

retary Taft is to be presented as a reform candidate, he must be a real reformer, not a sham and a pretense. If he is a real reformer, he is more interested in eliminating Senator Foraker than in eliminating the democratic party, and his friends, if they are reformers, ought to be more interested in principles than in party name.

If Chairman Brown speaks with authority, the republican reformers will be willing to fill the senate up with corporation attorneys and thus thwart the will of the people provided the republican machine is allowed a control of the patronage and name the man who is to draw the presidential salary. Chairman Brown's recent statement gives color to the charge that a tie-up was made in Ohio by the terms of which the so-called reform element is to be given an endorsement of Secretary Taft and the corporation element is to be given United States senator. But while such a bargain may have been made, it will be difficult to carry it out if there are republicans who realize the danger of corporate domination in politics, and they will not be satisfied with any agreement that surrenders the party organization to predatory wealth. The bosses may plan but the voters, even republican voters, will have something to say about the carrying out of the plans.



#### MUNICIPAL INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The Commoner, having made note of the fact that the city of Lincoln, Neb., has adopted the initiative and referendum, is in receipt of several requests for an explanation of the system as it operates under the Nebraska statutes. The statute, enacted in 1905, reads in part as follows:

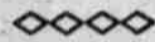
"The right to propose ordinances for the government of any city, or other municipal subdivision of the state of Nebraska, shall in addition to being exercised by the mayor and city council of such city, or the governing authorities of such other municipal subdivision of this state, be vested in the voters thereof as hereinafter provided."

The statute then provides that when twenty per cent of the voters of the city or municipal subdivision petition for an ordinance, the same shall be submitted to the voters at a special election to be held not earlier than thirty days nor later than sixty days from the time of filing the petition. If in the meantime the council enacts the ordinance petitioned for with amendments of its own, both the ordinance petitioned for and the ordinance as enacted must be submitted to popular vote, each properly designated.

After an ordinance is enacted by the authorities twenty per cent of the voters of the municipality may by petition compel its submission to the voters of the city for adoption or rejection.

The law provides how the petitions must be framed and also for the proper qualifications of those who may become signers. A specified number of petitioners must make affidavit that all signers are bona fide citizens and that their signatures as attached are genuine.

Whether or not a city will operate under the initiative and referendum is left to the decision of the voters.



#### THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge which is printed on page 14 of this issue.



#### A QUESTION OF AUTHORSHIP

George Fred Williams tells a story that has an application to present day politics. According to the story there was a debate in a colored club over the question: Resolved, that when one hen lays an egg and another hen sets on the egg, the hen that laid the egg is the mother of the chicken. Both sides were ably presented, and the presiding officer was leaning strongly toward the side of the negative. Finally a colored brother in the rear of the room injected a ques-

tion—"Suppose a case," said he, "suppose the egg is a duck egg, then who is the mother of the duck, the duck that laid the egg or the hen what set on the egg?" This argument caused consternation in the ranks of the speakers on the negative, but the presiding officer was equal to the occasion. He rapped for order, and after scratching his head answered: "Ducks am not before de house; chickens am de question; therefore I rules de ducks out."

President Roosevelt has been hatching out policies which the democratic party originated, and it becomes a very interesting question "Who am de mother of the chicken"—who shall have the credit of authorship? As there is no presiding officer to rule out the arguments presented in behalf of the affirmative, the democrats will insist that as they advocated these policies long before the president took them up, they shall not be denied credit for them even though he has acted as an incubator and hatched these policies out.



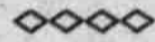
#### WARS

The Sioux City Journal, always a welcome visitor to The Commoner's exchange desk, despite its many political shortcomings, says: "Mr. Bryan is the friend of international peace, but that is another matter. Mr. Bryan is a good man, but the flesh is weak when it comes to feeling sorry over the strife raging in the republican party. There is hardly any territory on the map of the United States claimed by the republican party that is free of war. The bloodshed in many states is up to high water mark."

Mr. Bryan has so trained himself as to be able to take a very philosophic view of the state of affairs outlined by the esteemed Journal. His dislike of war is, of course, modified somewhat by circumstances and the kind of warfare being waged. When Texas imported the Guatemalan bug to wage warfare on the boll weevil Mr. Bryan approved. When the chief agriculturist of Kansas turned the ladybugs loose to wage war upon the wheat-destroying greenbug, again Mr. Bryan applauded and wished that the war should be waged to a finish.

So, too, when viewing the internecine strife now waging in the republican ranks, Mr. Bryan, remembering the boll weevil and the greenbug, is quite willing that this warfare should continue until, like the famed cats of Kilkenny that fought and fought until instead of two cats there weren't any, there will be no more republican party, but an organization that has a higher conception of citizenship than the mere desire to use it to advance the selfish interests of the few at the expense of the many.

