

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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THE COMMONER AND "FIRST VOTERS"

A Lexington, Ky., reader wrote to The Commoner as follows: "I notice that the American Protective Tariff league is sending out circulars which read: 'Kindly give us the names and addresses, etc., of one person who will cast his first vote in the congressional election of 1906. We wish to forward literature on the subject of protection. Ask your neighbors to co-operate in this work.'

"Now, I suggest that every Commoner reader make it his duty to send to The Commoner office the name of one person who, at the next election, will cast his first vote, then a sample copy of The Commoner could be sent to that person.

"I also suggest that every Commoner reader make it his duty to secure at least one of these 'first voters' as a yearly subscriber to The Commoner. If we can get these young men to read The Commoner regularly we need not fear for their political future."

The Commoner hopes that this suggestion will be acted upon by Commoner readers generally. It is important that the "first voters" be impressed with the value of democratic principles in popular government.

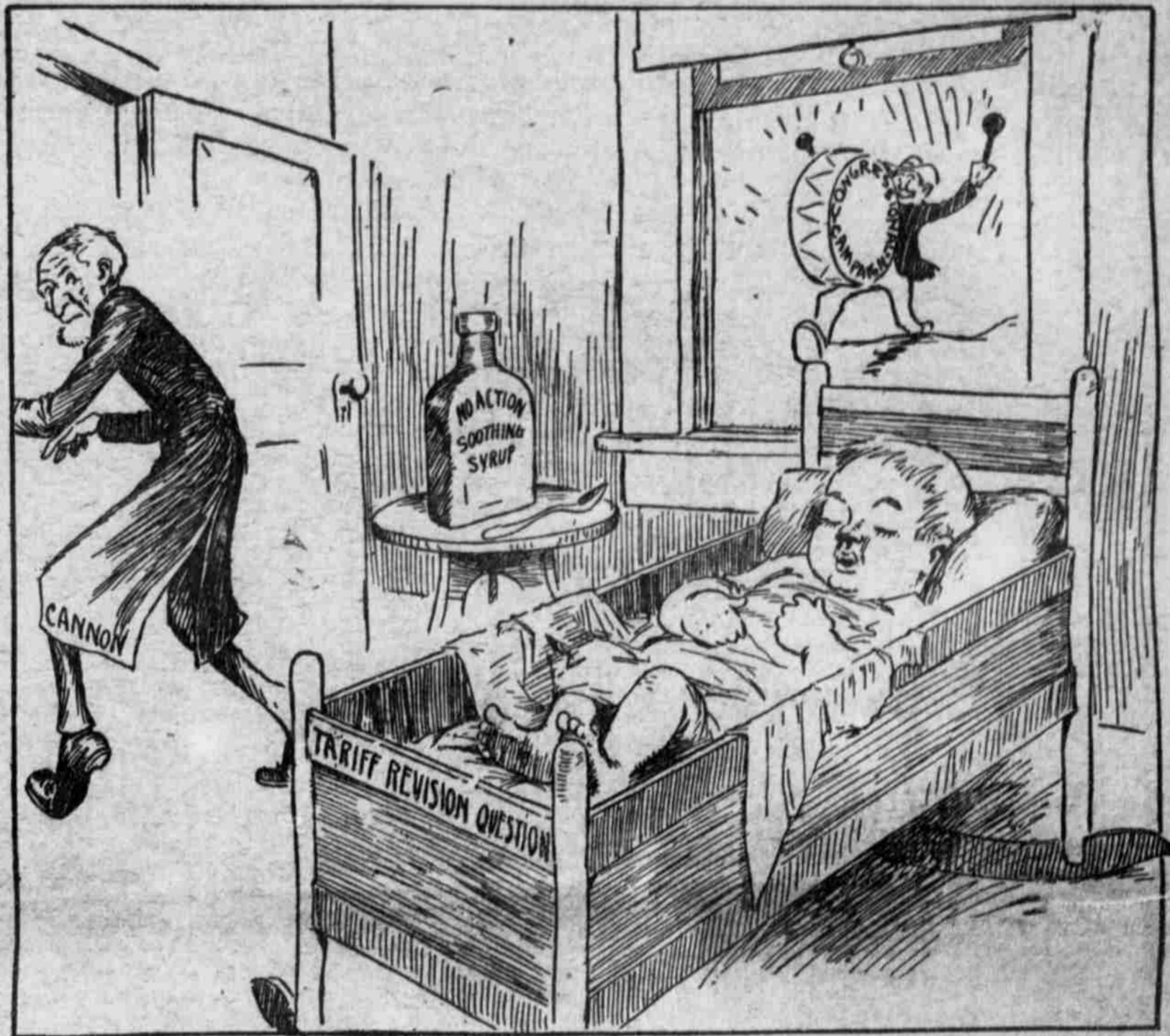
In order to encourage the campaign among "first voters," The Commoner will be sent for one year for sixty cents to any one who is to cast his first vote at the congressional elections of 1906 and whose name, accompanied by the subscription price, reaches The Commoner office prior to election day in November, 1906.

