

The Commoner.

NEBRASKA STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 6. No. 45.

Lincoln, Nebraska, November 23, 1906.

Whole Number 305.

CONTENTS

MR. BRYAN'S LETTER
VIGILANCE THE PRICE OF LIBERTY
THE ASSET CURRENCY SCHEME
LEGALIZED BOSSES
SECRETARY HITCHCOCK
NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATORSHIP
"DREAMERS"
MISTAKES AS TO GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP
A ROOSEVELT VICTORY
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK



"It's the bankers, not the currency, that need reforming."
—Congressman Smith of Iowa.

THANKSGIVING, 1906

For love that makes for perfect peace;
For sun and rain that bring increase;
For watchcare that shall never cease,
Our grateful tributes, Lord, we pay.
With swelling hearts and lips that sing
Thy praises, Lord, we humbly bring
To Thee our glad thankoffering,
This glorious Thanksgiving Day.

For ways made plain to weary feet;
For each God-given promise sweet;
For love, o'erflowing and complete,
Our humble tributes, Lord, we lay.
With harvest songs resounding free
We gladly come, dear Lord, to Thee,
From Lakes to Gulf, from Sea to Sea,
This glorious Thanksgiving Day.

For ripened grain that fertile fields
Great recompense for toiling yields;
For love that from dread danger shields
Along this earth life's tollsome way,
We kneel, dear Lord, with hearts that
swell
With love and joy no tongue can tell,
And render thanks that all is well
With us this blest Thanksgiving Day.

The cycle of the year rolls 'round,
And still Thy love and care abound;
Still refuge in Thy arms is found—
And so we sing our songs of praise!
Teach us, dear Lord, to know Thy will;
Help us, dear Lord, all hearts to fill
With peace, and joy, and love, until
All days shall be Thanksgiving Days.
—Will M. Maupin.

PLACE THE COMMONER IN EVERY PRECINCT

A. G. Fansler, Hendricks, W. Va., writes to express his approval of the plan to place The Commoner in every precinct. Mr. Fansler encloses \$5.40 to pay for nine yearly subscriptions, and adds: "I trust that I will be able to forward you more names shortly as I think you are doing a noble work for our cause, and your paper should have at least one subscriber in each voting precinct."

For Particulars See Page Seven

Vigilance The Price of Liberty

Now that the election of 1906 is over and the lines are being drawn for the presidential campaign of 1908, it behooves the democrats to be on their guard lest the party be crippled by an organization out of harmony with the party's purpose. In 1904 the party took a backward step, and it did so because many good democrats, discouraged by defeat, yielded to the temptation held out by Wall Street, which offered to help the democratic party secure some of its reforms if it would abandon others. When the time came, Wall Street did what Wall Street always has done, namely—threw its influence to the party which it thought could win. The lesson was a useful one to democrats, and immediately after the election the progressive element in the party asserted itself. The platforms adopted by the democratic state conventions of this year leave no doubt as to the party's position. There will be no contest in the national convention of 1908 on platform. The party will be drawn up solidly against the encroachments of predatory wealth, and its position will be clear and explicit on all the issues ripe for settlement, but the organization is almost as necessary as the platform. Our fight must be made upon a moral plane, for we seek justice. Our people must appeal to the conscience of the country, and that conscience awakened will sweep everything before it. We can not fight upon a moral plane with an immoral organization; we can not appeal to the conscience of the country with a conscienceless crowd in charge of the party machinery. It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that the organization shall be in the hands of those who are in sympathy with the party's purpose and whose

records will not give the lie to the party's promises.

There are many democrats who are voting the ticket whose prominence in the party would be a detriment to the party. If these men are really sincere in their desire to help the party, they will not force themselves into the foreground, and if they try to force themselves into the foreground, the party ought to thwart their purpose. The fight at this time is against the encroachments of the predatory corporations, and these corporations can be divided into two classes, first, those that hold franchises or favors from the government, and second, those which for pecuniary reasons attempt to control the legislative, the executive or the judicial branch of the government. No one who is connected with such a corporation should aspire to a position in a party organization, for he can not serve the public and his corporation at the same time. He must choose which he will serve. If he wants to stay in politics he must sever his connection with the corporations. If he wants to remain with the corporations, he must sever himself from politics. The city councils and the state legislatures have constantly to deal with the franchise corporations of the cities; therefore, those who are connected with those corporations ought not to be permitted to be a part of the party organization. The trusts have to be dealt with by state and federal legislation, and therefore, no one connected with the trusts ought to be a member of the party organization. The railroads are constantly before the state and federal congress and before state and federal courts. No one who is so connected with the railroads as to make him subservient to them or biased in their favor should be a part of the