

**The Commoner**  
ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, CHARLES W. BRYAN,  
Editor and Proprietor Associate Ed. and Publisher  
Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year.....\$1.00	Three Months..... .25
Six Months..... .50	Single Copy..... .10
In Clubs of Five or more per year... .75	Sample Copies Free.
	Foreign Post, 25c Extra.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where such agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by post-office money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps, or currency.

**RENEWALS**—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 19 means that payment has been received to and including the issue of January, 1919.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

**ADVERTISING**—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to—  
**THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.**

**N. Y. BANK EXTORTION**

I will also add that there is not, and has not been, in my judgment, the least justification for the excessive and burdensome interest rates, running up to 10, 12 and 15 per cent and higher which have been exacted by some of the banks in New York City, the principal financial center of our country. New York is the only city of consequence in the world where such interest rates exist and are tolerated. They do not prevail in London or Paris, Berlin or Rome, Peking, Hong King or Tokio, or in any of the leading cities of our own country, San Francisco, St. Louis, Kansas City, New Orleans, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia or Boston.

These excessive interest rates and the publicity given them have increased the uneasiness in financial circles and have been a contributing cause rather than a consequence of the upsetting of security values, and of the excessive and unjust rates which corporations and others have been required to pay for money in recent months. The banks which have charged their customers these excessive rates—at times as high as 15 per cent or more—have themselves at the same time been liberally accommodated with millions of dollars by the Federal Reserve Banks at average rates of considerably less than six per cent.—From Public Statement of Comptroller Williams, July 31, 1920.

**PROHIBITION IN NEW YORK**

On another page will be found some interesting statistics furnished by the New York State Prohibition Commission and published in the New York Tribune. The figures show a decrease of 34 per cent in crime in seventeen of the larger cities city and county courts of the state and a decrease of over 50 per cent in cases of intoxication in New York City. Read the record, and then remember that a New York Democratic state convention recently declared UNALTERABLE opposition to prohibition and demanded nullification of the enforcement law until the national amendment is repealed.

**THE WETS AT WORK**

On another page will be found a Baltimore item printed in the Washington Post of Sept. 6th showing the activity of the wets. They have no politics. They want a wet congress that they may (1) repeal the Volstead act, (2) leave each state to enforce (or refuse to enforce) the amendment, and, (3) repeal the Eighteenth amendment. Do the dries need any more notice? It is time for them to wake up.

**SENATOR NUGENT**

Senator Nugent of Idaho has received the indorsement of the Democratic party and is in the race for re-election. He has become a leader in the Senate and is on the right side of every question. He should be overwhelmingly elected—it would be a calamity to the entire west for Senator Nugent to be defeated.

**Mr. Bryan Interviewed**

(From The Washington Times, Sept. 7.)

"Whatever I may feel it my duty to do this fall, I do not expect to leave the Democratic party."

William Jennings Bryan, thrice the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, made that statement here, says a Washington dispatch by J. Fred Essary in the Baltimore Sun.

"I expect to work in and through the Democratic party for the securing of such things as I believe to be good for the country," he added.

Whether he will support Governor Cox in the closing days of the campaign, Colonel Bryan declined to say. Just now, he says he is devoting himself to the election of a congress that will reject all attempts to weaken the prohibition laws of the United States.

"Can a man expect to remain in a party and be silent during a Presidential campaign?" the Nebraskan was asked.

"Yes," was the prompt reply. "I know a Democrat who became President after refusing to vote for the party candidate. I remember one Democrat President who helped to elect a Republican successor, and I know of a Republican ex-President who helped to elect a Democrat to the Presidency. So you see I am entirely within my rights when I refuse to discuss the national campaign at present."

Colonel Bryan was asked what was meant by "at present," and he stated that he had no plans beyond today. He is in Washington with Mrs. Bryan, and not to discuss politics, he said.

No public appearance will be made by the Commoner until late in September, when he will address the International Conference on Alcoholism here. Meanwhile, he is doing some research work in the congressional library.

"When you declined the prohibition party's nomination for the Presidency a short time ago, you said you were still a Democrat," Bryan was reminded. "Do you still come under that classification?"

"That stands," he tersely responded.

Through his paper, The Commoner, Bryan has undertaken a national campaign to pledge all candidates for congress against weakening the Volstead act, and said that when he left Lincoln on Friday the pledges were coming in at the rate of fifteen a day.

It is known that Colonel Bryan regards Senator Harding and Governor Cox as both wet.

