

dollar being too small for ordinary use, has never circulated to any extent, so that the silver dollar has been the dollar usually had in mind when a metallic dollar was mentioned. In describing the silver dollar as the unit, our forefathers did not intend to make it superior in any way to gold, for under the bimetallic system the two metals are on an equality, both as to treatment at the mint and as to legal tender qualities. The silver dollar then in circulation was simply made the starting point, and the amount of pure silver in the silver dollar has never been changed from that time to this, although the amount of pure gold in the gold dollar has been changed.

**In Ohio.**

In his letter to Chairman Salen, declining Mr. Clarke's invitation to Mr. Hanna for a joint debate, Mr. Dick, chairman of the republican state committee of Ohio, said:

"Democracy today wears so many colors, appears under so many different shapes and forms, assumes so many disguises, that I feel it would be unfair to Senator Hanna to ask him to meet Mr. Clarke in a joint discussion until he is advised more fully as to Mr. Clarke's position on the subjects (the tariff, the money question, the problems growing out of the acquisition of insular territory, the proposed repeal of the war amendments, single tax and socialism) above alluded to; until he knows what particular brand of democracy Mr. Clarke claims is his; until he knows whether he is expected to debate with Mr. Clarke, the corporation lawyer, or with

Mr. Clarke, the candidate for United States senator."

The Philadelphia Public Ledger, a republican paper, refers to Mr. Dick's reply as "an exceedingly clever though an exceedingly specious argument." The Public Ledger says that as an answer to the definite challenge made by the chairman of the democratic state committee of Ohio, that the two candidates for United States senator meet in joint debate, Mr. Dick's letter "may hardly be said to be convincing."

If Mr. Dick's assertion that the democrats are attempting to drive ill galloping horses be true, the Public Ledger thinks that the republican candidate should court rather than avoid every opportunity to meet their democratic opponents face to face and to expose before the popular electorate the lack of harmony and the lack of unity in the democratic organization.

This republican paper says that Mr. Dick's letter "indicates either that Ohio republicans are incapable of grasping the opportunity that is theirs, or that they are themselves even more vulnerable than their opponents." In conclusion, the Public Ledger says:

"The truth of the matter is that the policy of 'stand pat' and 'let well enough alone' is being carried to the point of absurdity by Ohio republicans. Their determination to escape the responsibility of a joint canvass this year indicates that their position is not so strong as it might be. It is, indeed, as is also that of the democrats, lamentably weak. The country would rejoice to see the weakness of each party in Ohio exposed by the other. If the

democrats, heavily handicapped as they unquestionably are, can afford to court the risk of a fight 'in the open,' the republicans should certainly be ashamed to remain in hiding. The time is not distant when the popular electorate will 'turn on the batteries and shell the woods.' When that hour comes the name of many a distinguished Ohio warrior will be printed among 'the dead, the wounded and the missing.'"

The willingness of the Ohio democrats to discuss the issues of the campaign and the determination on the part of the republican leaders to avoid a discussion, should open the eyes of those men who really believe that the republican party occupies the intelligent position on questions in which the people are deeply concerned.

"Stand pat," "let well enough alone," and similar slogans are not as popular today as they once were. Indeed, just as this Philadelphia republican paper says, they have been carried to the point of absurdity. It may be that they may yet be used to good effect among unthinking men; but it cannot have escaped observation that many people who were once inclined to accept such absurd slogans in the place of argument are showing an indisposition in the presence of serious political problems to be put off with unconvincing admonitions.

Between times Mr. Secretary Shaw, who is just now working industriously to frame a financial measure, will make a few speeches in Ohio and endeavor to show that the republican party has already settled the money question.

# FORMING THE LINE OF BATTLE

One year ago The Commoner, with a view to widening its sphere of influence, thereby arousing renewed zeal and enthusiasm in the work of battling for the supremacy of democratic principles, inaugurated what was known as the "Lots of Five" subscription plan. The success of that plan was beyond the publisher's most sanguine expectations, and the success was due entirely to the energy and loyalty of true blue democrats who are not yet ready to rest quietly while disorganizers and recreants seek to turn the party over to the money changers and tariff barons.

During that memorable subscription campaign 9,674 Commoner subscribers took an active part, the result being that The Commoner found its way into the homes of 53,643 new subscribers. Almost without exception this magnificent result was brought about by subscribers who gave a portion of their time to the work with no further reward than the consciousness that they were aiding in the advancement of the cause of true democracy. During that time the congressional campaign was waged and settled. Now the democratic party is preparing for a greater campaign, and one upon whose results grave responsibilities hinge—responsibilities fraught with weal or woe to the republic.

The question now confronting the party is whether it will continue to stand for the interests of the people, as it did during the memorable campaigns of 1896 and 1900; or whether it will take a step backward to where it stood when it was controlled by self-seeking men who sought power only to betray the people into the hands of the trusts and money changers. Already men are announcing their desire to be selected as representatives from their districts to the next national democratic convention, and it is high time that loyal democrats who want to preserve the party's integrity set to work to frustrate the efforts of those who would repudiate the party's position. During the coming winter months democrats must be aroused to the importance of sending to city, county, district and state conventions as dele-

gates only men who can be implicitly trusted to carry out the wishes of those who want the party to remain true to the principles enunciated in the Kansas City platform. The "reorganizers" are everywhere active. By specious pleas and promises, and by every art known to the astute and wily politician, they are seeking to secure control of county, district and state conventions and thereby secure the election of national delegates who may be depended upon to do the bidding of those who oppose the principles set forth in the last democratic national platform. Loyal democrats must be on their guard against these insidious advances. The chief danger is that the loyal democrats will fail to arouse themselves to a realizing sense of the danger that confronts the party. It is now, has been, and will be, The Commoner's chief mission to arouse these loyal democrats to a realizing sense of that danger, and to show cause why the party shall not abate one jot or tittle the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform.

In order that this work may be successfully

accomplished The Commoner should find its way into thousands of democratic homes where it is not now a visitor, and that this may be brought about the publisher again appeals to subscribers to lend their help in the prosecution of the work.

The plan decided upon is the same that was so successfully followed last year, and known then as the "Lots of Five" plan. That plan is, briefly, as follows:

Those who desire to aid in increasing the circulation and influence of The Commoner will be supplied with five or more cards, as they may see fit to order, each card being good for one year's subscription when properly filled out and returned to this office, at the rate of five cards for \$3. If the party ordering the cards sees fit to do so, he can sell them for \$1 each, thereby securing a commission of 40 cents on each subscriber. If, however, he so desires he may sell the cards at the actual cost price, 60 cents, and find compensation in the fact that he has added his share to the work of preserving the party's integrity. The rate of 60 cents a year here offered is figured as nearly as possible on the actual cost of publication, and is offered with the view of increasing The Commoner's circulation and influence, not for financial profit to the publisher. Parties ordering these cards may, if they prefer, first sell them and then make remittance at the rate of 60 cents for each card sold. On this page will be found a coupon blank which is provided for the convenience of those who are willing to lend their aid in this work.

To the nearly 10,000 loyal democrats who so generously aided The Commoner in its work during the subscription campaign of last year, the publisher again returns his sincere thanks. They performed a splendid service to the cause of genuine democracy. To them, and to all other loyal democrats numbered among The Commoner's subscribers, the publisher makes this renewed appeal for assistance in behalf of the great work of promulgating and defending democratic principles.

## THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER

Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.
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75	Name .....
	Box, or Street No. ....
	P. O. .... State .....
100	Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.

If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.