

# The Commoner.

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## The War is On

The New York World says: "When John Adams and Alexander Hamilton became enemies they did not preach at each other on texts of brotherly love, nor did Clay and Randolph, nor Jackson and Calhoun, nor Douglas and Buchanan, nor Blaine and Conkling, nor Cleveland and Gorman. When democrats split into free-soilers and hunkers, whigs into silver grays and conscience men, and republicans into stalwarts and half-breeds, the time for reasonable remonstrance had passed. They met at Philippi. In the existing party quarrel at Washington both factions claim to want the same thing, and the president and his cabinet declare that they want it more than either, and yet they can not get together and give the country much of anything. If there is to be a pitched battle between the insurgents and the regulars a good many people would like to have a diagram, a bill of fare, a book of the opera, a score-card, or whatever it may be called, for instruction and guidance."

If "the existing quarrel" at Washington were merely a personal quarrel, it would be unworthy of serious attention, although it might be very interesting.

If it means anything at all, it means that the dominant forces in the dominant party have delivered the machinery of the party into the keeping of the special interests. It means that the policies of the administration and the legislation sought to be enacted are shaped to suit special interests, rather than public interests.

Now if the cause of the insurgents is worthy of respect then these men stand for the public policy against which the administration is waging war. If it were true that "both factions" were striving for the same end, then there would be no serious quarrel. They might have differences but the differences could be readily adjusted if all of them had the public interests exclusively at heart.

If Aldrich intended to be the representative of the people, such, for instance, as LaFollette is, instead of the representative of the Standard Oil and the great railroads then there would be no serious quarrel between Aldrich and LaFollette.

If Cannon intended to serve the people as some of the republican insurgents in the house do, then there would be no serious differences between Cannon and those insurgents.

The truth is the differences between the regular republican and the insurgent republican can not be compromised. All too long republican insurgents have insisted that they do not mean to criticize the president's policies and that they are devoted to Mr. Taft's plans. But the people are rapidly learning that Mr. Taft's plans are the plans of Messrs. Aldrich and Cannon. If the republican insurgents would serve their country effectually they must cease to declare their devotion to the Taft policies. They must make war against Aldrichism and Can-

nonism in the White House, even as they make war against Aldrichism and Cannonism in the capitol building.

The people have the diagram and it shows that in the conflict now going on in America there are but two sides; one represented by the special interests; the other by the public interests. Plainly the Taft administration is committed to the special interests; plainly there is now no hope for redemption on that line. Senator LaFollette sounded the keynote in his admirable speech in the senate the other day. The war is on and the battle is between the people and the interests.

### "PURGE AND PURIFY"

"Purge and purify" is the keynote of Governor Hughes' special message to the New York legislature. "Purge and purify" is the key note of Governor Fort's public statement with respect to the disgraceful proceedings incident to the closing hours of the New Jersey legislature. "Purge and purify" is the key note of the republican insurgents in their pathetic protest against the destruction of their party by trust influences. "Purge and purify" is a good slogan for men who really intend to protect public interests. At this time when questionable transactions on the part of public officers are being exposed in nearly every section of the country "purge and purify" should be written into every political platform—and the spirit of this slogan should be impressed by a thoroughly aroused people upon every aspirant for public office.

### INCOME TAX IN KENTUCKY

Governor Wilson of Kentucky says that he is in hopes that the resolutions approving the income tax which at different times passed both houses of the Kentucky legislature may be so interpreted by the attorney general of that state that Kentucky's vote will be recorded in favor of the proposed amendment.

It is to be hoped that Governor Wilson is correct on this point. It would have been better, however, if the great state of Kentucky had registered its votes on this important question in a way that could not possibly be misinterpreted.

### THE QUANTITATIVE THEORY

Mr. Taft is not the only republican who has in recent years confessed that the quantitative theory of money—the theory for which the democrats contended in 1896—is correct. For instance, in 1907 the Wall Street Journal said that the quantitative theory of money is generally accepted adding: "Can a democrat be blamed if he becomes a bit dizzy these days when he sees men who in 1896 sneered at the democratic doctrine hurry to plant themselves upon the Chicago platform?"

