

## Democratic Literature

The Pennsboro, W. Va., News indulges in some frank talk concerning democratic literature. There may be other communities where the News' editorial may be needed and so The Commoner reproduces it. The News says:

"Among Ritchie county democrats, Bryan was a more popular candidate than Parker. Yet notwithstanding that fact, the further fact that in four years the vote would naturally increase, the additional fact that the panic was at flood-tide, which naturally was in our favor—Bryan in this county received in 1908 fifty-one fewer votes than Parker got in 1904. And the campaign waged by Chairman Patton was vigorous and intelligent—beyond criticism. It is true the republican vote also slumped, but that was due to party divisions, the panic and other reasons which did not apply to us democrats. One need not go far to find why ours is a shrinking vote. It is to be found in democratic indifference to democratic literature. The News goes into more democratic homes today than it entered when the writer acquired it—but beyond a radius of some ten miles from Pennsboro, not one democrat in three subscribes for it or ever did so. In Murphy not one democrat in twenty takes the News or ever did. Nor do most of them take any other democratic paper. We have even had to meet the hostility of county committeemen, one at least of whom endeavored to have one republican News subscriber to cancel his subscription. Tried it with democrats, too. It did not work. We ask nobody to read this paper because it is a democratic paper. But we urge the necessity of some democratic paper in every democratic and independent home. The Toledo Blade alone is poor political pabulum for democratic boys and girls. Nor is it advised that non-democratic papers be stopped for comparisons of principles lose us no votes. You can not have a virile, growing democratic organization without democratic literature in every democratic home. For instance, The Commoner and the News, only \$1.50, will keep you in the closest touch with national and local politics."

Democrats everywhere ought to remember that democratic newspapers must, as a rule, depend upon democrats for support. So far as newspaper excellence is concerned these democratic papers will compare favorably with their republican rivals. As the News says, democrats have nothing to fear from a comparison between democratic and republican arguments and it would be well if every citizen, who could afford to do so, subscribed for at least one paper on either side. But the democrat should subscribe for his own party paper, should encourage its editor by words of cheer and, whenever possible, by securing for him a new subscriber.

The importance of the weekly newspaper is not always appreciated by the people of the community in which it is published. It is necessary to the growth of that community and it plays an important part in the politics of the nation as well as of the state—for national parties are, after all, built upon the foundations raised in precincts.

There are, just now, evidences that democrats are beginning to organize in all sections of the country. Democratic leaders ought to understand that no more effective move toward organization could be made than an organized and successful appeal to every democrat in the precinct and in the county to subscribe for at least one democratic paper printed in that county.

Is it a just charge that democrats do not support their weekly newspapers? In many localities and perhaps in most localities that charge will not hold good. But wherever the charge does hold good the wrong should be remedied as soon as possible, and democratic committeemen and all others who are interested in democratic success could make no better effort in the beginning of their organization work than to see that in their county there is no longer room for complaint on this score.

### THEY APPRECIATE THE COMMONER

Ronald Morrison living at Otter City, Alaska, is an appreciative reader of The Commoner. The Commoner has just received from Mr. Morrison a letter written under date of December 20, 1909. The letter and envelope encasing it were badly discolored and water marked. The post-office department explains in writing on the envelope that it reached Seattle in bad order because it was "sunk with the steamer Yutan February 14, 1910."

Mr. Morrison says that as they have no mail service at his town the miners club together and pay a messenger \$1 for every letter and paper

carried in and out. At this rate Mr. Morrison pays for the privilege of reading The Commoner, something more than \$52 per year. His interesting letter follows:

Otter City, Alaska, December 20, 1909.

