

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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MR. BRYAN'S LETTERS

Mr. Bryan took passage on the Pacific Mail Steamship Manchuria, which sailed from San Francisco September 27.

He will go to Japan via Honolulu. After a few weeks in Japan he will proceed to China, the Philippine Islands, India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Holland and the British Isles.

The trip will occupy about one year, and the readers of The Commoner will be able to follow Mr. Bryan from the letters which will be published in The Commoner from time to time.

How can the voters of Ohio expect a "square deal" from the "phony box" in the hands of Senator Foraker?

It is all right that Senator Foraker should dissemble his love, but why should he kick railroad regulation down stairs?

By the way, all of us have heard of Poe, but who are some of those people who have been admitted to the Hall of Fame?

Every time Mr. Foraker happens to think about "Bryanism" he makes that fire alarm sound like an overworked electric gong.

President McCall says he believes his duty has been well done. At any rate the policyholders will admit that they have been well done.

The kind of freight regulation Senator Foraker favors is the regulation that will permit the railroads to squeeze every dollar the traffic will bear.

An oil tank steamer on the Atlantic was saved by a wireless telegram. A great many oil schemes have been saved by using political wires.

The wonder is not that Oregon has sentenced a congressman to jail, but that about forty-four other states haven't done the same thing several times.

Mr. Joseph Benson Foraker seems to be supporting the president's railway regulation plan just like Sampson supported the pillars of the temple.

Perhaps the president instructed his cabinet officers not to talk about public matters so that he might have a "scoop" every day while on his southern tour.

Mr. James Hazen Hyde says he is now ready to tell all he knows about the life insurance business. Mr. Hyde will please take the stand for about three seconds.

President Roosevelt says he hopes that in time public officials will be authorized to examine the books of railroad companies with the same power that is now exercised by the na-

A BANKER "SPEAKS OUT IN MEETING"

The Nebraska Bankers' association met at Lincoln October 24. Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, Charles G. Dawes, former comptroller of the currency, and now president of the Central Trust company of Chicago, and other distinguished gentlemen addressed the gathering.

Unquestionably the most interesting address was delivered by C. M. Brown, president of the First National bank at Cambridge, Neb. Mr. Brown's plain, unequivocal talk brought out heated criticisms from Mr. Dawes, and the result was, perhaps, the most interesting joint debate that has ever taken place at a bankers' meeting.

Mr. Brown severely arraigned the trusts and other dishonest corporations for corruption and avarice. He said that the bankers as a class were required to suffer in the public judgment from those evils. According to Mr. Brown, there seems to be a "pervading suspicion that there is some subtle power, the result of mutual interests, which binds the whole fraternity together." Mr. Brown said that the bankers were largely to blame for this impression, for the reason that they have "always been content to stand as the apologists for all the crimes committed in the name of wealth." Denouncing the trusts and the schemes of the "frenzied financiers" he said that it was the duty of the bankers to correct public opinion concerning themselves as a class by manifesting an interest in the welfare of the people in general; that bankers should discharge the duties of citizenship "as honestly and fearlessly as they discharged the duties of their daily avocation." Mr. Brown advocated federal control of corporations, and the regulation of railroads as an alternative to government ownership. He also favored laws prohibiting public officials from receiving honors from corporations, and said that a direct primary law was necessary.

Mr. Dawes took exception to Mr. Brown's remarks. He said that he deeply regretted what he called the "miasmatic pessimism" of the second speaker, and he added:

"What we need in the solution of this great question of the trusts is clear thinking, right thinking. It is not a question to be dealt with by the scheming politician seeking to make political capital out of the popular cry against trusts, nor by the political platform writer, nor by the dealer in platitudes but it is a problem for the clear headed business men of the country.

"To hell with platitudes. What we want to

know is the truth. There have been some real wrongs committed by the corporations but generalities will do no good in dealing with them. What we want to do is to think discriminately about these things. What we want to know is truth."

Mr. Dawes referred to the agitation for reform in railroad rates he made years ago while a citizen of Lincoln, and he heatedly denounced the sentiments expressed by Banker Brown.

