

Mexican and foreign, who put their pecuniary interests above all questions of morals and of representative government.

As an illustration of the unfairness of his criticism of the President's policy in Mexico, he charges the President with interference in the politics of Mexico, because the President was not willing to have Huerta re-elect himself by force while exercising arbitrary and despotic power, and yet he has no words of condemnation for the republican ambassador to Mexico, who allowed Huerta and Felix Diaz to use the American embassy as a meeting place, when they plotted the overthrow of President Madero. Surely, this is partisanship of the most extreme kind.

All the way through the speech, Mr. Hughes criticises and scolds, without setting forth the alternative course which he would have followed.

Mr. Hughes assails the removal of so-called experienced diplomats in Latin-America. He forgets to say that they were experienced in the dollar diplomacy that President Wilson overthrew. It was in Latin-America, more than anywhere else, that the diplomatic service had been commercialized; and it was hardly to be expected that the President would use republicans of this type and experience to carry out a new policy built on the theory of friendship and fair dealing.

Plutocracy is in full cry. The plunderbund, angered by the reform measures put on the statute books by a democratic President and a democratic congress, are now out for revenge. The predatory interests are following Mr. Hughes, checkbook in hand. If the republican party regains control of the federal government, there will be a return to the wallow in the mire of special privilege, and another national awakening will be necessary to rescue the government from those who have, under republican rule, used the instrumentalities of government for the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many.

In so far as the campaign turns on domestic issues, the real question is whether the country shall hold the reforms secured, and press forward for other remedial legislation, or sound a retreat all along the line.

W. J. BRYAN.

If Mr. Hughes wants to add a few degrees of refrigeration to the amount now on hand let him go into a town that has sent some state militia boys to the Rio Grande and advocate intervention in Mexico.

THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign progresses. Candidate Hughes is "swinging around the circle"—once thought a very undignified thing for a presidential candidate to do. President Wilson is at Washington, co-operating with congress in completing the splendid legislative record of this administration. The drift is toward the democratic position. Fusion between the republicans and progressives failed and many progressives will vote for Wilson and Marshall.

Mr. Hughes has proven a disappointment as a candidate. His violent, partisan abuse does not please; he is losing ground with the thinking public.

Never before having nominated a supreme judge for president the country had no idea of the amount of vitriol a justice could store up for campaign purposes.

TAFT A CHAUTAUQUA LECTURER

Ex-President Taft, realizing that the chautauqua platform furnishes the best opportunity offered in the United States for the delivery of a message worth delivering to an audience worth talking to, is now one of the star attractions under the chautauqua tent. But what will the Pulitzer and Hearst papers say? Will they assail him as they did Mr. Bryan?

FIFTY-TWO TO TWELVE

The Child-Labor bill passed the senate by a vote of 52 to 12, and yet, but for the President's urgent insistence it would have been postponed. Under the undemocratic rule of the senate allowing UNLIMITED DEBATE these twelve senators could have prevented consideration by threatening a prolonged discussion but for the President's determination to have a vote this session. The bill is a meritorious one—it adds another to the long list of remedial measures secured by this administration.

W. J. BRYAN.

Deeds versus Talk

In the fall of 1915 proposed women's suffrage amendments to the Constitution of New York and New Jersey were submitted to the voters of those states.

President Wilson made a special trip from Washington to Princeton to register and another trip to vote for Votes for Women.

The records of the Board of Elections of New York County fail to disclose that Mr. Hughes either registered or voted on this occasion.

Furthermore the records show that since 1910 Mr. Hughes has neglected to exercise at all the right of suffrage—the highest duty of a citizen.

ROOSEVELT'S LOST OPPORTUNITY

Colonel Roosevelt presents a sad case of unpreparedness. For more than three years the conditions in Mexico have been unsatisfactory to him and yet he made no effort to raise a "division" of soldiers. While the war bridegroom (as it were) tarried he slumbered and slept. Like the foolish virgins, he took no oil with him, and so, when the opportunity came the state militia went to the Rio Grande "and the door was shut." Yes, it was shut in his face, and now he must languish in peace. Let this be a warning to all would-be military heroes to keep at least one army division on hand.

