

that he is a usurper of the powers of government, a dictator, an abettor of criminals, and sundry other sorts of bad man. Patterson says he is no such of a thing and he has friends all over the state, able men, too, who write and declaim that he is the greatest man in Tennessee, or as some men here say, 'the greatest man Tennessee has produced since Andrew Jackson.' The most fulsome praise is meted out to him, the most superlative eulogy I have ever, anywhere, heard given to any public man. There never were anywhere two more directly opposite opinions expressed about any man. According to his friends Governor Patterson is a man personally without blemish, 'as pure as the driven snow,' his orators put it, and a great champion of all public virtue and civic righteousness. As a patriot, Washington is not in his class. For unspotted personal character and Christian zeal he surpasses all other public men of this or any other time, while as a statesman of capacity and attainment he has never had an equal. This is putting it strong, but it is the literal truth that such is the estimate put upon the character and attainment of Governor Patterson by many of the campaign orators and the few newspapers supporting him. On the other hand, his enemies everywhere and in every possible way, and without referring at all to the pyrotechnics of praise, assert that of all the rascals, etc.—it is of no use to enumerate, the Hon. 'Ham' is the very high-u-muck-a-muck."

THE WHOLE state of Tennessee, according to Mr. McGhee is divided into two camps—Patterson and anti-Patterson. Mr. McGhee says: "The election towards which all Tennessee is looking is on August 4, that is, that is the election to which they are immediately looking, but although that the immediate issue involved in that election, or rather the outcome of it, the selection of the judges of the supreme court of the state, and the court of civil appeals, would seem to be of more importance than that of any other election to be held, yet most of the people here look upon this August election as only a preliminary skirmish, a sort of test vote, as it were, upon the main question of the vindication of Patterson. It is the vindication of Patterson that is the question at issue. He is a candidate for a third term as governor. No governor since the war has had three terms in Tennessee. No other man, it is said has ever run for a third term. The reason he is running is that he has done so many things as governor for which he has been most violently and widely censured both in Tennessee and out of it, and he is asking the people to vindicate him by another election. This election is in November, and so far no candidate has been put up against him. He held what his opponents say was a personally conducted primary election on June 4, in which he was the only candidate, and in which none of the anti-Patterson democrats would participate. It was in this same primary that five candidates for the supreme court of Tennessee were nominated. Those democrats who refused to go into the so-called Patterson primary held a convention and nominated judges for the supreme court and the court of civil appeals. The republicans have not nominated any men for these courts, but they are divided upon which one of the two democratic tickets to support. There are two factions of the republican party, known as the Henry Clay Evans and the Brownlow factions. Brownlow had an alliance with Patterson and so perfect was his organization that he could have delivered the votes to Patterson, but last week Brownlow died, leaving his machine without an engineer. The H. Clay Evans republicans are with the anti-Patterson democrats. And so, as I have said, there are four sides in Tennessee, at least these; being Patterson and anti-Patterson democrats, Patterson and anti-Patterson republicans. I say at least these four, for there is another, the negro side. These do not seem to be divided, and, mirabile dictu, they are, to a man, for Patterson, whose organization claims to be the only representative of democracy in Tennessee."

THE POSTAL savings bank will open in Chicago, January 1. Referring to the announcement to this effect, the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The board of trustees provided by the recent act of congress is drafting rules and regulations for the operation of the new bank. It probably will be conducted much along the lines of the money order division, although many new features will be added. The postal savings banks of Europe, which for several years have been conducted successfully, will be drawn

upon for ideas. Several postal officials have been in the old country investigating the methods employed in these saving institutions and will return to this country within a short time to make their recommendations. The savings bank probably will be located in the federal building. The postmaster will be head of the institution and will be under a heavy bond to perform his duties. Individual savings accounts will be limited to \$500, with accrued interest, and deposits of \$1 or more will be received. The postal saving stamp feature is expected to add greatly to the popularity of the bank. Cards will be sold at ten cents each and savings stamps at two cents each. When the equivalent to \$1 has been saved the card may be turned into the bank to be credited to the savings account. So far but one Chicago bank, the Corn Exchange, has made application to be made the Chicago depository of the savings bank. The law requires that the bank pay interest of two and one-fourth per cent for the use of the money. Postal savings banks will not be established universally at the beginning. The scheme will be tried out in Chicago, New York, San Francisco and possibly Philadelphia, Washington and Kansas City, before it is extended to other places. In the end the government expects to have banks in every city, town and village in the United States. Only postmasters of offices of the first class will receive a salary in connection with the banks. The heads of smaller offices will receive a commission on the deposits."