Any one desiring to avail himself of this opportunity must state in his letter that the one in whose name the subscription is forwarded will cast his first vote at the 1906 elections, and is therefore entitled to this rate.

PRISON REFORM

Authorities at the Illinois state penitentiary at Joliet have abolished the lock step and now prisoners march to and from their cells in military formation. The striped clothing has also been abolished and the prison authorities say that great benefits have been derived from the reforms.

Naturally the striped clothing and the old fashioned lock step become very obnoxious to the prisoner. There is enough in the very fact of his incarceration to remind him of his fall, and it is to be hoped that all over the country a systematic effort will be made to establish the necessary reforms in the treatment of prisoners. Wherever improved methods have been adopted, the prison authorities declare that they would not willingly return to the old system.



Uncle Joe THINKS He Has It Doped

"THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN"

Mr. Bryan's Address Before the American Society on July Fourth

Speaking on "The White Man's Burden," before the American Society at London, July 4, Mr. Bryan said:

"The memory of the evening spent with the American Society, Thanksgiving day two and a half years ago, is such a pleasant one that I esteem myself fortunate to be able to accept the invitation so kindly extended by our distinguished ambassador, Hon. Whitelaw Reid, to be your guest on this occasion. Our English friends, under whose flag we meet tonight, recalling that this is the anniversary of our nation's birth, would doubtless pardon us if our rejoicing contained something of self-congratulation, for it is at such times as this that we are wont to review those national achievements which have given to the United States its prominence among the nations. But I hope I shall not be thought lacking in patriotic spirit if, instead of drawing a picture of the past, bright with heroic deeds and unparalleled in progress, I summon you rather to a serious consideration of the responsibility resting upon those nations which aspire to pre-eminence. This line of thought is suggested by a sense of propriety as well as by recent experiences—by a sense of propriety because such a subject will interest the Briton as well as the American, and by recent experiences because they have impressed me not less with our national duty than with the superiority of western over eastern civilization.

"Asking your attention to such a theme it is not unfitting to adopt a phrase coined by a poet to whom America as well as England can lay some

claim, and take for my text 'The White Man's Burden.'

"Take up the White Man's burden—
In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride.
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's profit,
And work another's gain."

"Thus sings Kipling and, with the exception of the third line (of the meaning of which I am not quite sure) the stanza embodies the thought which is uppermost in my mind tonight. No one can travel among the dark-skinned races of the Orient without feeling that the white man occupies an especially favored position among the children of men and the recognition of this fact is accompanied by the conviction that there is a duty inseparably connected with the advantages enjoyed. There is a white man's burden—a burden which the white man should not shirk even if he could, a burden which he could not shirk even if he would. That no one liveth unto himself or dieth unto himself has a national as well as an individual application. Our destinies are so interwoven that each exerts an influence directly or indirectly upon all others.

"Sometimes this influence is unconsciously exerted as when, for instance, the good or bad precedent set by one nation in dealing with its own affairs is followed by some other nation. Sometimes the influence is incidentally exerted as