Referring to Mr. Dawes, Mr. Brown said: "I came here as a disciple of this same gentleman. Fifteen years ago I used to read articles signed by him in the Nebraska State Journal denouncing the railroads for discrimination. What laws have we on the statute books today to prevent this same discrimination? I am not preaching the gospel of despair. I have struck at no corporation that stands within the law. He (referring to Mr. Dawes) stood here justifying corporations which are violating the law; witness the beef trust which a jury in Chicago found guilty of violating the law, and one member of which pleaded guilty. Witness the Northern Securities Co., which the supreme court declared illegal. Will some one here tell him what he (Dawes) said for us to do? Didn't I tell you my remedies, federal control, the direct primary, no gifts from corporations to public officials? He was instrumental in denouncing the policy of the railroads. He has been in the east since. We know how he got there. We know how he secured his position. We know what influences were behind him."

At this point a member of the association protested against the use of personalities, and the president requested Mr. Brown to refrain from following that line. Continuing, Mr. Brown said:

"Evidently some one else knows how he got there. It is he who preaches the gospel of despair just like Tom Lawson. He says there is no relief by legislation. Place the corporations under the same restrictions as the banks and there would be no watered stock; no stockholders robbed. He says we can not protect the people from being robbed. Didn't they shut up a bank in St. Louis just the other day to keep people from being robbed?"

"He is here for the purpose of telling you to do nothing. I advocate an increase of the powers of the interstate commerce commission, but he says not to do it. Bankers are condemned for doing just what that gentleman wants you to do today, stand as the apologists for these trusts."

AN IMPORTANT ELECTION IN NEBRASKA

On November 7 the people of Nebraska will select a justice of the state supreme court and two regents of the state university.

The people of Nebraska need not be told that the republican party has for so long been under the domination of corporation influences that it can not reasonably be expected that the public welfare will be advanced by agents of that political organization.

Judge W. G. Hastings, the democratic nominee for justice of the supreme court is recognized as a good lawyer, and in his service as judge of the district court and as commissioner of the supreme court he proved himself to be every inch a judge. He should be elected. The people will make a serious mistake if they vote the republican ticket this year under the impression that the professions of repentance and reform on the part of present-day managers are to be relied upon.

The only way to overthrow corporation domination in Nebraska is to overthrow the party which the corporations have so long used.

Many Nebraskans have in the past had the habit of overlooking the important office of regent of the state university. The filling of this place is particularly important this year because

tional bank examiners as regards national banks. But the people will object to investigation of railroad books in like manner as national bank books. The people have had some experience with national bank examination that did not examine.

President Roosevelt issues an executive order allowing cabinet officers to discharge employes regardless of civil service rules—and it

of the position which D. C. Cole and Louis Lightner, the democratic nominees, have taken with respect to certain matters important to university interests. Messrs. Cole and Lightner promise that if elected they will exert their influence to do away with secret meetings of the board of regents. They also pledge themselves to favor the return to John D. Rockefeller of the money recently donated by the oil trust king to Nebraska's university. They promise to vote to rescind the resolutions of the board of regents by which the chancellor of the university was permitted to serve on Mr. Rockefeller's educational board, and they promise to do whatever lies in their power to make it plain that the Nebraska state university will not be operated as an apology for the wrong doing of a trust magnate.

On this issue alone Messrs. Cole and Lightner deserve to be elected by a large majority.

If every voter of Nebraska could be made to understand the issue, there is little doubt that the Rockefeller proposition would be overwhelmingly condemned. Those who are opposed to planting, in the Nebraska university, the malignant influence of the Rockefellers should remind their neighbors of the importance of electing Messrs. Cole and Lightner to the board of regents.

is hailed by the administration press as something calculated to benefit the public service. But what would the republican press have said about "spoilsmen" if a democratic president had issued a similar order?

When Mr. Charles Gates Dawes addressed the bankers of Nebraska at Lincoln last week he found several of his utterances of the late '80's ringing in his ears before he got through.