

campaign and elected Wilson. As appreciation of his work Wilson invited him to the White House to take dinner with him. Mr. Bryan organized a force of twenty million people known as the dry federation which elected him president by unanimous vote; with Mr. Bryan as their leader they elected a dry senate and house, and a dry legislature in forty-five states; drove John Barleycorn to the dry docks of England and many other European ports. Mr. Bryan is a machinist. He can manufacture machinery to settle all disputes and controversies of every kind and character instead of using force and bullets.

Was there ever a time in the history of this nation when there was greater need of a man of Mr. Bryan's type in the White House than there is today? Recently Wilson released the greatest criminal in the universe. The organizer of mobs, riots, and the perpetrator of all forms of crime and misery upon poor children and women. The criminal that I am referring to is John Barleycorn.

Readers of The Commoner, impress it on your mind that it will not be necessary for Mr. Bryan to waste any of his campaign time explaining why he was not right in the past.

Readers of The Commoner, do you want to conscript a man who will make desperate efforts to take the control of the government out of the hands of the selfish interests?

I endorse the fifteen planks suggested by Mr. Bryan, in the platform.

A. R. Gossard, Texas.—In reply to your inquiry in The Commoner, "Who Shall Be Our Standard Bearer for 1920?" It is evident no man can be elected for a third term. The writer does not believe in life tenure of office, either in state or church. No man is great and good enough to get beyond the reach of the people. Our candidate should be a man of unimpeachable character, not having to defend either his record or character, one who has wide experience in state craft; one who has always defended the interests of the people, without stint or favor. Such a man is W. J. Bryan. If he cannot be induced to make the race, then I would suggest our matchless statesman, Morris Sheperd, a man whom Texas delights to honor, who has always stood for the right under all circumstances, and who has been the real leader in achieving the high advancement of the moral uplift of our country.

Our platform should stand for government control of railroads so as to prevent strikes, demoralizing all traffic and subjecting the people to continual annoyance and loss; for a commission to regulate the differences arising between capital and labor; for necessary laws to enforce compliance with all our laws; for the suppression of all mobs, so the worst criminal shall have right of defense in our courts; for universal suffrage, to all who can read and write, over 21 years old; for more stringent emigration laws, preventing emigrants who are not in sympathy with our form of government, and who do not come to our shores with acknowledged intentions of becoming citizens; for a universal text book in all our schools, in which loyalty is taught, and the government to furnish such books free in all our common schools; a commission of learned men to select such books. This commission made up from every state in the union in proportion to population. This would unify our people as nothing else can do.

C. E. Sugg, Kentucky.—You ask us to express our preference for a democratic candidate for president next year.

I am first for Mr. Bryan and next for whom he wants. He is the only man in the U. S. whom I would follow without question. I have the habit and he has proved absolutely true.

His Dual plan for the railroads will win out. Why do I say so? Why should I doubt it? He has won so much—election of U. S. Senators by popular vote, income tax, banking reform, publication of campaign expenses before election, publication of names of owners or creditors of newspapers, prohibition, woman suffrage and soon the League of Nations will be a fact and surely history will tell the truth—that "The Heart of the League of Nations" is the embodiment of Mr. Bryan's great plan to bring about those conditions under which "There shall be no more war forever."

It is common to hear democrats say "Mr. Bryan is the logical man for the democratic nomination." Surely this nation will not fail to pay him the honor and also honor itself by yet making him its president. It would be the most complete vindication of popular government in history, for if Mr. Bryan shall be elected it

would be due solely to popular demand uninfluenced by any selfish or sordid interest. Every one who is entitled to credit for a thimble-full of brains knows that all sordid interests are opposed to him.

I am not an old man but I have passed the middle mark and I want to live to see Mr. Bryan president and I want my son to know that I never missed a chance to vote for him.

Wm. McGrath, South Dakota.—In response to your request through The Commoner, I will say, that for months I have been talking with my neighbors and many others and have been noting the minds of the people in various parts of the country, and I am ready to give it as my opinion that the paramount issue in the next presidential campaign will be AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. And I venture to suggest that no man, or party, in favor of placing this country in any sort of an ALLIANCE with foreign countries will be able to find favor with the American people.

You say the democratic party is the hope of the NATIONS. But the people want a party that is the hope of the AMERICAN NATION.

It is quite significant that the democratic party of Massachusetts, in convention assembled, passed a resolution against the ratification of the treaty as presented, and demanding that no nation shall have more votes than the United States, that the sovereignty of the American people be protected, and demanding the right of self-determination and that no additional burdens be placed upon peoples wanting to be free. This is, indeed, in keeping with their traditions, for down in that country is the manger in which American liberty was born.

I am ready, and I believe the American people are ready, to support any man who, or any party which, stands for American Independence regardless of politics. In my judgment the American people believe that the future welfare and the future destiny of America should be kept in the hands of true Americans, and that the seat of government of the United States should be located somewhere in this country.

I will add that I am a life long democrat; that I have voted three times for you and twice for President Wilson, and I have read The Commoner from its first issue, and, in my judgment, the sentiments I am now expressing are in keeping with the democratic teaching I have received all along the way.