"I am for the dry man as against the wet man, no matter what party he belongs to," he said today. "The wets know no politics, why should the friends of the home be less earnest? Why should partisanship separate the friends of prohibition now? It did not separate them in the fight for submission and ratification of the Constitutional amendment and both are useless without enforcement."

It was recalled that after the Democratic National convention had refused to adopt a plank in its platform declaring for strict enforcement of the Volstead act Bryan said: "My heart is in the grave."

"Yes," he agreed, "it is still in the grave, but the grief has abated sufficiently to allow me to go to work for a dry congress."

The Nebraskan then was told that some of his friends said he would support Governor Cox eventually, to which he responded:

"For the twenty-four years that I have been actively in politics no friend has ever spoken for me. With a paper of my own and access to the other papers, it is not necessary for me to speak through a screen. I am not happy over the failure of the two big parties to declare their position on prohibition enforcement."

Bryan said he hopes to see a congress elected this fall that will be numerically strong enough to override a possible Presidential veto of legislation designed to maintain the integrity of the prohibition amendment and laws enacted for its enforcement. Irrespective of party, he wants to secure a congress with two-thirds of the members of each house favoring impeachment of a president of the United States who might violate his oath of office by being derelict in enforcing prohibition.

"Do you consider election of a congress pledged to support the present prohibition laws more essential than the election of a Senate that will ratify the peace treaty?" was inquired of Bryan.

"Neither party can have two-thirds of the

next Senate—everyone knows that. A majority can take us into war; why should it take two-thirds to take us out? I favor majority rule, and I think the constitution should be so amended as to allow a majority to ratify treaties."

While declining to discuss campaign issues, Colonel Bryan showed a willingness to comment on suffrage.

"Women will be very effective in every moral question, now that they have the ballot," he said. "They will have a great influence on two questions that are very near to my heart. They will see that John Barleycorn has no resurrection and they will favor the abolishment of war."

"Will they be bound by party ties as strongly as men?" was asked.

"Coming into the franchise now, and having no partisan record they will be more free today to decide the issues of today," he replied. "Nevertheless, they will have a strong predisposition against the liquor traffic in any form and they will favor a substitute for war."

**MCADOO FOR PROHIBITION**

An Associated Press dispatch from New York, under date of September 8, which quotes a statement given by ex-Secretary McAdoo, follows:

"Modification of the Volstead act to permit the sale of light wines and beers would destroy ultimately the entire prohibition amendment, William G. McAdoo, former Secretary of the Treasury, declared in a prepared statement made public tonight.

"He added he believed a 'modifying clause would make every lunch room, drug store and soda fountain a saloon, encourage youth to drink and bring a curse upon the country greater than war.'

"Prohibition means prevention," he continued. "It does not mean license in any form. To permit the sale of light wines and beers is to open a crack in the door of prevention, and once the crack is open the door is wide. It is impossible to administer a light wine and beer law in such a manner as to prevent the gravest abuses.

"Brewers and wine merchants know such a modification would destroy the prohibition amendment. To restore the liquor faction to political power would be to reestablish liquor trafficking in the worst form."

"It is a notorious fact," he added, "that all drunkards begin by drinking light wines and beer when young, and as the appetite grows, the desire for stronger drink is developed. If we turn loose upon the country light wines and beer, the greatest victory ever achieved for helpless women and children would be thrown to the winds.

"If congress can, by a mere majority vote, with the approval of a favoring president, license light wines and beer, then prohibition, which required a two-thirds vote, plus the consent of three-fourths of the states, can be nullified by a majority of congress with the approval of the President.

"Every man and woman voter who puts the welfare of children and humanity above the mere gratification of harmful appetites, should see to it that the next congress does not destroy the prohibition amendment."

Welcome, Mr. McAdoo. If he had come out earlier, and his friends had helped to put a dry plank in the national platform, he might have become the nominee.

**ONE FEARLESS DEMOCRAT**

It was refreshing to listen to Wm. J. Bryan at the Democratic National convention. There may be little he said with which we agree; but at least he had his say. He stood before a hostile convention, spoke his heart; and while the delegates stolidly voted against him, he moved the galleries to the one genuine demonstration of the gathering. When a man stands his ground in the face of newspaper ridicule and organized opposition, and preaches the faith that is in him, he commands the admiration and respect of those who love courage and free expression. Mr. Bryan represents a dwindling few in our national life—those who yet believe in the American right of free speech and frank discussion. In battling for his principles, openly and courageously—although our views may be at variance with his—Mr. Bryan performs a real and a much needed service in our politics.—Hiram W. Johnson in Sunset.