

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 5. No. 41

Lincoln, Nebraska, October 27, 1905

Whole Number 249

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### A MONSTROUS DOCTRINE

Referring to contributions to campaign funds, the Chicago Chronicle says: "They are good or bad, according to the motive with which they are given and the use to which they are put." And then referring particularly to insurance contributions to the republican campaign fund, the Chronicle adds: "The money used to defeat William J. Bryan and the democratic party was obviously put to good use."

Then, we presume, it is of no importance that these particular contributions were stolen from the policyholders. A great many desperate efforts have been made to support "the end justifies the means" doctrine; but the papers of character are not as a rule bold enough to support that doctrine as bluntly as the Chicago Chronicle does.

Carried to its logical conclusion the Chronicle's doctrine would mean that a Chicago pick-pocket could purge himself of sin by contributing a portion of his ill-gotten gains to the Salvation Army; or, to draw a more complete parallel with the instance under discussion, by expending a portion of his stealings in the effort to secure the appointment of a chief of police who would permit him to continue his bad practices.



### PROFIT BY EXPERIENCE

A Churchville, New York, reader of The Commoner writes: "If the funds stolen by life insurance companies are 'given back,' can the votes they purchased be 'given back' also? America, American politics and the will of the people are today changed fraudulently by this purchase. Where is the remedy?"

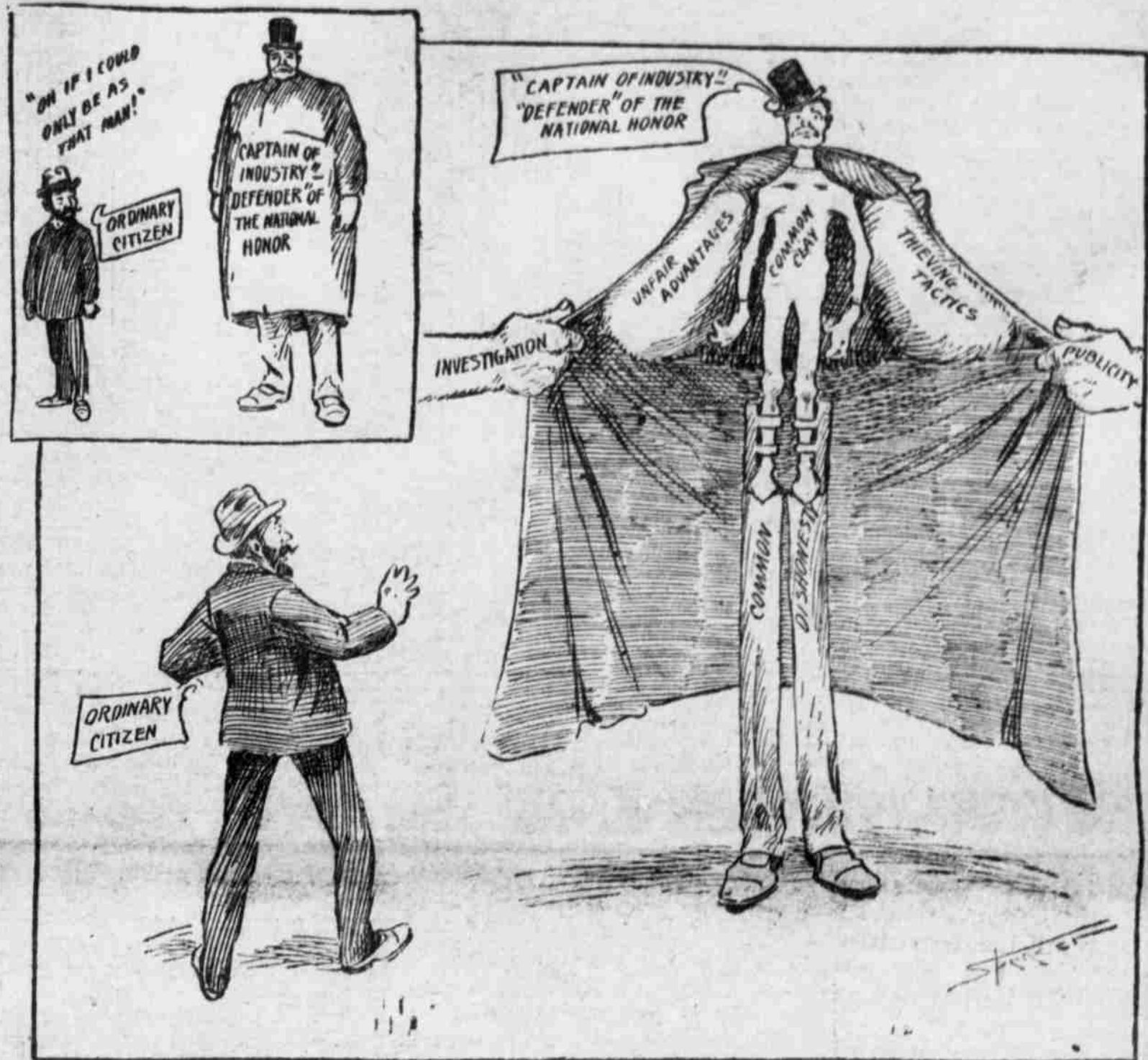
The remedy lies in the people profiting by experience. If as a result of all the crimes and frauds committed in the name of "national honor" the people shall become aroused to their responsibilities; if as a result of these experiences the people insist upon an honest and equitable administration of public affairs; if as a result of these exposures the trusts are destroyed, special privileges are abolished and popular government actually restored, the ends attained will be worth all the sacrifices required.



