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**THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK IN THE U. S. A.**

Political issues in the neighboring republic are much clearer this year than for many years past. The Republican party, as heretofore, stands squarely for capitalism, with its accompanying concentration of industry into trusts and combines; and seeks as before to deceive the masses by the cry that high protection benefits the nation, and that the subjugation of weaker peoples is necessary to maintain the national growth. The Republican standard-bearer, President Roosevelt, is he who lately, at the behest of some speculators who had bought a controlling interest in Panama Canal stock, violated the law of nations by fomenting a revolution in the Columbian State of Panama and then preventing Columbia from reasserting her authority on the Isthmus. By thus making war on Columbia without first consulting his Congress, he also violated the Constitution of the U. S. A. and acted the part of dictator. That his course was condoned by the Republican party makes this dictatorship no more justifiable and no less a menace to the national life.

The Democrats, who so long have masqueraded as a reform party while being in reality only the party of the smaller capitalists, have this year thrown off the mask and appeared on the stage as a full fledged division of the monopolist forces. The radical ideas of Bryan, whose influence in 1896 and 1900

was sufficiently strong to hood-wink and sidetrack the young but rapidly growing People's Party, have been cast aside and a candidate chosen who is "entirely acceptable to Wall Street." This candidate, Judge Parker, will or should be remembered by organized labor as one of the nine judges of the highest court in New York State, who a short time ago unanimously declared the eight hour law "unconstitutional." The workingman who votes for Parker will therefore vote for the continuance of "government by injunction," which is fast becoming the rule of late. The vice-presidential candidate, Mr. Davis, is a West Virginia coal baron—a fine representative of the poor man!

The People's Party, in their first presidential campaign in 1892, cast 1,025,000 votes, carrying several states. In 1896, too eager to win quickly, they fused with the Democrats, and repeated the same fatal tactics in 1900, with the result that much of the organization was swallowed up by the Democrats with no corresponding gain resulting from the union. However, in 1900 a small but select band refused to continue the agreement with the Democrats, and ran an independent ticket, which received 50,000 votes. This year the fusionist majority came to themselves, re-united with the "middle-of-the-roaders," and denounced the Democratic alliance. The rejuvenated Populist party run next election on their own account. Already the Albany Co., N. Y., Democratic convention has bolted from Parker, and declared for Watson and Tibbles, the Populist candidates; and there are more who will do likewise. Parker must cut heavily into Roosevelt's ranks if he would balance his loss to Watson. The Populists advocate government ownership of railways, telegraphs, etc., government issue of all money, direct legislation by the initiative and referendum; but carefully avoid the main question—public ownership of all land and machinery. So, with all their plausible phrases, they must also be reckoned among the capitalist parties.

The Prohibition party, another adjunct of capitalism, will again contest the field. Having but one of many needed reforms to offer, they have failed to reach the popular heart, and for years have made little or no progress.

Two Socialist parties are again

in the field—the "Socialist" and "Socialist Labor." Each stands squarely for the overthrow of the wage system and the substitution therefor of public ownership of all the means of production (land, mines and machinery), distribution (railway, telegraph, telephone and steamship lines); and exchange. They differ in their attitude towards trades unions and the party press. The Socialist Labor organs are all owned by the party; the Socialist, by private persons or corporations. Fearing betrayal, the Socialist Labor party will not admit to membership officers of trades unions; the other party will. The former have a Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance, which aims to replace the ordinary form of union; the latter rely more upon work within the old unions to convert those unions to Socialism. The American Labor Union, the principal Western labor organization, has declared for Socialism, and hence the desire of Colorado capitalists to exterminate it. The growth of the Socialist vote (counting the aggregate of both parties) has been as follows:

In 1888, 2,068 votes; 1892, 21,157; 1896, 36,564; 1900, 131,000; 1902, 283,000.

At that rate, we may look for over 600,000 next November. Pinched by increasingly hard times brought on by the greed of employers the workers are beginning to think; and thinkers do not blindly follow the old party leaders. From this time forth Socialism will increase in geometrical ratio, and, it would seem, only two or three more presidential campaigns lie between it and complete success.

H. H. STUART.

Fredericton Junction, Aug. 9th, 1904.

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