

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 6. No. 3

Lincoln, Nebraska, February 2, 1906

Whole Number 263

CONTENTS

MR. BRYAN'S LETTER

WHAT ABOUT JOHN D?

MR. ROOSEVELT AND DEMOCRATS

A NEBRASKAN'S DISCOVERY

"THE GREAT WORLD'S ALTAR STAIRS"

SENATE INCONSISTENCIES

PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE IRON

THE COMMONER'S BANNER YEAR

WASHINGTON CITY LETTER

COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS

HOME DEPARTMENT

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

NEWS OF THE WEEK

TAKE HOLD OF THE TOWLINE

The attention of Commoner readers is invited to the good showing made by the special offer on page 5 of this issue. The readers of The Commoner are doing a great work in the effort to widen the sphere of The Commoner's influence by the material increase of its circulation. From all sections of the country The Commoner is receiving kind words these days and receiving, also, encouragement in the substantial form of new subscribers.

A special effort is now being put forth to make a marked increase in The Commoner's circulation preparatory to the congressional elections of 1906. To this end the co-operation of everyone who believes that The Commoner is doing good work is invited.

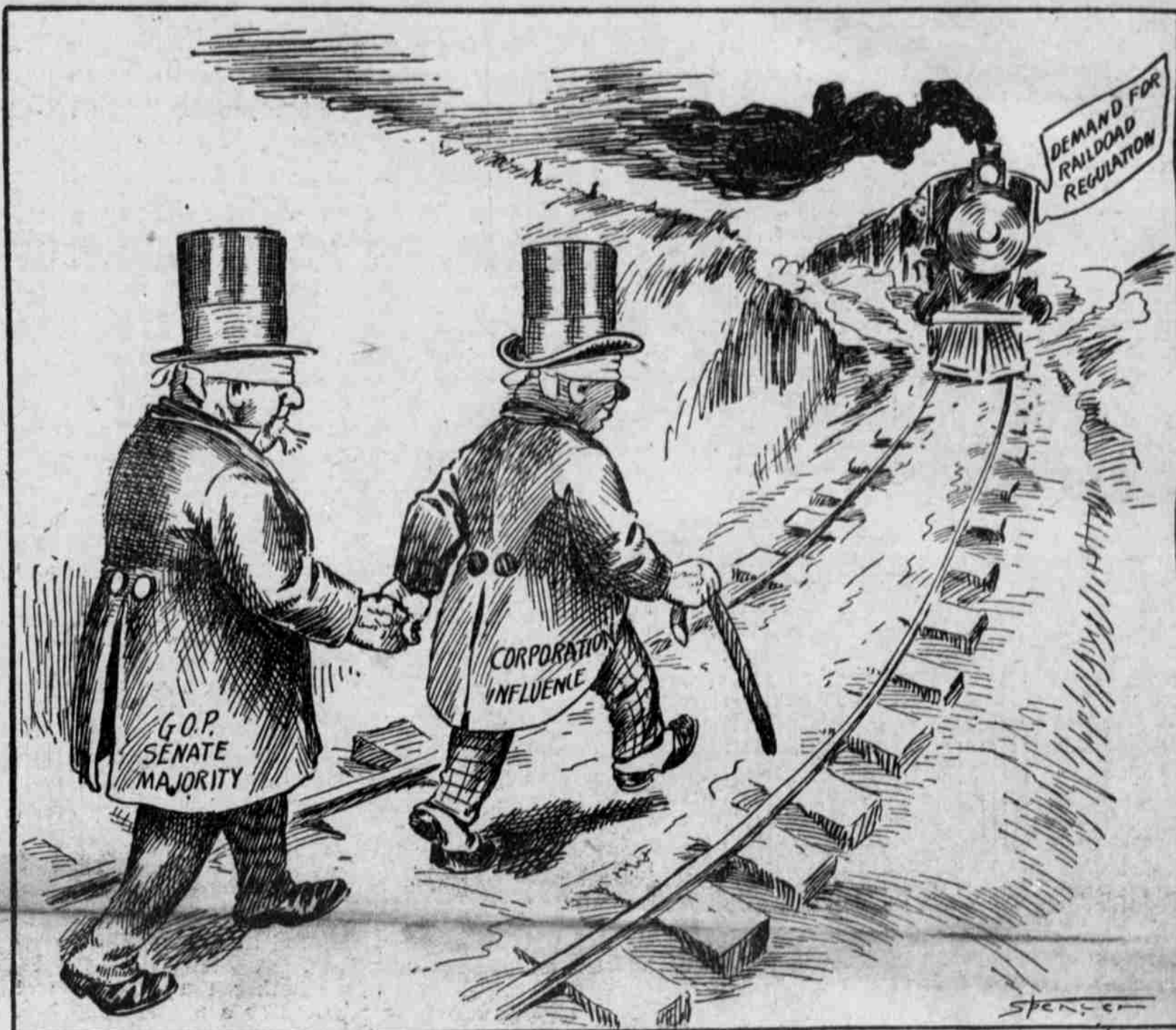
Let every Commoner reader take hold of the towline, and with a long pull, a short pull and a pull altogether The Commoner will soon have a large circulation in every county in every state and territory of the union.