Dr. R. R. Wyatt, Mississippi.—I endorse the sentiment of the Missouri democrat whose letter appeared in your last issue. Practically all of the reforms we now enjoy were originated by Mr. Bryan. Prohibition is to be an issue in the next campaign, and who has worked harder or longer for it, than Mr. Bryan? He also stood first and last for woman suffrage, and the women will vote. He was in favor of a vote of the people to determine whether or not the country wanted to enter the world war. The people had to do the fighting and dying and paying and they should have been consulted. I am afraid there is too much autocracy abroad in the land. I am for Bryan for president.

L. E. Swope, Kansas.—I, too, have been a subscriber to The Commoner from the initial number and a constant admirer of "Bill" Bryan, as the "Ex-Missouri Democrat" calls him. I remember how Mr. Bryan took hold of the Baltimore convention and led it into the path of rectitude, and nominated the incomparable Wilson, who has dared much and suffered more than any president, almost to the sacrifice of his life, and whose place in history will be high among those who "served their fellow men." If the country had given him the congress he had asked for last year peace would have filled the world months ago, and the democratic party would not have the shame of a "Missouri Democrat" out to "get Wilson" because the said M. D. failed to get his man in the K. C. post-office. Mr. Bryan is very much alive and will be a power in directing the affairs of the United States for many years, I hope, for whoever is nominated will need his hearty support. I am in favor of Brand Whitlock for democratic candidate for 1920. He has the world-wide view.

Frank H. Lee, Missouri.—Replying to the suggestion in The Commoner that democrats write you, giving their opinions as to who is best qualified to lead the party in the coming campaign, wish to say that we are, first, last and all the time, for that grand old champion and all the people, William J. Bryan. He already has marked out the way the party must go if it is to hold the confidence of the people. There

is no man in the nation whom we would rather see president than Mr. Bryan. If we can not win with him as our standard-bearer, we do not believe we can win at all, but the party for its own future good, far better lose and be right than win and be wrong.

Dr. E. S. Richardson, Michigan.—The approaching presidential campaign may be made upon new issues not yet developed. But certain it is the questions of capital and labor, and government ownership and control of public transportation facilities will not be among the least issues. They are questions that must be settled in the near future. On them the voice of the people must and will be heard until they are settled right. The perpetuity of our government depends upon the right settlement of all economic questions of vital public interest.

Who can lead in the coming campaign with the greatest assurance of success may not yet be apparent. Just now William Jennings Bryan is the man of the hour. Three defeats has not lessened his great popularity, nor cooled his ardor for the public welfare. The enactment into law, by his political opponents, the great issues written in the three former democratic platforms by Mr. Bryan attests his advanced thought and statesmanship, and shows his unselfishness in tireless labor for the good of his fellow men and the nation that we love.

C. F. Pike, Idaho.—Replying to Mr. Bryan's "Attention Democrats," will say that the people of this section expect the democratic party to nominate a presidential candidate who stands for the rights of the masses as against the special privileges of the classes. A man whose war record is sound, and who has stood for woman's suffrage and prohibition. He must be a man of peace rather than a man of war, an unquestioned patriot, but not a jingo. A man of brains, a man of character, a man capable of political leadership. Such a man, we think, is McAdoo, or Palmer, or Daniels. If Franklin K. Lane, were eligible he would be the strongest man that could be nominated, so far as the west is concerned.

Rex E. Frye, Missouri.—Replying to your request in October number of the Commoner regarding issues of next campaign, "Upon what issues will the battle be fought?"

Answer: The cost of living is the greatest issue before us now. The democratic party should be awake to the fact that the difference between the price received by the producer for his commodity and the cost of that commodity to the consumer is greater in America than any country in the world. The conscienceless profiteer must be stopped.

Who can lead with the greatest assurance of success? The situation so far as conditions is concerned is almost parallel that of 1896.

What the party is most in need of now is a man whom all can trust with utmost confidence, upon whom all would be willing to follow. I have had but one man in mind for 20 years, that man is my first choice yet, and if he can't get there, I'll have to be satisfied with some one whose ideals are the same as those of Wm. J. Bryan.

C. V. Virgin, Illinois.—To your "Democrats, Attention" in October number, would say that as I see things, there is but one course for the party to pursue and that is a very radical one. The Roosevelt platform of 1912 should become ours in toto, with such additions as time has added—initiative, referendum and recall, ownership of public utilities, strong methods of handling the liquor traffic. As to men, Bryan first; then, McAdoo, if he is not too close to the financial interests. Above all things, however, is the radical platform, and no trimming.

Thos. E. Shinkard, E. W. McIntosh, Indiana.—We are invited to write you our opinions as to who would be the best man to lead in the next national campaign. The man who has stood for clean elections. The man who has fought for justice for the laboring man. The man who advocated the regional bank and government farm loans. The man who has been a consistent and faithful advocate of temperance and prohibition. The man who saved the party in 1896. The man who is the greatest of the living statesmen, and who has lived to see the reforms above enumerated enacted into laws, and who has lifted the "crown of thorns from the brow of labor." This man is William J. Bryan, the only man, as we believe, who can again regenerate the democratic party and organize it with any degree of confidence of success.