

Not "Glittering Generalities."

The Coast Seamen's Journal, published at San Francisco and known as the organ of the international seamen's union of America recently printed the following paragraph: "Noting the use made of the Declaration of Independence by the opponents of trade unionism, it occurs to us that that document may after all be merely a mass of 'glittering generalities.'"

Commenting on this paragraph, the Wall Street Journal says:

"This is a somewhat interesting admission, which, however, is neither new in itself nor a reflection of any new development of thought on the part of union leaders. The plain fact of the matter is that the vast majority of union men hold opinions which are absolutely at variance with the truths enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, but only a few of them have the clear-sightedness to recognize it or the honesty to admit it."

Is it possible the Wall Street Journal will contend that the Napoleons of finance and the trust magnates hold opinions that are entirely in line with the truths enunciated in the Declaration of Independence? Men may seek to use the statements in the Declaration of Independence for selfish and unholy purposes, but even though these statements are so used, there is no warrant for saying that they are "glittering generalities." They are self-interpreting and serve as a stinging rebuke to the trust magnates.

Do we not remember that Mr. Baer, the coal baron, said that the enormously rich men of the country were the trustees of God, ordained to handle and distribute wealth; yet how strikingly is this claim at variance with the self-evident truth in the Declaration of Independence that all men are endowed by the Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and that governments are for the purpose of preserving these rights; and because this is so, governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Paraphrasing the language of the Wall Street Journal, the plain fact of the matter is that the trust magnates, and the financiers of Wall street, hold opinions which are absolutely at variance with the truths enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. Many of these men not only have the clear-sightedness to recognize it, but they have the brutal frankness to admit it; and whenever, in a gathering of these men, an orator has the temerity to refer to the Declaration of Independence, he is met with the sneers of those whose system is essentially at war with that great "passionate chant of human freedom."

Reorganizers Unfold Their Plans.

The Detroit Free Press in its issue of March 2 publishes the following editorial under the title, "A Decent Candidate":

"The Wall Street Journal prints what purports to be a correct description of Mr. Cleveland's attitude in the national campaign. It says:

"We are in a position to state two things with respect to Mr. Cleveland and the presidency.

"The first is that his determination not to be a candidate is unalterable and fixed against any and all contingencies that may be imagined.

"The second thing is that Mr. Cleveland has very slight expectations of the democratic party nominating what might be called a "decent" candidate for the presidency this year, and he has expressed to friends his opinion that in the circumstances and failing a "decent" democratic candidate the re-election of President Roosevelt is the best possible thing for the country.

"No great gift of credulity is required to believe that the Wall Street Journal has accurately defined Mr. Cleveland's position. It is the attitude, we think, of nearly all the conservative, old-fashioned democrats of the country. They would like to see their party nominate a 'decent' candidate for president. By that they mean a man whom they can support without insulting their intelligence or sacrificing their self-respect. By the term 'decent candidate,' they exclude both the scheming politician whose conservatism is assumed to suit his purposes, as well as the honest, but misguided political fanatic who thinks a party platform is a bed of Pro-

crustes. If the party could be induced to name an honest, respectable, intelligent, sane candidate, they would like to vote for him. Otherwise, they will support Theodore Roosevelt as they supported William McKinley. Many of them are far more reluctant to vote for Mr. Roosevelt than they were to vote for his predecessor. Some of his aggressive, pushing policies are decidedly unpalatable; but as between Theodore Roosevelt and populism, they are for Theodore Roosevelt."

This editorial is reproduced because it illustrates the rule or ruin policy of those who, having twice contributed to the party's defeat, are now determined to republicanize it or again cast their influence against it. Whether Mr. Cleveland's attitude is correctly set forth by the Wall Street Journal is not so material, although the Free Press accepts it as authentic, but what is most significant is that the Free Press should indorse the views attributed to the ex-president and justify "the old-fashioned, conservative democrats" in supporting the republican ticket if they cannot control the nomination. This far in advance of the convention, when no one can say who will be nominated or what the platform will contain the party is informed by the bolters that they will dominate the party or, if they fail in that, destroy it if they can.

