

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 8, NO. 17

Lincoln, Nebraska, May 8, 1908

Whole Number 381

CONTENTS

AMERICA AND CHINA
INSURING BANK DEPOSITS
THE RAILROAD VOTE
GOVERNMENT BY CORPORATION
EXACTIONS OF THE BEEF TRUST
REPUBLICAN PUBLISHERS AND THE
PAPER TRUST
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
MILLION ARMY PLAN
WASHINGTON LETTER
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

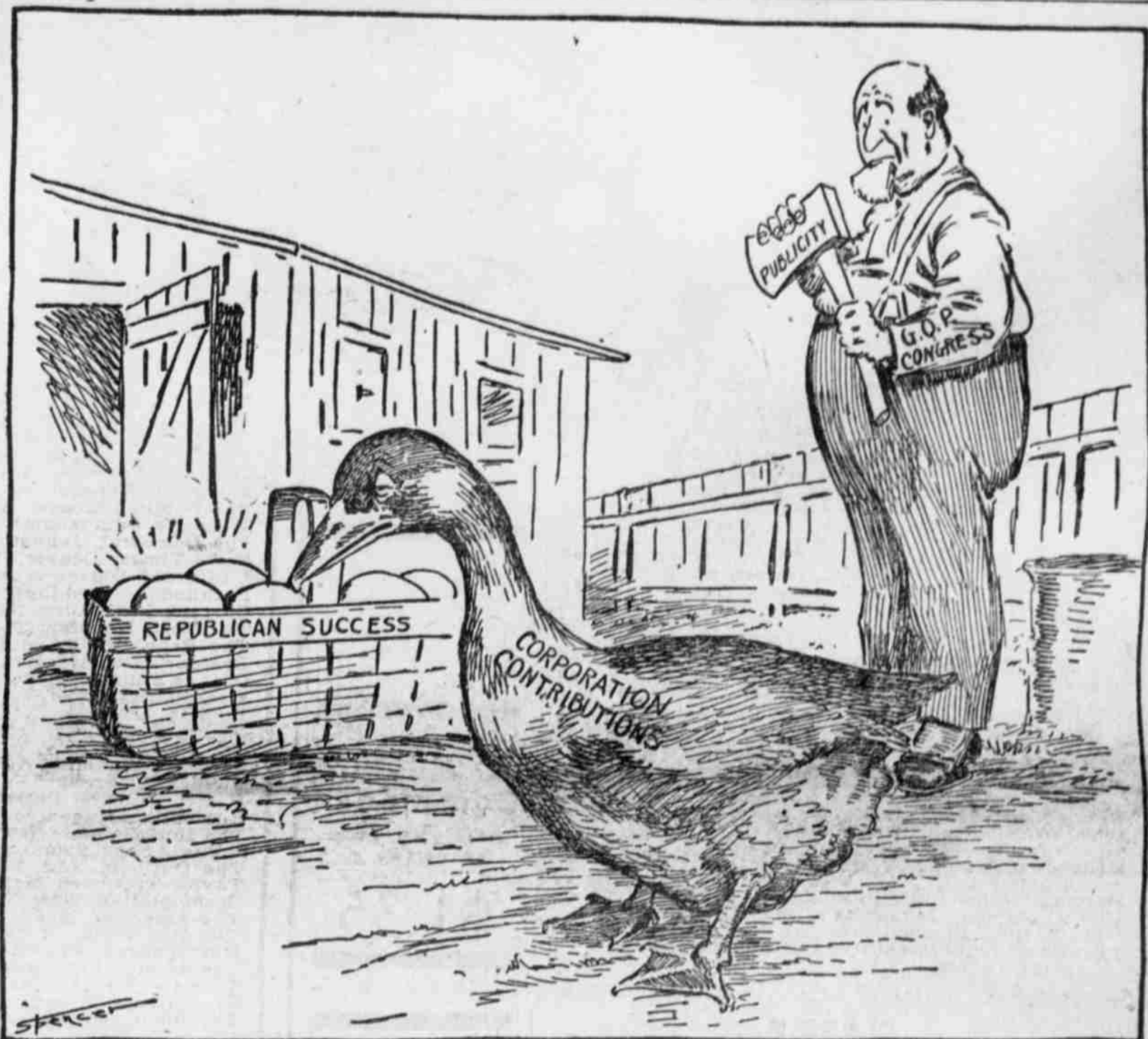
Mr. James T. Lloyd, democratic member of congress from Missouri, has been made chairman of the democratic congressional committee and has in charge the campaign that is being prosecuted for the election of a democratic congress. The work of this committee is scarcely second to the work of the national committee, for without a house of representatives, a democratic administration is helpless. With a democratic house of representatives, the president is able to bring pressure to bear upon the senate, for the president and the house working together can present issues to the senate and focus public attention upon remedial legislation.