Despite his advocacy of peace, national and international, Mr. Bryan is not yet ready to declare against wars of every kind. He is trying to raise a little wheat, and he has some friends in the Texas cotton belt.



#### PRIVATE MONOPOLY

The corporations which secure municipal franchises are not so objectionable as the industrial monopolies, because the city authorities always reserve the right to regulate the service charges, and yet public sentiment is steadily growing against the sale or lease of municipal franchises. The industrial monopoly, not being under the supervision of any authority, municipal, state or national, is free to employ whatever means it pleases to exact tribute from the producers of raw material, from the purchasers of the finished product and from the operatives. Not content with its power over its patrons and its employees, it bankrupts its rivals.

The protective tariff and the railroad rebate have been the mainstays of the industrial monopoly. The former has kept out the foreign rival and the latter has enabled the trust to drive its competitors from the field. A reduction of import duties would lessen the ability of the trust to extort from consumers, and a law authorizing the admission, duty free, of articles entering into competition with the products of a convicted trust would act as a powerful deterrent to monopolistic combinations.

We have already entered upon the experiment of railroad regulation and the roads themselves seem anxious to have the rebate system stopped. And well they may be, if the interests of the stockholders are considered, for the rebate is a net loss to the railroads. It has existed partly because directors or officials have been pecuniarily interested in the shippers favored, and partly because the trusts have controlled enough shipping to make their business a prize to the roads. Absolute equality of treatment between the trust and

its competitors would very materially lessen its power over the market.

But the advantage which mere size gives to a great corporation has been underestimated by the public. A corporation with a capital of five hundred millions and with manufacturing plants scattered all over the country has a tremendous advantage over a competing corporation with a capital of five, ten or even twenty-five millions. The larger corporation while maintaining, or even raising, prices elsewhere, can undersell the smaller corporation in the latter's territory. After bankrupting its rival, or forcing it to sell its plant, the trust can raise prices and recover its losses from the community. This is not only what can be done, but this is what has been done, over and over again. Many manufacturers who won reputation and achieved success under former conditions have learned, to their sorrow, of how little value are reputation and business experience when pitted against the unscrupulous methods of the trust magnates.

The time is at hand when the public must deal with the single corporation which aspires to a monopoly of the market. Fortunately our dual form of government furnishes a means of applying a complete remedy. The states exercise the right to create corporations, but the federal government is supreme in the sphere of interstate commerce. A federal statute of a few lines will provide for an interstate license and forbid a state corporation to do business outside of the state of its origin without securing such a license. A few more lines will set forth the conditions upon which the license may be secured—conditions which will make a private monopoly impossible. If congress can withdraw from a lottery company the right to use the mail or the express lines for the carrying of a lottery ticket, it can withdraw from a would-be monopoly the right to employ the railroads, the mails or the telegraph lines to aid its conspiracy against the people.

This remedy was first suggested about seven years ago; it was then embodied in the democratic national platform of 1900; it has since been indorsed by the head of the bureau of corporations and more recently by the president. There can scarcely be any doubt of the constitutionality of such a statute when it is remembered that the private monopoly has always been an outlaw.

The license system would enable the government to impose any reasonable conditions and the most effective condition would be one arbitrarily fixing the proportion of the total product that the licensed corporation would be permitted to control. Experience would determine what that proportion should be.

It is necessary to draw a distinction between the natural man and the fictitious person called a corporation. Man has natural rights, inalienable and inviolable; the corporation has no rights excepting those given it by law. There is measurable equality between individuals; there is an almost immeasurable inequality between corporations. It does not, therefore, follow that, because the natural citizens of one state stand upon an equal footing with the citizens of other states, corporations created by a state must receive the same treatment accorded to natural persons.

The end to be secured is the dissolution of every private monopoly now in existence and the prevention of new ones. When the people clearly understand the principle involved in a private monopoly and the evils that result from it they will have no difficulty in making and enforcing laws necessary for their own protection. As yet only a few monopolies have been interfered with, but public sentiment is growing and the time for action is near at hand.

#### THE MAN WHO WINS

The man who wins is the man who works—  
The man who toils while the next man shirks;  
The man who stands in his deep distress  
With his head held high in the deadly press—  
Yes, he is the man who wins.

The man who wins is the man who knows  
The value of pain and the worth of woes—  
Who a lesson learns from the man who falls  
And a moral finds in his mournful walls.  
Yes, he is the man who wins.

The man who wins is the man who stays  
In the unsought paths and the rocky ways,  
And, perhaps, who lingers, now and then,  
To help some failure to rise again,  
Yes, he is the man who wins.

And the man who wins is the man who hears  
The curse of the envious in his ears,  
But who goes his way with his head held high  
And passes the wrecks of the failures by—  
For he is the man who wins.

—Baltimore News.