

THE ISSUE OF 1914 *

THERE is wide-spread apprehension among our people. The pinch of poverty is felt in many a household. We cannot ignore the conditions which have brought about this state of things. The cost of living has not been reduced. Not the slightest progress has been made in solving the trust question. It has been shown that the reduction of the tariff in no shape or way helps toward this solution. The economic conditions are such that business is in jeopardy and that the small business man, the farmer, and the industrial wage-worker are all suffering because of these conditions. The truth simply is that the only wise and sane propositions, the only propositions which represent a constructive governmental progressivism and the resolute purpose to secure good results instead of fine phrases, were the principles enunciated in the Progressive platform in connection with the trusts and the tariff alike. Our policies would have secured the passing around of prosperity and also the existence of a sufficient amount of prosperity to be passed around. Throughout the country all I can do to emphasize these facts will be done.

But I believe that this fall my chief duty lies right here in the State of New York. I doubt whether there is a State in the Union that shows more conclusively than this State the dreadful evil of the two-boss system in political life. The people of this State, the honest

* Statement in the *New York Times*, May 31, 1914.

people, the good citizens who wish clean and efficient government, no matter what their party affiliations may be, are growing bitterly indignant with a system which provides for the seesaw of the Murphy and Barnes machine in the government of this State. There is not a State in which the evils of bipartisan boss rule are more concretely illustrated than right here.

Under such rule it is absolutely impossible to get decent and effective government. It is impossible to secure fair treatment for the honest business man, for the honest wage-earner, or for the honest farmer. From the canals and highways downward each branch of the government has been administered primarily with a view to the political advantage, and often with a view to the personal enrichment, of different political leaders. No advantage whatever to the people at large can possibly come by keeping this system and substituting under-bosses of Mr. Barnes for under-bosses of Mr. Murphy as the beneficiaries of the system. I believe the time has come to clean house in New York; and I believe that all right-minded people ought to act together without regard to their ordinary party differences, in a determined effort to accomplish this task and to destroy the malign and baleful influence of both the Barnes machine and the Murphy machine in this State.