

ALTGELD HAS NOT ANSWERED.

Bryan has refused to answer the questions put to him. So has Altgeld. The two men live acted on the belief that there are some subjects it is not safe to go into—that to attempt to make explanations concerning them would be worse than to keep still.

Bryan has refused to state why he desires to rob the depositors in savings and commercial banks, the investors in building and loan associations, the holders of life insurance policies, and the old soldiers. He has given no reason for the violation of all existing contracts, or for the scaling down of the wages of labor by a debasement of the currency. These are matters in which all the people of the United States are interested.

Altgeld has refused to go into the charges brought against him in connection with the State Treasurer's office. It has been charged bluntly that he personally, or through his agents, borrowed and used State funds in violation of law. It has been charged that he opened the Treasury vaults in violation of law, and that his due bills, or those of persons who borrowed State money for him, were abstracted at that time.

It has been charged that Hinrichsen and Durfee, one the Secretary of State and the other the Superintendent of the Insurance Department, had to hustle around and gather up money with which to make good the amounts called for by these due bills which were once in the Treasury vaults. It has been charged also that Altgeld made efforts to obtain loans from certain banks which had on deposit the funds of State institutions in order to repay the Hinrichsen-Durfee loans.

It has been charged that the money appropriated for one of the State institutions was drawn out of the Treasury contrary to established custom, and deposited in a "pet bank" to be loaned by it to Altgeld or to his favorites. It has been charged also that his management of the finances of the State institutions has been so bad that he has been compelled to shin around to get money to keep them going.

These are all matters of great interest to the people of Illinois. But the man against whom these charges are brought does not answer them, even though a candidate for an office, which, if these charges are true, he is not fit to fill. His sole reply to those who make these charges is that they are "reptiles."

In 1892, before election, Altgeld promised the workingmen that if he became Governor he would do away with the competition of convict labor, which they claimed was doing them great injury. It is charged that under his management the State penitentiaries have competed more sharply with free labor than ever before, and that where a few trades were injured under the old system many are injured now.

Both organized and unorganized labor would like to know what Altgeld has to say in reply to this charge of broken pledges. He has nothing to say. That is equivalent to pleading guilty.

There is yet a day left in which Altgeld might endeavor to answer the charges which have been brought against him. He is through with his speech-making, but he could interview himself after his old fashion today and try to explain all those things he has left unexplained so persistently.

But he will not do it, for he knows it is too late. No answer, however detailed and plausible, made on the eve of the election to charges preferred many weeks ago will have the slightest effect on the voters. Tardy explanations will not convince them. Altgeld has had his day in court. He failed to take advantage of it, and will meet with a dishonorable defeat tomorrow.