

## **Gould Turns Democrat (October 8, 1910)**

George J. Gould,<sup>1</sup> railroad magnate, son of the immortal Jay and director of the Gould millions, has returned from Europe and on landing announced that he had quit the Republican Party and would vote and support the Democratic ticket this year. In this George simply follows in the footsteps of his father, who said: "In a Republican state I am a Republican, in a Democratic state I am a Democrat, but everywhere I am for Jay Gould."

The announcement of George Gould is worth considering. What does it mean? Simply that a capitalist has no politics except his class interests. There is no moral principle involved, any more than there is a moral difference between the Republican Party of Depew of New York and the Democratic Party of Clark of Montana.<sup>2</sup>

George Gould realizes that the rule of the Republican Party has become so rank and rotten that it is time to switch over to the Democratic Party for a fresh lease of power. The capitalists need the Democratic Party for that very business, or it would long since have ceased to exist.

The election returns from Maine show which way the political wind blows this year.<sup>3</sup> George Gould and his capitalist allies are putting their money on the Democratic horse in this heat, and don't you forget it, and the spavined old critter will be allowed to win this time so as to give the fool people a chance to shout and forget while the Republican nag is being groomed for the next race.

This is an off year and the game will work like a charm. The fool people can be depended on to do their part to play into the hands of the plutocrats.

Say, Mr. Workingman, why do you suppose George Gould is a Democrat this year? Because the Democratic Party is the workingman's party? He knows what he is about, and if you only knew half as well you would go into the Socialist Party for the same reason that he goes into the Democratic Party.

In the light of the record of the Democratic Party and of the facts clear as the noonday sun, the man who says that the Democratic Party is a workingman's party is either a shrewd capitalist, a scheming politician, an ardent knave, or else his head is painfully in need of a surgical operation.

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<sup>1</sup> George J. Gould (1864-1923) was the inheritor of the Jay Gould fortune upon his father's death in 1892. He headed the Denver & Rio Grand Western Railroad and the Western Pacific Railroad, among other enterprises, and was instrumental in establishing the mainline route of the Western Pacific to San Francisco.

<sup>2</sup> William A. Clark, Sr. (1839-1925) was a multimillionaire mine owner and railroad magnate. He served one partial term in the United States Senate from 1899 to 1900 before being elected to a full term as a Democrat in the general election of November 1900.

<sup>3</sup> The nation was stunned by the September 13, 1910, election in staunchly Republican Maine, in which two of four congressional representatives, the governorship, and control of the state legislature (and thus one US senate seat) turned over to the Democratic Party. The result was taken as a repudiation of the policies of the Taft administration and the Republican Party's corruption and corporatist orientation.