Mr. Lloyd's committee is a democratic committee—a committee composed of real democrats who are wedded to democratic ideas, and who are making a fight for democratic reforms. That being true, the committee has no disposition to collect funds from predatory corporations, and could not secure such contributions if it desired to. It must make its fight upon the contributions sent in by the democrats who are interested in democratic success. The Commoner, therefore, appeals to its readers to send contributions to Mr. Lloyd for the carrying on of this work. The democratic fight ought to be made by the rank and file of the party; a small sacrifice on the part of each democrat would enable the committee to supply the necessary literature and get the party records before the public.



CORRUPTION ADMITTED

Mr. Ryan, of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company has admitted on the witness stand that his company contributed \$500,000 to the campaign in 1900. As a part of this sum was, according to Mr. Ryan, used to prevent Mr. Bryan's nomination, it is quite evident that the rest was used to defeat him after the nomination. When one corporation—and that a local one—gives more money to a national campaign than the democrats were able to collect from some six million and a half of voters the American people ought to get some idea of the corrupting influence of predatory wealth. These contributions are not gifts, they are investments. They are advance payments on contracts for the future delivery of the government into the hands of the contributors. These same influences are now trying to control both the leading parties—and every intelligent man ought to know it by this time. Fortunately the masses are incorruptible and the scheme will fail in the democratic party.



WILL HE KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGGS? NOT YET!

AMERICA AND CHINA

The president in his message urging the building of four warships attempts to use China as an argument in favor of a big navy plan. He says: "It would be equally foolish to rely upon each of them possessing at all times and under all circumstances and provocations an altruistic regard for the rights of others. Those who hold this view are blind indeed to all that has gone on before their eyes in the world at large. They are blind to what has happened in China, in Turkey, in the Spanish possessions, in Central and South Africa, during the last dozen years.

"For centuries China has cultivated the very spirit which our peace-at-any-price men wish this country to adopt. For centuries China has refused to provide military forces and has treated the career of the soldier as inferior in honor and regard to the career of the merchant or the man of letters. There never has been so large an empire which for so long a time has so resolutely proceeded on the theory of doing away with what is called militarism."

"In external affairs the policy has resulted in various other nations now holding large portions of Chinese territory, while there is a very acute fear in China lest the empire, because of its defenselessness, be exposed to absolute dismemberment, and its well-wishers are able to help it only in a small measure, because no nation can help any other unless that other can help itself."

It is strange that the president should attempt to make the absurd mistake of attributing China's position to an overweening desire for peace. It is not China's lack of military en-

thusiasm that has caused her misfortunes. It is the fact that she has been the abode of ignorance and selfishness. A few of her people have had a little learning, and have run the government on the graft system while the masses have dwelt in ignorance, and have been taught the philosophy in which each one looks out for himself and the devil for the hindmost. But to compare the United States with China, Turkey, Spain and South Africa is to ignore essential differences. Our nation is the most advanced nation in the world; its people are intelligent and well-informed. Our nation has abundant resources and our people have an enormous productive power. We have an ocean on either side to protect us against attack, and no nation is foolish enough to invite a conflict. If there is any nation that does not need to impoverish its people with preparations for imaginary war, our nation is that nation. Not only do we need less protection than any other nation, but our ideals forbid that we should enter into the mad race for physical power that has led other nations to decay.

The president and other naval enthusiasts advocate a gigantic navy on the ground that it promotes peace. The theory is antagonistic to all that religion teaches or that history proves. The very spirit that leads us to rely upon a big navy will lead us to use it. Some regard the parade of our ships around the world as an exhibition of our strength. It is to be hoped that this is not the real reason for the trip that they are taking. If this was the reason, why should not other nations parade their ships, and how long would these parades continue before they