To The Commoner: I have been away from Fairbanks for a long time and at this place there is no mail service except when the miners club together and send a man, paying him \$1 for every letter and paper carried in and out. The nearest postoffice is at Diskakat on the Innoko river, one hundred and fifty miles. From there the mail goes by dog team fourteen hundred miles to Fairbanks, then by stage three hundred and sixty miles to Valdes City, a coast town, thence by steamer to Seattle. The first mail I got in six months was yesterday with a bunch of Commoners, and I assure you that it was a very welcome Christmas box. Why, sir, money could not buy them. This is the first time I have written to The Commoner since the 1908 election. Talk about a man being sore and disgusted—it's no name for it. The defeat of Mr. Bryan can easily be accounted for in the number and size of the money bags. But even the temporary turndown of his high ideals, morals and sound, just principles is a blur and a disgrace to the voters of the country. I think that a big bunch of republican leaders so-called, ought to be indicted before an honest grand jury, if such can be got, for false pretenses and fraud, for a cleaner case of deceit I know not where to look for, and I do hope that the great man of Nebraska will continue his just fight and his efforts will surely be crowned with well earned success. Please find enclosed \$5. Up to 1896 I was a redhot republican. Since then Bryan is my ideal. I met him at Leadville, Colo., and Cripple Creek and Denver several times. Don't suppose he remembers me. Yours,

RONALD MORRISON.

Subscriptions have been received by The Commoner in number as follows:

John J. Harty, Pa., 5; M. V. Coplen, Ind., 3; H. L. Bake, O., 5; W. W. Webber, Kan., 7; J. W. Van Matre, Neb., 3; A. P. Turner, O., 5; W. C. Findley, Pa., 5; C. A. Pool, Cal., 9; D. C. McLarty, Cal., 5; G. M. Dyer, W. Va., 3; W. O. Feemster, Miss., 11; A. G. Buholts, Ore., 5; N. M. Henry, Col., 2; V. V. Van Campen, Kan., 5; P. S. Ball, W. Va., 10; Geo. McLaughlin, Cal., 2; Nelson Baldwin, Pa., 2; A. Q. Bates, Cal., 2; Ralph McCauley, Ore., 5; Alvin Koch, Ill., 4; Jos. S. Nauman, Mo., 7; A. B. Smith, O., 2; M. A. Brown, O., 5; Wm. Claussen, Ia., 2; W. L. Eagleton, Okla., 6; E. Clemena, Kan., 5; J. A. Erskine, Neb., 5; E. F. Henning, S. D., 2; Prof. S. Leiter, Mass., 6; A. A. Paul, Cal., 2; G. W. Gastineau, Ky., 2; Wm. Baker, Miss., 5; Elliott Davis, Mo., 10; W. W. Wells and M. Fritchman, Mo., 19; J. W. Castleberry, Ark., 6; H. D. Melten, N. Y., 2; Jas. Pace, Okla., 6; Chas. Amer, S. D., 6; R. E. Logan, Kan., 2; R. Bryant, Cal., 4; F. F. Buck, Mo., 2; Jacob Geiger, Ind., 4; Geo. W. Howard, Ia., 3; C. W. Scribner, N. H., 2; G. W. Ward, Mo., 2; Jos. M. Lank, Del., 2; Chas. Braun, Mich., 2; O. E. Benson, Minn., 4; John A. Beasley, Kan., 5; Mills Wood, Kan., 10; H. S. Hiner, Okla., 7; J. M. Patty, Mo., 10; S. A. Coffman, Ia., 4; D. B. Scott, O., 6; H. W. Stocker, O., 3; O. C. Beavers, Ind., 2; A. W. Taylor, Mo., 2; Geo. C. Warlick, Okla., 4; M. V. Hooten, Cal., 5; Rev. C. Zimmerly, O., 5; Geo. Mochle, O., 5; J. B. White, Col., 5; Ben Bone, Ill., 5; R. F. Dilworth, Mo., 5; W. W. Jackson, Mo., 5; J. L. Jackson, Mo., 5; J. J. Nightingale, Neb., 4; C. K. Roberts, Okla., 5; J. A. Walter, O., 5; A. LaDue, Minn., 6; M. T. Lane, Ill., 2; J. M. Butts, Mo., 5; Jas. McHenry, Ill., 5; J. M. Kuhn, Kan., 2; H. H. Geiselman, Neb., 12; J. M. Jeffers, Ia., 5; O. O. Young, Ia., 5; W. A. Gann, Okla., 5; Thos. Sturgis, Ind., 6; J. A. Stone, Kan., 5; J. M. Putman, Minn., 7; John P. Hentz, O., 7; Peter Rice, Ill., 9; Jno. A. Shaw, Kan., 6; Jno. Cunningham, Cal., 6; W. L. Battenfield, O., 7; W. J. Fruin, Ill., 5; F. A. Southworth, Wis., 7; John Zapp, Okla., 5; C. C. Hawkins, Tex., 5; J. W. Whitacre, Kan., 5; Albert Hixon, Ill., 5; E. A. Mullen, Ill., 5; E. W. Akins, O., 4; Dan Uthoff, Col., 5; F. R. Crowell, Okla., 5; S. J. Isaacs, Texas, 4; Jno. Benson, Neb., 10; W. G. Sprague, Col., 2; J. P. Jensen, Ia., 10; E. Garrison, O., 5; J. W. Askew, Okla., 11; D. D. Jay, Ia., 7; N. Campbell, Ore., 7; R. J. Stuckey, Cal., 11.

