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Address all Orders to **THE COMMONER** Lincoln, Nebraska

Letters from the People

A. F. Waldbillig, Albany, N. Y.—Enclosed find clipping from the Times-Union which might interest you, and according to the doings in congress there will be no chance whatever for the democratic party to win as long as we have so many Judases in the party. The socialist party is the only party to hope for the liberation of the people.

John Speed, Washington, D. C.—Whatever merit a democratic platform may hereafter possess, or however faithfully it would be carried out should the party be given the power to enact legislation comporting therewith, it will be held up to ridicule with telling effect by republican speakers and writers—and not without ample reason. The stronger its "planks," the greater its insincerity will appear. An honest man, even though misguided, always commands respect; but an insincere man, however brilliant, is hopelessly handicapped in an effort to gain the confidence of his fellowmen. The same is true with political parties.

So long as those "representatives" are in congress or are permitted to participate in the party's councils, the democratic party will be struggling under a burden which it can not successfully bear. What assurance to the country can it offer, under such circumstances, that its ante-election declarations are more than idle promises designed alone to influence votes? What well informed voter will regard such appeals as anything but an insult to his intelligence? And, without a declaration of principles—a statement of intentions—just prior to a national election, what a sorry spectacle a party would present throughout the campaign, and what a crushing defeat it would suffer at the polls!

It is noted that one of the senators now presumes to ridicule the argument that platforms are binding, and in the same breath, with apparent pride, claims the authorship of the 1896 democratic platform. Could anything be more inconsistent? An honorable and consistent senator would have resigned his commission rather than repudiate his party's platform in such an emphatic manner, even in a less crucial period of that party's career.

The proper course to pursue, and the only one that can be followed with reasonable hope of success, in the effort to relieve the democratic party of this stigma which has been thrust upon it in such a cowardly manner, is for the rank and file to take the matter in hand and retire the traitors—do it with the minimum delay and maximum emphasis. Until those men cease to be actively identified with the party, every democratic paper in the land should publish their names, as voters for a duty on lumber, in parallel columns with that portion of the Denver platform which was thus so ruthlessly violated by them. All honor to the republican "insurgents" in congress who voted for free lumber; in doing so they are understood to have transgressed no specific promise.

John Aubrey Jones, Fruitvale, Calif.—Some of the democrat-republican senators, replying to Mr. Bryan's arraignment of them for having stultified themselves, betrayed their constituents and compromised the democratic party by their votes in favor of a tariff on lumber and iron ore, retort by saying that what Mr. Bryan says in criticism of them does not concern them a whit. But

they do not deny, or in any sense undertake to defend themselves against the arraignment. This is a virtual admission of guilt. On this admission they will most certainly have to face trial at the bar of public opinion in their respective bailiwicks. They may then realize that what Mr. Bryan said in criticism of their undemocratic conduct had grave concern for them. For, if there be left the spirit of true democracy amongst those constituencies there will be merited punishment meted out to the recreants, or as one addicted to using strong language might say—the traitors who sold out their party principle for a mess of pottage—without even getting the pottage, at least, not so as to be seen eating it. If the democratic party is to live, because it is democratic in its exemplification of economic, political and governmental principles, there must inevitably be a reformation of the party by an expulsion from its councils of those who support republican policies and republican politicians.

H. H. Hughes, Springfield, Mo.—Apropos of your article on the eighteen democratic votes against free iron ore, or rather for a 25 per cent duty on iron ore importations, I beg to enclose an editorial from the Saturday Evening Post of June 12, 1909. All the democrats with

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