### CAN IT BE?

The Los Angeles Times, a republican paper, says: "The price of meat in Germany is reported to have risen to famine figures. But it will rise higher when the new German tariff gets in its perfect work."

Can it be possible that any republican paper will deny that under a protective tariff the foreigner pays the tax?



## PADDED: A REVELATION

## SNEERING AT MR. BRYAN'S "ADVICE"

That fine old republican newspaper, the Chicago Tribune, says: "Mr. Bryan can give more advice and see less of it followed than any man now before the public."

It is not necessarily a reflection upon a man that his advice is not followed; but Mr. Bryan cannot complain on that score just now; and certainly the Chicago Tribune is not justified in a boast.

Mr. Bryan has lived to see many of the policies he favored warmly advocated by those who, a few years ago, as warmly opposed them.

Mr. Bryan has advised the election of senators by the people, and today men of all parties are committed to that plan.

He has advised arbitration in the settlement of labor difficulties, and in one notable instance the gentleman elected to the office of president as a republican rendered distinguished service to his countrymen by acting upon that plan.

He has advised that the free pass is a great and growing evil, and today men of all political parties condemn the free pass system.

He has advised that public sentiment set itself rigidly against campaign contributions by corporations, and today that question occupies a conspicuous place in the attention of the American people.

He has advised that the quantitative theory of money is correct; and this, the foundation of all arguments made in behalf of bimetallism is now conceded by the very men who vigorously condemned it in 1896.

He has urged the enforcement of the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law, and—

after many years of waiting—the government's law officers, acting under the president's instructions, caused the arrest and prosecution of the members of the beef trust.

He has urged the enactment of stringent laws providing for publicity in the affairs of corporations, and the president, elected as a republican, has had much to say in advocacy of that method.

He has advised that corporations be required to show clean hands before being permitted to do business outside of the state of their origin, and that before such corporations could engage in interstate business they be required to obtain a federal license. The republican administration is now squarely on record in favor of that plan.

He has urged that tariff laws be amended by putting the products of trusts upon the free list in order to prevent monopoly under the plea of protection; and a considerable number of distinguished republicans are today publicly advocating that plan, while the rank and file of the party, if permitted to speak, would unquestionably give their sanction to it.

He has advised the enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission to the end that individuals and communities might be protected from discriminations and from unjust transportation rates; and today that is the most conspicuous reform for which the president, elected as a republican, stands.

Republican editors tread on dangerous ground when, in the light of present-day happenings, they undertake to call Mr. Bryan to account for the character of "advice" he has given.