Some more meat packers have been indicted, and the first thing they know they'll be enjoined again. And, as usual, they'll put the injunction in cold storage and go right ahead with their schemes.

## Labor Troubles

Union leaders claim that there are 150,000 men out in the strike in Philadelphia. In one day three persons were shot, one a young girl fatally, and many other persons were severely clubbed by the police.

The ranks of the Philadelphia strikers were swelled by the men from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, 1,000 in number.

C. O. Pratt, the organizer of the street car men, charges that the disorders had been due to the strike breakers.

All over the country there is unrest among working men and in many sections indications of sympathy strikes. The conductors and trainmen of the Baltimore and Ohio are demanding increase in wages, which the railroad officials say they are powerless to grant.

The International Paper company at Glen Falls, N. Y., has a strike on its hands and in that city several hundred men are out of work. At Corinth, N. Y., the employes of the paper mill are out on a strike and the militia has been called.

At Cincinnati, O., conferences are being held between coal miners and operators in an effort to adjust the wage scale.

On the one hundred and ninety thousand miles of railroad west, northwest and southwest of Chicago, 25,000 firemen have authorized their national officials to call a strike if the railroads refuse to increase wages.

At Greensburg, Pa., 3,000 miners are out.

In Philadelphia, March 10, the strikers undertook to make a demonstration in the center of the city. The police blocked the move and by sheer force drove the men back. Half a dozen persons were injured in the police charge and a number of arrests were made. At various smaller meetings held throughout the city the working men protested against what they called the "brutal, unwarranted force" exercised by the police.

At St. Louis March 11, a temporary injunction was issued by Judge Dyer of the United States district court against individual members of the striking bricklayers' and stone masons' unions who formerly worked on the new Catholic cathedral.

At Cleveland, Ohio, 8,000 garment workers went on a strike for higher wages.

The people of Philadelphia are urging arbitration upon the working men and their employers. At one meeting of strikers C. O. Pratt, leader of the strikers, said that once they started the sympathetic strike it would not stop in Pennsylvania, adding "we will go through the United States."

E. E. Greenwalt, president of the State Federation of Labor in Pennsylvania, has appealed to President Taft requesting federal intervention to terminate the strike in Philadelphia.

The labor troubles of the International Paper company spread to New England where 450 paper mill employes at Bellows Falls, Vt., walked out.

The troubles between the Baltimore and Ohio and its conductors and trainmen were satisfactorily concluded March 11.

The Chicago Record-Herald says that a general strike of coal miners throughout the bituminous fields is declared a certainty April 1. More than two thousand men in four states will be involved.

### THE END OF DAY

The homeward road, the old home place,  
The gate where I turned in;  
The moonlight on the crumpled snow,  
Where summer's flowers have been;  
The creak of frost, the rusty hinge  
And the closing of the gate;  
The smell of supper on the air,  
And firelight from the grate;  
The stamp of feet beside the door,  
The latch upraised, and then—  
The sweet, warm kiss of Mary Ann,  
And I've come home again.  
Relief from all the city's roar,  
Surcease of grief and sin  
On the homeward roads, the old home haunts,  
The gates where we turn in.

—Kansas City Times.

### ONE WILL KEEP, THE OTHER DON'T COUNT

The Sioux City (Ia.) Journal says: "By not being at home to read the newspapers Mr. Bryan is missing a few bouquets and a shower of brickbats."

But the bouquets will keep, and the brickbats don't count.