

## THE TIME AND THE CHANGE.

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and few more decisions such as those declaring invalid an income tax, remitting the Standard Oil fine, and annulling regulation of freights and fares within states, the necessary three fourths of the states will be lined up for a new convention. A constitution framed in the present temper of the people would sweep away an appointive judiciary, and substitute courts elected by popular majorities and subject to recall. If those ends are reached the privileged classes, those who have based upon the protection given them by strict construction of constitutional forms their continual and insidious encroachments upon the rights of the people will have only themselves to blame. But it is inevitable, for the ideals of a class never rise higher than will permit the chains fastened upon them by the cupidity of their individual members. Plunder of the people has been too much the aim of the capitalistic classes and their representatives in government—they have even diverted and debauched sound doctrines such as that of protection to home industry—and now the people are arising in their wrath to fix things so all that will be stopped, whether it be in misapplication of the doctrine of protection or in misappropriation of the great natural resources of the country.

Of course those who are making a stand against the approach of the new order of things bewail "the destruction of representative government;" but the cry will not suffice. If representative government had been what it claims—truly representative of the will and interests of the people—there might be some force and weight in a protest against its modification: for it will not be destroyed, it will be expanded in one way and restricted in another; it will be expanded so the people will have full, true and responsive representation in the government, and it will be restricted so the money kings will not dominate at the council board of the republic, nor in the conduct of state governments.

As presented at the beginning of this article the founders of the government left entrenched within its organization the very power of which the throne they rejected was but the visible exponent—the power of wealth and its inherent disposition to concentration, arrogance and injustice. Claiming to establish "a government of the people, by the people and for the people" they gave the latter a voice in selection of a part of one branch in the government, and left all the rest open to manipulation by the power of concentrated wealth. The first form under which the latter

seized and dominated the government was that of the slave power. Before a generation had passed the aroused conscience of the people protested against the iniquity of slavery. But entrenched behind the provisions of the Constitution and its control of the executive, judiciary and senate that iniquitous power flaunted its supercilious arrogance in the faces of the people, and made of the Constitution which protected it a fetish to be worshipped. Driven from control of the government in 1860 by popular edict the slave power then sought destruction of the republic. Arising in their wrath the people crushed that arrogant, iniquitous power.

Another generation has passed, and in another form the power of concentrated wealth has become dominant and arrogant. It controls executives, courts, legislatures and congresses. Against all attempts at regulation it pleads constitutional protection, and it has erected its aristocratic life tenured courts into a fetish to be worshipped. But the people are determined that concentrated wealth shall submit to regulation so its operation shall be administered to the common good. They are not going to crush it as they did the slave power, but they will regulate it. To that end they will modify their government so it will be representative truly of their wants and needs and wishes. That is why there is sweeping over the country the great popular demand for the initiative, referendum, recall, direct primary elections, etc. It is a demand which cannot be laid except by acceding to the wishes of the people and granting them.

"Times change and men frequently change with them; but principles never: they are eternal, immutable, unalterable and unchangeable." Among those eternal, immutable, unalterable and unchangeable principles is that of "a government of the people, by the people and for the people." Representative government has failed in its intention. The people are now arising and will change or modify it so it will meet the wants and needs of the time. And the United States is now in the midst of a silent, peaceful, yet irresistible revolution which will work wondrous change.

## THE RESULT IN ARIZONA.

At this writing it is apparent plainly that the republicans in Arizona have met with defeat overwhelming in the election of delegates to the constitutional convention. They have elected not more than one dozen of the fifty-two delegates in the convention provided by the enabling act. All the returns are not definitely ascertained, but the count appears to be that the republicans elected five delegates in Pima county, two in Coconino, one in Santa Cruz, one in Navajo (upon a fusion ticket),

one in Gila, one in Yavapai, and it is thought that final returns may show election of another republican in Gila county. In Cochise, Maricopa, and elsewhere in Arizona the defeat of the republican candidates is overwhelming. They failed "to get a look in anywhere."

There is but little use in crying over spilt milk, nor does it do any good to recount how or why or wherein the result might have been different. But yet there is always an irresistible disposition to do so, and THE OASIS will yield to that disposition right now. The result is the assinine disposition of the republicans of Arizona to split upon every opportunity. When the territorial committee met at Prescott in July it was agreed that it would not be policy to commit the party to any line of policy but to leave the organization to its own devices in the various counties. The committee saw the rising tide of public sentiment in favor of progressive principles, and left the party free to mount and ride it to success wherever necessary. In Santa Cruz county the tide was mounted successfully, and it carried the candidate to victory. In Maricopa county the party management deliberately drove advocates of popular government into the arms of democracy, which had framed its sails to catch the popular breeze, with the result that the party ticket was snowed under. In Cochise county there was a half hearted effort to make a declaration for progressiveness, but the men who opposed it in the convention went right out and talked from the hustings against it. In Pima county the republicans were successful, in spite of the party stand against progressive principles, for the candidates tempered matters by talking in their favor, and they were aided by a conviction that the sudden conversion to those same principles of the leading democratic candidate for the constitutional convention was too recent and too radical to be really sincere. But had the republican organizations throughout the territory had the sand to get upon the popular government band wagon and ride, the tale would have been different entirely. Of course it required a radical and remarkable change of front, but a political tactician who cannot change front in case of such a necessity, is no better as a leader than would be a military tactician under a stress of a similar necessity. History recalls that under the command of McClellan the Army of the Potomac retreated after every battle. Under Grant it changed front and went at it again. What the republican party of Arizona needs is a leadership like Grant was a military leader.

Another fatal error was the attitude of the party with regard to the provision in the enabling act which requires the constitution adopted to be presented to the scrutiny of the President and Congress. That provision was put

into the enabling act because it belonged there, and was a return simply to the way of framing such enactments from the very beginning of the government until admission of the states of Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and the Dakotas. The democrats of Arizona resented it as an alleged "humiliation," which it was not, as THE OASIS regarded and said frequently. But the Republicans made a worse mistake in holding that provision as a club against popular government. The cry was sent out that if the popular system of government were engrafted into the constitution Congress would surely reject the instrument. Hundred of republicans resented the attitude of their party, and voted the democratic ticket as a rebuke. In Santa Cruz county the party would not listen to the assertion, and none of the party literature making the claim was circulated. The executive committeeman refused to circulate it. The outcome of the election shows whether he was right. The party candidate is elected here by a good, safe majority.

Now THE OASIS does not believe that the President and Congress will reject any kind of a constitution that Arizona may frame and send to Washington. It does believe that admission may be delayed. Possibly the conservative senators may neglect to act upon the resolution of approval, and let the state into the fold in that way. Unless the constitutional convention is very speedy in its work and gets the constitution up to the people in the shortest time possible that instrument cannot get to Congress for action before adjournment on March 4th next. If the unexpected should happen and the constitution should reach the President so he could transmit it to Congress before adjournment, Congress would have to reject it very quickly or adjourn without rejection or approval. In that case the President must proclaim the state. But, as asserted, it seems hardly probable that the course to be followed can be covered so quickly. Then the constitution will go to the President after March 4th, he will approve it and transmit it to the next Congress, which meets in December, 1911. The House may be depended upon to approve it right away. But the Senate will be slow and deliberate. It will not reject the constitution, but it may not act at all. In fact it is here predicted that it will not act. Then, when adjournment is had March 4th, 1913, the president will have to proclaim the state. There is the course more apt to be followed. Of course had Arizona elected a republican constitutional convention, it goes without saying, that the Senate would have acted a little less deliberately, and let in the new state in time to vote for president in 1912.

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