

# ISSUES CLEARLY DEFINED

By William H. Berry, Treasurer Nominee

No student of State politics can fail to see the importance of electing men to the offices of Auditor General and State Treasurer who will be free of obligation to any coterie of political bosses.

The candidates on the Republican and Washington tickets must of necessity be under obligations to either the Pittsburg or the Philadelphia clique. No one knows which they will serve, but it will certainly be one or the other. That they are reputable men does not reassure us. Reputable men who have been thus elected in the past have not been able to cope with the influences surrounding them by reason of their close affiliation.

The election of a State Treasurer in 1905 who was polarized against the surroundings and therefore able to resist their influences resulted in more real benefit to the State than any other one thing that has happened in a generation. The State is at least \$10,000,000 richer to-day than it would have been had this election not occurred and a general improvement in moral tone has also resulted.

The Democratic and Keystone candidates, Mr. Robert E. Cresswell and myself, are entirely free from entanglement with any partisan machine and if elected can serve the State unhindered. Our election need not and should not be complicated with the National campaign, but we are both Democrats and will vote for Woodrow Wilson for President, and for Democratic candidates for Congress.

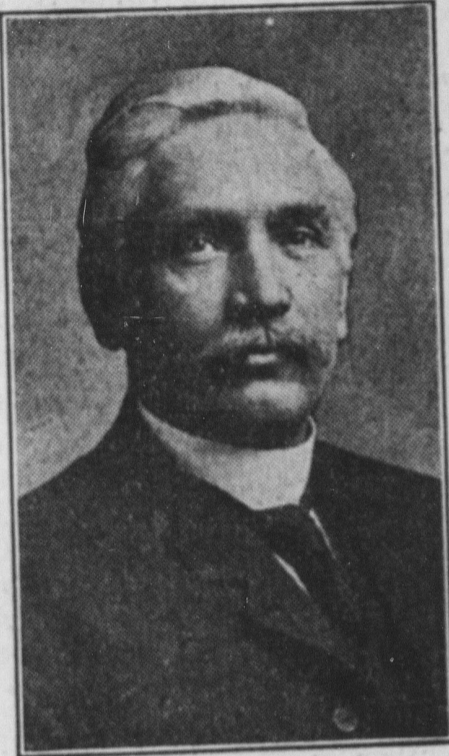
Many reasons might be given, and I would be unworthy of the confidence hitherto extended to me if I did not frankly state the controlling reason, for my course. It is simply that Mr. Wilson stands for the elimination of monopoly and the restoration of competition in our industrial and economic systems. The importance of this issue cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The maintenance of true manhood, the ethical development of civilization and the perpetuity of free government are all involved.

Competition is the free choice of the individual as to where and when and how long he will work, at what employment and for what and upon what terms he will exchange his labor or its product in the market.

Under its free operation the less irksome tasks will be most freely chosen and the product most largely offered in exchange. The more irksome tasks will be less freely chosen and the product less freely offered in exchange. Under the law of supply and demand the relatively scarcer product will be more powerful in exchange or more valuable than the more abundant and natural, equitable and just exchange values will be established. The hardest jobs will yield the most pay, the easy jobs the least. Social economic justice will be thus established and can be established in no other way.

Competition is thus clearly seen to be synonymous with human freedom. The free choice of the individual is the creator of commercial values as it is the foundation of social economic justice. Without it neither can exist.

The free choice of the individual is also the creator of ethical or spiritual values. Vice or virtue are impossible without it and the decrees of eternal justice in the day of final reckoning will be based upon it. Created in the image of the eternal the freedom of choice is the stamp of sonship. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve," is the old entreaty recognizing divinity in man, and "whosoever will may come" is its echo in the near time. The movement of human progress is toward a clearer recognition of the identity in character of economic and ethical conduct. Human freedom is



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the keynote in both, and moral qualities inhere in all the voluntary acts of man.

It is difficult to imagine the elements of vice or virtue in the conduct of an isolated man, but in an assemblage of men or in a society, it is at once apparent. Liberty is human freedom in society. Equal rights inhere in any individual and the activities of each must be limited to a sphere that will not infringe the rights of others. Liberty is the opportunity to do right in society and involves a guarantee of equal rights to all. The police power can only be justly used to restrain an individual when his conduct infringes the rights of others.

Monopoly is the opposite of competition. Whenever and to whatever extent it exists it is an infringement of human freedom, a prevention of the free choice of productive activity and in the process of exchange it sets up artificial, unjust and larcenous values. It is a subtle form of larceny that enables those who use it to "gather where they have not sown," and segregates the surplus product of human toil into the hands of the few at the expense of the many. Millionaires and paupers are its certain fruit wherever it exists in private hands. Tyranny, subtle and obscured, but no less tyranny,

is its keynote, and slavery, with a corresponding degradation of humanity its ultimate result.

As the "quality of mercy" falls as dew from heaven monopoly rises as miasma from the festering swamps of human greed. It is twice accursed. It curseth him that takes the unearned fruit as well as he that doth produce it.

The proposition to "regulate" and thus perpetuate monopoly in private hands and by the power of government to guarantee a dividend upon it, large or small, is at once unwise and unstatesmanlike.

In the presence of vast accumulated debts for which our prominent forms of wealth are held as security, a seeming necessity exists for restraining their production lest their price or power to carry or cancel debt decline and bankrupt their owners. This is the sole excuse for the toleration of monopoly.

The monopoly of currency preventing its adequate expansion in response to an increasing productive power in our people compels a loss of price when such wealth is freely produced, and the effect of this monopoly is made the excuse for a thousand others, not one of which can accomplish its purpose except by restraining production and compelling idleness among workmen.

Excessive tariff rates, maintained to shield monopolists from foreign competition while they exploit the home market, are paraded as the cause of prosperity, but the history of the last 50 years has proven that the most disastrous panics have occurred under the highest tariff rates. In 1873 the War Tariff was in force. In 1893 the McKinley Tariff was in force. In 1907 the Dingley Tariff was in force, and the whole machinery of the Government was in the hands of its Republican friends. A more transparent fraud than this assertion can scarcely be imagined.

Monopoly regulated or unregulated is an infringement of human rights. It is therefore immoral and MUST BE DECLARED AND TREATED AS A CRIME. If we remove the currency monopoly the permanent forms of wealth may be freely produced without a loss of price, full employment of capital and labor may then be constantly maintained, monopoly may be safely destroyed, human freedom restored, and the ethical and economic development of society promoted.