

for the whisky ring—a 'coals to Newcastle' matter, as many may say—which Bryan faithfully but unsuccessfully opposed. The inevitable effect of this 'Bryan defeat,' as he warned the convention that it would be, is to make the 'county option' liquor question an 'issue,' and not only an issue but the issue, in Nebraska politics this fall. For both the republicans and the populists of Nebraska have pledged themselves to county option, which the whisky ring aggressively—and, as Bryan says and there is reason to believe—corruptly opposes. Others also oppose it, and genuinely, upon libertarian grounds; but the opposition of the whisky ring is overshadowing. Bryan advised his party convention to make the same pledge the other parties had made, thereby taking this question out of the campaign, and letting it turn upon the initiative and referendum as a local and the tariff as a national issue. By refusing to do so—and this is the sum and substance of 'Bryan's defeat'—the democratic party of Nebraska has put itself in the position, in popular perspective in Nebraska, of the whisky ring's sole political champion in that state. The popular tendency therefore will be to regard the whisky ring as beaten if the democratic party loses, and triumphant, if the democratic party wins. Of the merits of the county option question in Nebraska, we say nothing here. The merits of that question are not involved in the cry that Bryan has been defeated in his own party; and, regarded simply as a question of political influence, we do not see how the action of the convention on county option tells against Bryan. An act by a convention of his party which, in the public mind, identifies the party with the whisky ring, whether the party wins the election or loses it, and which Bryan did his utmost to prevent, looks to us more like a defeat of the present managers of his party in Nebraska than of Bryan. We might add that we have yet to see or hear of any characterization of the matter as a defeat for Bryan which comes from any other source, all along the line from Watterson to Hearst, than where Bryan's defeat is perennially regarded both as a foregone conclusion and a foregone desire, and more of a desire than of a conclusion."

**A** SAN SABASTIAN cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "The Catholic juntas of the Basque provinces decided at a meeting to wage a broad campaign 'in defense of Catholicism,' and to use all efforts to spread the propaganda throughout Spain. As the first step they named a general committee to organize a mammoth manifestation against the government. Later they will seek to create militant juntas in every province. The Carlist leaders also held a meeting behind closed doors. The suspicion that the Catholics aid Carlists and are working hand in hand has increased the uneasiness of the authorities. In answer telegrams from the Spanish Catholics, pledging their loyalty to the vatican in the present conflict, the president of the Roman Catholic junta, received the following telegram from Cardinal Merry del Val, the papal secretary of state: 'In the present sad and bitter hour his holiness sees with particular satisfaction the sister Biscayan provinces evince their magnificent sentiments of unshaken Christian fidelity. He thanks you for your homage and fidel love and sends to you his paternal affection and apostolic benediction.' The authorities realize the devotion of the peasants of the Basque province, who have been told by the priests and monks, with which the country swarms, that it is their religious duty to support the pope against the Spanish government in the pending conflict. Sixteen priests and monks were among the persons arrested on charges of attempting to provoke disorder."

**P**REMIER KATSURA of Japan, speaking to a correspondent for the New York World, said that war between America and Japan is impossible: "Why should Japan want war?" asked the premier, earnestly. "I have been raised a soldier since my fifteenth year. I know the cruelty of war; I commanded in the war with China. As premier, six years ago I had to decide abruptly, and I did decide." (Actual hostilities between Japan and Russia began in February, 1904.) "I conducted the war with Russia," Marquis Katsura added. "I know what war is. It is against civilization, against humanity." The World correspondent mentioned America's national bill for \$431,000,000 for wars that are passed and for armaments against possible wars to come. "And we are paying \$100,000,000 for the same reason!"

the premier exclaimed. "The nations talk of 'maintaining the equilibrium' by building battleships. Can not the equilibrium be maintained by thirty battleships as well as by fifty? Must we go on forever building battleships and increasing armies? What causes the revival of these war rumors in America? You objected to our immigrants; we kept them away. Why this talk of war with us in America now? What is the basis of complaint against us? I do not understand it!" Marquis Katsura exclaimed. "It is very disagreeable. America is strong enough to accomplish anything. Who can withstand her in anything she has determined upon? We have a great problem in China, a problem not only for Japan, but for the whole world. We think America should stand beside us in preserving civilization from any possible conflict growing out of that problem; should aid us to end the cruelties of war."

**A** BLIND MAN has been appointed assistant United States district attorney in New York. The New York World says: "The sightless assistant United States district attorney is Raymond G. Brown, a member of a wealthy New England family and a graduate of Harvard University, class of 1908. While a student at Harvard he was especially marked by the faculty because of his close application to study and quick grasp of subjects and graduated as an honor man in a class of five hundred. Three months ago the new appointee called on Mr. Wise and applied for a position. Although the

son of wealthy parents, he explained that he preferred hard work to a life of idleness. He brought strong indorsements from several prominent members of the New York bar, besides one from Attorney General Wickersham. District Attorney Wise was so impressed with his earnestness that he decided to appoint young Brown on his merit. Mr. Brown has been assigned to the task of preparing briefs in connection with criminal cases. He works with an attendant, who reads to him from such legal authorities as he may need. He also uses the typewriter expertly, using the 'touch' system, which thus enables him to work rapidly. 'He is a wonder,' said Mr. Wise yesterday in referring to his new assistant. 'He came to me with letters of recommendation and as press of business warranted taking him I gave him the chance. He knows a lot about the law. I understand that he has been blind since he was eight years old, the result of sickness. His appointment is for no fixed term and his salary, as is the case with my assistants, is only nominal.' Mr. Brown sat at a typewriter yesterday afternoon, his fingers running over the keys with remarkable rapidity while his aide read along from one of a pile of law books. He was too busy to tell the World reporter about himself."

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of August. Take advantage of this offer at once, and send in your renewal.

## The Commoner's Million Army

Jerry B. Sullivan, Des Moines, Iowa.—Enclosed please find my check for The Commoner for the ensuing year. My hope and wish is, that it will, in the future as in the past, be true to every principle of democracy and self-government.

Joseph A. Reinhold, Onset, Pa.—I send you check for \$10.20 to cover seventeen subscriptions to The Commoner. I consider the time taken in getting these subscriptions as time well spent. The oftener that I read The Commoner, the more I think and believe it; one should be in every good, and well governed American home, that the rising generation might be brought forth from darkness to true "democratic light." Since William J. Bryan was first nominated by the democratic party for president of our country, I have always been an ardent admirer, and a staunch supporter of the man, not because he was William J. Bryan, but for the principles he advocated and stood for, and his great courage, honesty and integrity.

J. M. Fulton, Audubon, Iowa.—My enthusiasm in your work leads me to say that your photograph still remains on my desk just as it did when the campaign closed in 1908; also one in my home and they will stay there till the principles for which you have been so courageously contending prove to be false. No doubt they will remain there a long time for it seems now that about half the republicans have tardily awakened to the same views. I hope there is still enough patriotism existing in the country that we may yet rally around real democracy as taught by Jefferson and yourself and incorporated in the Denver platform and march on to victory. Defeat at the polls is

not defeat when the principles for which we have been contending are right. I am placing a copy of The Commoner in the hands of every one whom I think can be influenced in the cause of right thinking and will still continue to do so as long as there is a chance of assisting the work you and your associates are so splendidly furthering.

T. W. Huston, Mo.—Enclosed find draft to pay for club of five subscribers, each to receive paper as per your advertisement in the late issues of The Commoner. I have recently sent one club of seven and another club of eight in addition to the present club, and hope to send more.

In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action.

If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the welfare of popular government would be enormous.

Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect.

Recommendation for Membership

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.