"SHAMING HUGHES"

"Shaming Hughes" seems to have been the chief business of the present administration, according to the republican candidate. He has been kept so busy blushing for the mistakes of democratic officials that he has not had time to properly study supreme court cases—or was it bias rather than lack of time that led him to decide FOR the railroads and AGAINST labor?

Candidate Hughes says that for three years the President's Mexican policy has "shamed" him; possibly it was his own decision in the Minnesota case that caused the feeling of shame.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND

In the campaign of 1912 President Wilson (then governor of New Jersey) announced that no campaign contributions would be received from corporations. This act of the democratic candidate for the presidency was approved by democrats who wanted the party to be free from the control of the special interests, and it established a precedent that should guide the action of all political parties.

In that memorable campaign the democratic national committee appealed to the people for funds with which to conduct its campaign, and received a generous response from all sections of the country. Funds will be needed this year, and the committee will again depend upon the people for financial support. The Commoner will assist in the collection of this fund and it will receive contributions, acknowledging the same in its columns and delivering the fund to the democratic national committee.

Every democrat ought to have some part in this work. Do not be ashamed of a small contribution. Give what you can afford and every penny will be acceptable.

Here is a suggestion to Commoner readers: Circulate a subscription list at once among the democrats of your precinct and send the proceeds to The Commoner office without delay. The democratic national committee must be supplied with funds immediately.

W. J. BRYAN.

Leaving It to the Experts

Some New York ministers have signed a protest against an anti-preparedness appeal, and, in the course of their protest, say: "Perhaps our fellow ministers who have signed the appeal will pardon us for believing that the decision as to what form our preparedness shall take may best be left to the responsible officers of our government and to those whose own lives in case of war will be first involved, and that the rest of us will best fulfil our duty as ministers by earnest prayer and spiritual counsel, and our duty as patriots by abstaining from profitless addresses to the government."

What an exalted idea of the minister's duty! With this country at a crisis and undecided as to whether to join Europe in relying upon Pilate's philosophy of force or put Christ's teachings to the test—at such a crisis, these ministers refuse to advise. They leave manufacturers of munitions and jingo editors to give expression to a manufactured public opinion; they leave professional soldiers to set up sham standards of honor. Did we leave the men who carried revolvers to decide whether we should prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons? No, the ministers took part in the discussion—and yet it was the ones who carried the weapons "whose own lives" were "first involved" in shooting scrapes. What a pity that any of the clergy should fear to take their stand with "the Prince of Peace" at such a time. It was the soldiers who were employed by the elders to spread the report that Christ was stolen away.

W. J. BRYAN.

FAKE WAR NEWS

The following dispatch comes from San Antonio:

"San Antonio, Tex., Aug. 1.—General Funston tonight sent to the war department at Washington a telegram announcing his intention to rid the various national guard camps of newspaper correspondents who send out false accounts of conditions in the camps. He referred to such correspondents as 'pests' and said he had endured them as long as he proposed to."

Good for Funston. The "Fake Factories" on the border ought to be wiped out. They are more of a menace to the nation than Mexican bandits. The country has no more dangerous enemies than the conscienceless representatives of a sensationalist press who daily sell their souls for pay. They are responsible for much of the hatred existing across the border.

MR. HUGHES IS EXPLAINING

Mr. Hughes began explaining as soon as he struck the west. He is now trying to explain his message to the legislature opposing the income tax—but the explanation won't work. He says he favored the principle but opposed the language in which it was expressed—but the rest of the country DID NOT OPPOSE THE LANGUAGE. He is like the stingy business man who subscribed to all proposed churches, but saved himself from paying by fighting the location of the church.