

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### MR. BRYAN'S LETTERS

The first of Mr. Bryan's letters will be printed in the next issue of The Commoner, January 19. This letter will deal with Hawaii, and will describe Mr. Bryan's observations and experiences at Honolulu.

Mr. Bryan has found it necessary to change his route, and as a result will not visit Australia and New Zealand until another trip, when he can travel more leisurely and give to those countries the time their importance demands.

Beginning with the next issue The Commoner will each week print one of Mr. Bryan's letters. These will record his observations in Japan, China, Korea, the Philippine Islands, India, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Holland and the British Isles.

A New York newspaper referring to Mr. Bryan's journey says: "A better time for Mr. Bryan's tour, from the standpoint of the reader, could not possibly have been chosen. Extraordinary changes are in progress in nearly every section of the old world. The oriental slumber of centuries is broken; a new regime dominates the Far East; the old idea as to the relative strength and importance of European and Asiatic nations has been rudely jolted, and Caucasian contempt for the Mongolian has given place to the respect which triumphant might never fails to command. How are the new conditions to affect the interests of the United States? How are they affecting the Japanese, Chinese and Koreans? It will be interesting, will it not, to have Mr. Bryan's leisurely taken observations answering these questions?"

An editor who has read some of these letters says: "They are literally as full of human interest as an egg is full of meat; for be it remembered, Mr. Bryan is not only one of America's two foremost public men, but he is also a newspaper man whose keen faculties of observation instinctively seize on and record the details concerning men, women and children, surroundings and events which come within the range of every reader's active interest."

### OPEN CONFESSION

The Chicago Inter-Ocean expresses the hope that "William J. Bryan will also keep quiet about the Philippines when he gets home," to which the Springfield (Mass.) Republican retorts: "Imperialism naturally dreads discussion and here is an open confession of the fact."

## THE HIRED MAN



UNCLE SAM:—"He's a healthy eater, all right--but has anybody ever seen him work?"

## "WARRING ON ROOSEVELT"

Some of Mr. Roosevelt's friends profess to be greatly disturbed over a circular in which the president is criticised for the disaster he is alleged to be bringing upon the republican party. "What does President Roosevelt and his political advisers intend to do with the republican party?" is the chief question in this circular.

The Omaha Bee, a republican paper, referring to this circular says:

Reading between the lines, the disquisition on Roosevelt's relations to the republican party is manifestly an attempt to pave the way for members of congress that are affiliated with corporations to find an excuse for sidestepping on the question of railway regulation and other vital issues in the advocacy of which President Roosevelt simply voices the known sentiment of the American people.

Mr. Roosevelt's friends need not be alarmed by any attacks of this character. He will be judged by the American people who are considerably more interested in knowing what Mr. Roosevelt will do for the people than they are in knowing "what Mr. Roosevelt intends to do with the republican party."

Such attacks as these will not pave the way for members of congress to "side-step" on the question of railway regulation. Criticisms of the president made from the standpoint of the republican partisan will not affect the situation either

by way of providing an excuse to "side-stepping" republican members or by way of injuring Mr. Roosevelt's prestige in the great reforms he has publicly sanctioned.

Mr. Roosevelt's prestige in this respect may be destroyed. His present-day personal popularity may become greatly impaired, but this will result not from the acts of Mr. Roosevelt's enemies, but by the acts of Mr. Roosevelt himself. The simple truth is that what Mr. Roosevelt's friends have to fear more than anything else is Mr. Roosevelt's disposition to compromise. It is Mr. Roosevelt's tendency to yield in serious battles for reform, giving to the opposition all substantial results while reserving for himself sufficient margin upon which his newspaper champions may claim a victory for the public interests. Of course it would be an approach to lese majeste for any one to intimate, in the vernacular which Mr. Roosevelt understands so well--and in which he occasionally indulges--that he is "a quitter." But in spite of all his boasted fearlessness and independence he has, since he entered the White House, frequently shown himself to be a mere man.

While the Omaha Bee is claiming that Mr. Roosevelt is being attacked by members of his own party because of his devotion to public interests, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat--another republican paper--assures us that "the republican line is solid," and that even Senator Elkins may be depended upon to give support to a railway