This is Clevelandism and it is strange that true and loyal democrats can be deceived by the harmony talk indulged in by those who are not so frank as the editor of the Free Press.

With all the impudence and insolence of the managers of the Nick Biddle bank the present gold worshipping democrats assume to offer victory to the party as a reward for the betrayal of the public, and some weak-kneed democrats, who lack the spirit of Jackson, seem ready to make a bargain. Such a contract, even if the financiers were able to guarantee the victory, would disgrace the party. What reason is there for a democratic party if not to perpetuate a government of the people, by the people, and for the people? There can be no real harmony between the plutocratic and the democratic elements in the democratic party. There is no basis for compromise; they are going in opposite directions. Mr. Cleveland selected his officials from the minority element in his party and delivered the organization over to Wall street. When the voters of the party protested and by an honest and democratic trial of strength at the primaries repudiated the administration, the president and all the salaried officials whom he could coerce went over to the republican party. For nearly eight years the party has been trying to conciliate deserters and coax them to return. The party has been pandering to the plutocratic element, and that element has grown in arrogance. Now let it "pander to the moral sense of the country," as some one has aptly put it. Let it make up its mind to alienate now and forever every champion of special privileges, every defender of organized wealth, and every beneficiary of corporate greed; let it appeal to the conscience of the country and appeal with a sincerity and a consistency that will win to the party the lovers of liberty, the friends of honest government and the champions of human rights. All that the reorganizers can offer are crooked methods, a corruption fund with which to further debauch politics and a praise that would blight rather than bless the party. The Free Press editorial, by its brutal frankness, ought to strengthen the party for the great struggle now before it—a struggle which is to determine whether the party is to deserve success, and succeeding, is to realize the hopes of the masses.

Competition.

The New York Commercial is indignant because the republican members of the American Newspaper Publishers' association permitted that organization to adopt a resolution calling for the destruction of the tariff on pulp and paper.

The Commercial says that if the cost of paper is becoming a burden to the publishers, they should obtain relief by raising the price of their newspapers and adds:

"With the price of raw cotton abnormally high and the cost of cotton goods of all classes bound to be much higher than now, and with the price of loaf bread, rolls and 'cracker' products already advancing in response to 'dollar wheat' and higher, the public's attention is called to the really absurdly low cost at which it gets its newspapers."

The Commercial overlooks the fact that there

is strong rivalry in the newspaper field and because of this rivalry it is plain that it would not be practicable to increase newspaper prices.

There is no competition in the products of the trust, and so for the trust products, which the people must have, they must pay the price fixed by the trust.

Another fact, not entirely unworthy of consideration, is that the people can subsist without newspapers. They cannot, however, subsist without the many things upon which greedy trust magnates have secured a monopoly.

The "Merger" Case.

On Monday last, by a majority of five to four, the United States supreme court upheld the decision of the circuit court in the Northern Securities case, pronouncing the "merger" illegal and declaring that it comes within the inhibition of the Sherman anti-trust law. The decision will be discussed in The Commoner next week.

The opinion of the court upholds the Sherman anti-trust law, not only as against the merger, but against all other combinations in restraint of trade and competition. This being true, President Roosevelt, will you now take steps to prosecute those trusts organized to restrain competition? Will you now proceed under the criminal clause of the law which has just been declared constitutional in the decision rendered in the Northern Securities case?

The people will await your decision with great interest, President Roosevelt.

What Reorganization Means.

When the bankers who coerced their debtors to vote the republican ticket, and the employers who coerced their workmen, and the corporation attorneys who left the democratic party to please their employers—when these men secure control of the democratic organization, write the platform and name the candidates, then the loyal democrats will realize what reorganization means.

A Special Offer.

Attention is again directed to The Commoner's subscription offer. This offer provides to every reader of The Commoner the opportunity to assist in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation and thus widen The Commoner's sphere of influence. Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER		
Application for Subscription Cards		
5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.	
10		
15		
20		
25		
50		
75		
100		
Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank		
Name		
Box, or Street No.		
P. O. State		
If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.		