

## Let the People Elect

When it comes time to select delegates to represent the United States in the League of Nations, provision should be made for their election by popular vote in five districts so that all sections of the country will be represented. They should act subject to instructions by congress and the people. They should have no power to vote for war without special instructions from the people at an election called for that purpose.

W. J. BRYAN.

### A TRANSIENT ISSUE

Governor Coolidge's boom will have to have a more substantial foundation than a policeman's strike in one city. It raises no contested issue because nobody defends the policemen. Where does Governor Coolidge stand on the permanent issues?

### THE BIG BUSINESS CANDIDATE

The Illinois republicans are booming Governor Lowden. They are not mentioning the fact that he is the ruling spirit in the Pullman company. They may regard that as a guarantee that big business will be safe under his protection.

### NOT ENCOURAGING

The 1919 election returns are not encouraging. Gains in New Jersey due to wet support do not offset losses in Kentucky, Oklahoma, New York and Massachusetts.

### THE MILITARY CANDIDATE

General Wood seems to be the choice of those republicans who think the times demand a soldier president, but the number of those who favor militarism will be less next year than this.

### ARMISTICE DAY

President Wilson's message commemorating November 11, Armistice Day, follows:

"To My Fellow Countrymen: A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and juster set of international relations. The soldiers and the people of our European allies had fought for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggressions of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half. With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns we remodeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at last our power was a decisive factor in victory. We were able to bring the vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe, who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought.

"Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes and the victory of arms fortells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men. To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride of those heroes who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory both because of the thing for which it has freed us, and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.

"WOODROW WILSON."

The White House, November 10, 1919.

Most people would be a little more enthusiastic about pushing American trade abroad, if the men who will be the chief beneficiaries of it were not inclined to use this as an opportunity for holding up prices in this country. They are selling abroad in a market that must have what they offer at high prices, and because they can get these prices abroad they demand them at home.

General Leonard Wood's presidential campaign is said to be under the management of Frank H. Hitchcock, the gentleman who put Mr. Taft across in 1908. Hiring Hitchcock for campaign manager does not always insure a candidate's success, but he always does get a run for his money.

### THE ROLL OF HONOR

#### List of States That Have Ratified the National Woman Suffrage Constitutional Amendment

- 1—WISCONSIN, June 10, 1919.
- 2—ILLINOIS, June 10, 1919.
- 3—MICHIGAN, June 10, 1919.
- 4—KANSAS, June 16, 1919.
- 6—NEW YORK, June 16, 1919.
- 7—PENNSYLVANIA, June 24, 1919.
- 8—MASSACHUSETTS, June 25, 1919.
- 9—TEXAS, June 28, 1919.
- 10—IOWA, July 2, 1919.
- 11—MISSOURI, July 3, 1919.
- 12—ARKANSAS, July 28, 1919.
- 13—MONTANA, July 30, 1919.
- 14—NEBRASKA, August 2, 1919.
- 15—MINNESOTA, Sept. 8, 1919.
- 16—NEW HAMPSHIRE, Sept. 10, 1919.
- 17—UTAH, Sept. 30, 1919.
- 18—CALIFORNIA, Nov. 1, 1919.
- 19—MAINE, Nov. 5, 1919.

The former chancellor of the German empire, in seeking to rid himself of the blame for the crushing of his country, before the tribunal credited to find out why honorable peace could not have been made before the nation was beaten to its knees, says that the heads of the army and navy were quite sure that they could handle America if she resented the submarine warfare to the extent of entering the war. Once upon a time the kaiser said he wouldn't stand any nonsense from the United States. These little revelations of German psychology go far towards explaining why the fatherland is in no position to frighten anybody any more.

Nebraska republicans sought to sidestep the fact that the promise of the governor that the state machinery at his command would relieve the people from extortionate prices had failed to produce results by having a legislative committee appointed to find out if there is any necessity for new laws to produce that result. In view of the disposition of the state administration to insist that most of the trouble was due to the fact that any one state acting alone was impotent, this proposition does not contain anything to cheer up the thousands who are still buying limousines for the food monopolists.