LET HIM FIGHT NOW

One of Mr. Roosevelt's enthusiastic admirers says that while Mr. Roosevelt does not desire to become a candidate for another term "if duty demanded" he would "continue this fight." In other words, this admirer says that if it is necessary for Mr. Roosevelt to be a candidate for a third term in order to wage war against special interests, he will not shrink from the task.

That is all very interesting, to be sure. But Mr. Roosevelt is already in office. He has more than three years yet to serve. He is now possessed of all the power he would have after an election to a third term. Let him justify the confidence the people have shown in him by proceeding to exercise that power.

It will be time enough for Mr. Roosevelt's friends to talk about a third term when he shall have engaged in something more than a sham battle. We do not mean to say that every battle waged by Mr. Roosevelt has been on the sham order. But it cannot be denied that in many respects he has been a serious disappointment to those who have believed in him. The people are suffering from real evils and these must be met by real reforms. At least they must be met by serious and determined efforts at real reform. Investigations of beef trusts resulting, as Commissioner Garfield's investigation did, not only in the conclusion that there is no beef trust, but also in practically the surrender of the government's strong points in the prosecution, will neither provide the people with relief nor inspire them with confidence.



THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

Japanese Customs and Hospitality

MR. BRYAN'S THIRD LETTER

Every nation has its customs, its way of doing things, and a nation's customs and ways are likely to be peculiar in proportion as the nation is isolated. In Japan, therefore, one would expect to see many strange things, and the expectation is more than realized. In some things their customs are exactly the opposite of ours. In writing they place their characters in vertical lines and move from right to left, while our letters are arranged on horizontal lines and read from left to right. Their books begin where ours end and end where ours begin. The Japanese carpenters pull the saw and plane toward them, while ours push them from them. The Japanese mounts his steed from the right, while the American mounts from the left; Japanese turn to the left, Americans to the right. Japanese write it "Smith John Mr.," while we say "Mr. John Smith." At dinners in Japan wine is served hot and soup cold, and the yard is generally at the back of the house instead of the front.

The Japanese wear white for mourning and often bury their dead in a sitting posture. The death is sometimes announced as occurring at the house when it actually occurred elsewhere, and the date of the death is fixed to suit the convenience of the family. This is partly due to the fact that the Japanese like to have the death appear as occurring at home. Sometimes funeral services are held over a part of the body. An American lady whose Japanese maid died while attending her mistress in the United States, reports an incident worth relating. The lady cabled

her husband asking instructions in regard to the disposition of the body. He conferred with the family of the deceased and cabled back directing the wife to bring a lock of the hair and the false teeth of the departed. The instructions were followed and upon the delivery of these precious relics, they were interred with the usual ceremonies.

The handshake is uncommon even among Japanese politicians, except in their intercourse with foreigners. When Baron Komura returned from the peace conference in which he played so important a part, I was anxious to be present at his arrival, partly out of respect to the man and partly out of curiosity to see whether the threatened manifestations of disapproval would be made by the populace, it having been rumored that thousands of death lanterns were being prepared for a hostile parade. (It is needless to say that the threats did not materialize and that no expressions of disapproval were heard after his arrival.) I found it impossible to learn either the hour or the landing place, and, despairing of being present, started to visit a furniture factory to inspect some wood carving. Consul-General Jones of Dalney (near Port Arthur), then visiting in Yokohama, was my escort and, as good fortune would have it, we passed near the detached palace. Dr. Jones hearing that the landing might be made there, obtained permission for us to await the peace commissioner's coming. We found there Marquis Ito and a half dozen other officials. As Baron Komura did not arrive