact

that it enables Johnson to get next to the people, and so to circumvent the misrepresentations of corrupted newspapers. The tent affords an immense auditorium for every locality to which it is taken, and everywhere it is filled with the open minded members of all parties. In Cleveland it was moved from ward to ward, so that the people had only to walk under its shelter by the thousands, as they did, to hear Johnson's version of the great Cleveland lawsuit of Democracy against Plutocracy, in which he was lawyer for the plaintiff. All the voters of Cleveland were thereby reached by his facts and arguments, as they could not have been with meetings in halls; and in consequence Johnson carried this Republican stronghold. The misrepresentations of plutocratic newspapers went for nothing.

His tent is now serving the same uses over the entire State of Ohio that it served in Cleveland. It is going into nearly every county of the State, especially the Republican counties, as it went into every ward of the city. Every voter in Ohio will thus be given an opportunity to put intelligence into his ballot. Whether he does so or not will depend upon himself. At any rate he will have no excuse for ignorance of the affairs that concern him. Corrupted newspapers will be able to fool nobody who doesn't want to be fooled. The circus tent plan of campaign is the most democratic and dignified and enlightening of any that have been undertaken since the old days of the "stump," when all the voters of a neighborhood turned out en masse to hear political speaking on either side. One of the best features of it in this case is the fact that Johnson offers everywhere to divide time with any representative Republican speaker and to guarantee him a courteous hearing. In this way the tent plan of campaign is calculated to break down and do away with the one-sided style of campaigning so long in vogue and which lends itself so readily to the uses of the pluto-

cratic schemers and machine politicians.

When the full significance of "The Iowa Idea" is grasped the quakes among Eastern protectionists are comprehensible. For "The Iowa Idea," as Walter Wellman describes it, after interviewing its sponsors, is—

very simple, very practical, . . . One short sentence will suffice to express it: "Whenever the tariff is a prop to monopoly, knock it out." A broader statement of it might be: "Whenever combination at home destroys competition in a protected article, remove the protection and thus induce competition from abroad." There is nothing complex about this. A schoolboy can understand it.

Truly so. And a tariff beneficiary can understand what a schoolboy might not, that if this idea once gains momentum in American politics it will knock the whole protection system higher than Gilderoy's kite.

Gov. Cummins himself may not understand this, but it is only necessary to read his explanation, as made to Mr Wellman, to realize that "The Iowa Idea" has within it splendid possibilities. Here is what he said:

"Competition is the fundamental principle of industrial life," he began. "Anything that checks competition is inimical to the public good. We do not speak now of monopolies in patents, or in franchises for public utilities, but of manufacturing and production in the ordinary sense. The legitimate purpose of the tariff is to equalize the art of production abroad and at home. There is no morality in a tariff that goes beyond that. The tariff question is more or less involved in what is called the trust question, because of the marked tendency of the time. This tendency is toward combination. Many combinations are formed for the sole purpose of issuing watered stocks and working them off upon the public. In others the prime motive is to stifle competition. Indeed, there can be no other rational motive after a certain point in the search for economy has been reached. The economy of combinations does not pass a certain limit of size. In fact, after a certain line is crossed, the tendency is the other way. In a great operation many profits may be combined, and the resulting aggregate is very large, but analysis shows that true economy, the actual cheapening of production, is absent. We Republicans of Iowa propose to say to the creators of these com-

binations: 'You may have a reasonable tariff. You may have profits, and large profits, if you are successful. But the moment you establish a monopoly you shall have the favor of the tariff taken from you.'"

The fact that Cummins has routed the Shaw faction in Iowa politics, and that Shaw, with all the Federal backing and prestige that President Roosevelt has put into his hands has been unable to recover his old place, is a reasonably strong indication that Gov. Cummins, with his "Iowa Idea," has struck a responsive chord in the sentiment of the people of Iowa. "The Iowa Idea" is destined to make itself heard further.

A startling disclosure of the political manipulations in Illinois for the benefit of monopoly corporations, has been made by George A. Schilling in a public address as president of the Public Ownership League of Chicago. He shows that the Democratic nominations have been so arranged that the Republican machine would remain in power though the Democrats were to sweep the State.

In substance, Mr. Schilling's explanation is as follows: Among the hold-over senators in Illinois the Republicans have a majority of 6. Consequently, if the Democrats were to win in half the senatorial districts in which candidates are to be voted for, the Republicans would still hold the senate by 6 majority. Turn now to the lower house. It requires 77 Democratic members to make a majority of 1 in that body. But the Democrats have made only 79 nominations. Consequently, if they elected every candidate, as well as half the senators, there would still be a Republican majority of 1 on joint ballot.

That there was no legitimate political necessity for this, Mr. Schilling also makes clear. It has been done for an ulterior purpose and by a misuse of the minority representation system prevailing in Illinois, whereby any candidate for the lower house is credited with three votes for every vote cast for him which is cast for no one else for that office. Under this