Public sentiment is cutting very little figure in the fight between the steel mill owners and their workers. The reason is that public sentiment is not taking sides. In no other industry in the country has there been such gross profiteering as this one. Born and nurtured under a protective tariff that made making money in it just as hard work as removing candy from an infant's digits, its owners reaped vast profits, and kept their men contented for most of the time by giving them large wages.

The striking coal miners have been roundly abused because they have suggested a thirty hour work week, six hours a day and five days a week. Most of the critics, however, have neglected to mention that this was asked because in the past the operators, in order to curtail production and keep up prices, have not furnished them that much work. It is worth while to remember this when distributing the blame for the situation that existed following the strike.

Several alarmists among the religious workers of the country are declaring that unless the church fails to meet the challenge of today its usefulness has ended. Nothing of the kind. The church isn't a patent medicine that is guaranteed to cure all ills. All that it seeks to do or agrees to do is to regenerate men who will accept it and make it a great instrument in spreading good will among men. It stands there ready for men to make use of it when they will.

A recent investigation of retail grocers brought out the admission from Lincoln dealers that they were making all the way from 20 to 85 per cent a year on the capital they had invested. That was two months ago, and we have yet to note any announcement of republicans state officials, who advertised themselves as ready to go after any profiteer's head that showed up, asking for indictments of these Lincoln grocers.

## The Coal Strike

It is impossible that the coal strike should succeed. A few thousand mine owners and some half million coal miners are trying to settle their dispute by depriving a hundred million people of coal at the beginning of winter. People are not going to freeze while the strike is going on, and some way will be found to supply coal. But that is only a temporary settlement. The real trouble is that we have no machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes before they reach the strike and lockout stage. We now have machinery for settling international disputes before a resort to war, and it is only a question of time when the same kind of machinery will be provided for the investigation of all industrial disputes before a resort to a strike or lockout.

W. J. BRYAN.

### WINELESS DINNERS

It was only six years ago that Secretary of State William J. Bryan shocked "high social circles" by giving a wineless dinner to members of the diplomatic corps in Washington.

Eight foreign ambassadors and their wives sat down to the dinner. Afterwards, when mercilessly lampooned by the newspapers and other self-appointed censors of public morals, Mr. Bryan made a public statement in which he said:

I thought it proper to explain to our guests the reason for our failure to conform to what seems to have been customary in this matter. Believing that the issue should be met frankly in the beginning, I told them when we sat down to the table that Mrs. Bryan and myself had been tee-totalers from our youth as were our parents before us and had never served liquor on our table; that when the president was kind enough to tender me the portfolio of state, I asked him whether our failure to serve wine would be any embarrassment to the administration, and that he generously left the matter to our discretion. . . . My remarks were applauded by the company, and we never spent a more enjoyable evening. The custom is established so far as we are concerned.

That was a brave and self-respecting position for Mr. and Mrs. Bryan to take, but the significant thing about it all is that "wineless dinners" have now become America's habit. Only six years have passed since the world laughed at Mr. Bryan, but he set an example which all true Americans follow today, some willingly, some unwillingly!—Watchman-Examiner.

### CAMPAIGN YEAR

Readers of The Commoner who believe in the principles advocated by Mr. Bryan and his paper, and who want to enact those principles into law, now have an opportunity to assist. The Commoner will make a strenuous effort to secure a progressive platform and a progressive candidate at the democratic national convention next summer to lead the fight against the demands of the special interests of the country. Your help is needed to educate, organize and direct the efforts of the masses to curb the greed of the profiteer, to perpetuate the People's Rule, and to preserve Jeffersonian democratic principles.

Will you help to extend The Commoner's sphere of influence by extending its circulation among the free democrats and free republicans in your community. A special campaign rate of 75 cents from now until after the presidential election next year is made for that purpose.

Suggestions as to platform and candidate from Commoner readers are also desired. There are so many vital issues to be settled during the coming four years that every citizen should be alert. Campaign subscriptions will be accepted in clubs or singly at 75 cents. Kindly let us know at once what part you will take in the all-important contest now at hand.

CHARLES W. BRYAN,  
Publisher.