ELECTION OF SENATORS

A. F. Parks, Grangeville, Idaho.—Mr. Bryan is right in toto in the principle he advocates of nominating United States senators in open convention before the elections. Had this plan been followed in earlier days, the democracy of north-

ern states like Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Montana, would never have suffered the humiliation of being represented in the highest legislative chamber of the land by such plutocrats as, for instance, Brice and Payne from Ohio, Murphy and Hill of New York, McPherson of New Jersey and Clark of Montana. The election of such men has done more to discourage the democracy of the northern states than all other influences combined. What inducements have democrats to go to the polls when republican plutocrats masquerading as democrats are elected to represent them? The election of Calvin S. Brice and Henry S. Payne as senators from Ohio, and W. A. Clark from Montana were, in their day, as rotten as the elections of Lorimer from Illinois and Guggenbhel of Colorado at the present time. There are more democrats in the north and all over the country than ever before, but you can not get them to the polls until they are sure of being represented by democratic democrats. Will present day schemers take the hint?

THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

A word to democrats: An attempt should be made in every state to secure the endorsement of the doctrine of direct legislation, or the initiative and referendum. It is the most popular single proposition now before the country, and it is popular because experience has shown that the system is necessary to protect the voters from betrayal at the hands of their representatives. Those who favor direct legislation should not be deterred by fear of defeat; a beginning must be made some time and the sooner it is made the sooner will the people understand the subject and demand the measure of self-government which it secures.

The Commoner's Million Army

Every democratic platform should declare "A platform is a contract between the candidate elected upon it and the people who elected him, the violation of which is an 'embezzlement of power.'"

Every democratic platform should also contain a declaration in favor of the restoration of popular government in the national house of representatives. A step has been taken in this direction by combined action of the democrats and insurgents. An investigating committee was appointed by the house instead of by the speaker, each party naming its representative on the committee. The speaker has been eliminated from the committee on rules, the committee has been enlarged and each party has been given a right to select its members of the committee. All this is in the line of progress, but we have made only a beginning. All of the committees of the house should be appointed by the house itself and not by the speaker. Each party through its caucus should be allowed to select its members on the various committees, and the rules should be such that a majority may control at any time, on any subject and under all circumstances.

Every democratic platform should demand the election of senators by the people and urge the ratification of the income tax amendment.

Every democratic platform should declare a private monopoly to be indefensible and intolerable, and insist upon legislation which will dis-

solve existing trusts and prevent the formation of new ones.

Every democratic platform should contain a clear and explicit declaration on the tariff question.

The democrats of the district should frame a platform which means something, which gives positive instructions to the official to be elected upon it and which can not be misconstrued or misinterpreted after the election. A party which has no ideas on a question at issue has no right to assume the responsibilities of leadership; a party which has ideas on a question at issue but is afraid to express them is not worthy to be trusted. A democrat who endeavors to conceal his opinion on a question upon which he must act is either an aristocrat in his ideas or a tool of somebody else. A platform ought to contain such other declarations as may be necessary to put the party on record and all the questions upon which the people desire to have it speak. An honest fight is the only fight that will win, and a fight won by any other means is likely to prove more disastrous than a defeat.

Let the work begin now and continue until the last vote is counted.

Have you joined The Commoner's Million Army? That is the question that is being asked in many counties throughout the union. It should become a familiar question in every precinct, in every county, in every state. The following letters will be of interest:

APPLICATION BLANK

The Commoner's Million Army

I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.

Signed

Address

With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead).
If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.

Recommendation for Membership

The signer of this enrollment blank is personally known to me, and is in every way worthy of membership in The Commoner's Million Army.

Signed

Address