### PREDICTING VICTORY

The New York News Bureau, said to be the official organ of Wall Street and the interests, has issued a bulletin in which it predicts democratic victory. It says that the odds are about five to four in favor of a democratic house and adds: "It is up to the financial and industrial interests of the country to decide whether the prospect is pleasing or not." When did it cease to be true that decision, in our form of government, rests with the people?

### SENSITIVE

The Commoner alludes to Major Hemphill as "a recent importation from Charleston." Mr. Bryan's "sub" is really impressive when he stands in the way of sinners and sits in the seat of the scornful.—Houston, Texas, Post.

Why should Colonel R. M. Johnston's superior be so sensitive when reference is made to one of the members of the mutual admiration society?

### A ROYAL MATCH MAKER

Mr. Mulvery, a White House policeman, has won the heart and hand of Miss Martha Peterson the White House first cook. Surely Mr. Taft has earned the title of "a royal match maker."

## Mr. Bryan's Position

There is no excuse for the constant attempt on the part of unfriendly papers to misrepresent Mr. Bryan's position on the liquor question. He has been entirely frank in stating his position and in giving the reasons therefore. But as soon as he published in The Commoner a series of editorials dealing with certain phases of the liquor question the opposition, instead of attempting to combat the proposition advanced by him, at once sought to impugn his motives and to accuse him of trying to make prohibition a national issue.

Surely no intelligent person can believe that Mr. Bryan is seeking political advantage in opposing the demands of the liquor interests. They have enormous resources and a multitude of dependants, not to speak of a still larger number of dupes, and they act as a unit and are utterly unscrupulous in the use which they make of their resources, their dependants and their dupes, while the temperance people are busy discussing other economic and political questions besides the liquor question and do not act together on any question.

In speaking out against the evils of intemperance and in proposing remedies he not only has nothing to gain politically but he risks the alienation of valued friends who agree with him on other questions but do not agree with him on this. Nothing less imperative than a sense of duty could lead him to take a position that may separate him from men whose companionship he has prized and whose support he gratefully appreciates, but these issues are here and the citizen must meet them.

The liquor interests, recognizing the force of the moral movement which is everywhere at work for the uplifting of society, is audaciously and insolently endeavoring to coerce both the democratic and the republican parties into inaction; its lobbyists infest the capital of the nation and the capitals of all the states. Mr. Bryan would not deserve the confidence which has been reposed in him if he kept silent in the presence of this gigantic conspiracy against the home, society and the state. Whether he is able to accomplish much or little he will at least register his protest against the saloon in politics as he has registered his protest against the trust in politics, and if it "kills him politically," as the emissaries of the liquor traffic boast, he will die honorably and his political death may at least help to convince thoughtful people of the magnitude of the powers that are banded together to do evil.

In insisting that the liquor interests should not be permitted to run the government and write the laws intended for the regulation of the traffic, Mr. Bryan is not taking an undemocratic position. The democratic party contends that trust magnates should not make the laws dealing with the trusts—why should the brewers and distillers write the liquor laws? Who can justify the action of the liquor interests of Nebraska in preventing the submission of the initiative and referendum last winter? Self respect requires that the democratic party shall rebuke those who brought disgrace upon the democratic legislature by pledging every democratic candidate for the legislature to support a resolution submitting the initiative and referendum.

While Mr. Bryan is himself a teetotaler and by precept and example advises total abstinence, he has no desire to force his personal views on others or to prevent the use of liquor under conditions which relieve its use of the evils which attach to it at present. He believes that the abuses which attend the sale of liquor are such as to justify the people in insisting upon the right to prescribe the conditions upon which it can be transported, sold and used. He further believes that those who desire to use liquor in moderation and under reasonable conditions ought to join with the temperance forces and enact laws which will discriminate between the legitimate and illegitimate use of liquor and reduce the evils of intemperance to a minimum. The moderate drinkers have too

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