

## Mr. Bryan on American Politics

An Associated Press cablegram under date of London, July 12, follows:

"William J. Bryan, having had the opportunity of reading American newspapers, consented today to discuss some of the questions which have been raised since he has again become prominent as a presidential possibility. He said:

"I notice that I am described by some as conservative, and in order that there may be no misunderstanding on that subject, permit me to say that in one sense I have always been a conservative. The democratic policies are conservative in that they embody old principles applied to new conditions. There was nothing new in principle in either of the platforms on which I stood. We were accused of attacking property, when in fact the democratic party is the defender of property, because it endeavors to draw the line between honest accumulation by honest methods on the one side and predatory wealth and immoral methods on the other.

"It is to the interests of every honest man that dishonesty should be exposed and punished; otherwise the deserving are apt to suffer for the undeserving.

"If, however, by the word conservative they mean that I have changed my position on any public question or moderated my opposition to corporate aggrandizement, they have a surprise waiting for them. I am more radical than I was in 1896 and have nothing to withdraw on economical questions which have been under discussion.

"The only question we discussed in 1896, upon which there has been

any apparent change, is the silver question, and that has not been a change in the advocates of bimetallism, but in conditions. We contended for more money and urged the free coinage of silver as the only means then in sight of securing it. The increased production of gold has brought in part the benefit we expected to secure from the restoration of silver. The per capita volume of money in the United States is almost 50 per cent greater now than it was in 1896, and the benefits brought by this increase have not only vindicated the quantitative theory of money, but have proven the benefits of the larger amount of money. No advocate of the gold standard can claim the triumph of his logic.

"I believe in bimetallism and I believe that the restoration of silver would bring still further prosperity, besides restoring par in exchange between gold and silver using countries but I recognize, as do all other bimetallists whom I have met abroad, that the unexpected and unprecedented increase in gold production has for the present removed the silver question as an issue.

"While the money question has waned in importance, other questions have been forging to the front and to these questions we must apply the same principles we applied to the money question and seek to secure the greatest good to the greatest number by legislation which conforms to the doctrine of equal rights for all and special privileges for none.

"On the new questions many will act with us who were against us on the money question, for notwithstanding

ing the discussion of that question, millions did not understand it and were frightened into opposition. We can not expect the support of anyone who is interested in taking advantage of the people, either through trusts or through any other illegitimate form of business. Our efforts should be to distinguish between these corporations which are legitimate and those aggregations of wealth which are organized for purposes of public plunder and appeal for support to those only who are willing to have the government protect each person in the enjoyment of his own earnings.

"The newspapers have been trying to create friction between what they call 'old friends' and 'new friends' in politics. Those are friends who are working toward a common end, and each campaign brings to some extent a new alignment. In 1896 the party lost many democrats and was recruited by a great many who had been republicans up to that time, and we welcomed them. In 1900 some came back who were against us in 1896 and we did not shut the door against them. I have no idea that the party will require tickets of admission in the coming campaign. Usually parties are so anxious to secure recruits that past differences are not emphasized if there is a sincere agreement on present issues.

"I do not know that we can find a better plan than the Bible plan, which admits the eleventh hour comer to a place in the vineyard and to share the reward with those who began earlier. I think this sound politics, as well as sound religion, provided the new recruit comes to work and not to interfere with the other laborers. But of course when an overseer has

to be selected experience can not be left out of consideration. The worker who came late, if honest, would be too modest to assume an attitude of superiority over those who had toiled during the earlier hours.

"While the question is one of purpose, a man who recognizes the dangers that threaten our country and is anxious to avert them will not find it difficult to establish friendly relations with those who saw the dangers at an earlier date.

"If the differences between the sincere and the pretended friends of reform can not be discovered before, they will become apparent when the platform is written, for, if present indications count for anything, that platform is likely to be so plain that no one can mistake it and so strong that no enemy of democratic principles will be drawn to the party."

"Mr. Bryan added that he would discuss the trust, the tariff, railroad and labor questions, imperialism and other issues at length when he reached America."

An Associated Press dispatch from Louisville, Ky., says: "The committee on awards announced yesterday the prizes connected with the homecoming celebration. Medals will be awarded as follows: Left state at tenderest age, Mary Alice Baker, 3707 Finley avenue, St. Louis, Mo.; left state at most advanced age, Mrs. Mary A. Metcalfe, Marlow, I. T.; absent from state longest without returning, R. H. Smith, Boone county, Mo.; traveled longest distance, James D. Gardner, Melbourne, Australia; nearest kin to Daniel Boone, Miss Mattie Henderson, Fulton, Mo.; most aged Kentuckian, Gordon Boling, Windsor, Illinois."

# The Commoner & "First Voters"

A Lexington, Ky., Reader writes to The Commoner as Follows:

"I notice that the American Protective Tariff League is sending out circulars which read: 'Kindly give us the name and address, 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 the 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 sixty cents to anyone 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.

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