

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 10, NO. 33

Lincoln, Nebraska, August 26, 1910

Whole Number 501

A Few Questions

Question: The money invested in breweries, distilleries and saloons in Nebraska is small compared with the money invested in farming, manufacturing and merchandising. Why is money invested in the liquor business so much more potent in politics than money invested in other forms of property?

Answer: Because money invested in breweries, distilleries and saloons is always used as a club to beat any one who opposes the demands of the liquor interests while the owners of other forms of property allow themselves to be terrorized.

Question: Why do those connected with the liquor traffic exert more influence in politics than educators?

Answer: Because the nation spends four times as much for drink as it does on education.

Question: If it costs one hundred dollars per year to feed, clothe and take care of a child (and the estimate is certainly low enough) a child at fifteen represents an investment of fifteen hundred dollars. If the child continues his education until he is twenty-one he represents an investment of not less than fifteen hundred more. This entire investment is jeopardized if the young man acquires an appetite for drink—appetite has destroyed millions. Has not the parent a pecuniary reason as well as stronger ones, in opposing the plans of the liquor trust?

Answer: Yes, is the only answer that can be given.

Question: If a saloon is a benefit to a town; if it draws business to the town and improves trade, why demand a high license from the man who wants to help the town by opening a saloon?

Answer: It is not true that a saloon helps a town. A few business men may think that the saloons will bring them business enough to justify them in being indifferent to the injury done to the town. If they thought the saloon a real benefit they would be in favor of giving the saloon a subsidy instead of putting a tax upon it.

Question: If the saloon business is as legitimate as any other business why not treat the saloon as we do the grocery store, the restaurant or the barber shop? Why require the consent of neighbors to the opening of a saloon, hedge it about with restrictions and require a bond to cover damages?

Answer: The saloon business is not like any other business. It is an outlaw—it lives by sufferance. Its evil influence infects a community as the odors issuing from a slaughter house pollute the air of a neighborhood.

Question: Why should the people of a county be denied a voice in deciding upon the restrictions to be placed on the liquor traffic in their county?

Answer: There is no good reason.

ILLINOIS ON TRIAL

The wholesale attempt at tampering with the jury in the Browne case raises the question whether Illinois is going to be able to vindicate the law and punish the men who are connected

CONTENTS

MISSIONARY MOVEMENT
A FEW QUESTIONS
ROOSEVELT IN 1912
WHY NOT TAKE THE REINS
THE RAILROAD IN POLITICS
A PRAYER FOR NEWSPAPERMEN
EDUCATIONAL SERIES—THE ABOLITION
OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS
WALL STREET GETS THE LOOT
CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
"IF THE PEOPLE RULE WHY DON'T THEY
GET WHAT THEY WANT?"
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK

WHY NOT TAKE THE REINS?

Roger Sherman Hoar, Concord, Mass.
—The best answer I have yet seen to Senator Owen's question is contained in the following poem by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, published by the Trade Union Book Concern of Chicago:

If fifty men did all the work
And gave the price to five;
And let those five make all the rules,
You'd say the fifty men were fools,
Unfit to be alive.

And if you heard complaining cries
From fifty brawny men,
Blaming the five for graft and greed,
Injustice, cruelty indeed—
What would you call them then?

Not by their own superior force
Do five on fifty live;
But by election and assent—
And privilege of government—
Powers that the fifty give.

If fifty men are really fools—
And five have all the brains—
The five must rule as now we find.
But if the fifty have the mind—
Why don't they take the reins?

with the corrupting of the Illinois legislature. The state is on trial and it behooves the good people of that commonwealth to bestir themselves. It is a reflection on the state that Lorimer can hold his seat in spite of the high handed methods employed to protect the men at whose hands he received the office. Why not investigate the source of the funds that pay the expense of the defense? Who is footing the bill? Find the men who are supplying Browne with counsel and jury fixers and you will know who elected Lorimer and whose financial interests he is expected to guard.

And why not hold a few public meetings and denounce corruption of legislatures and jurors? Are the business men of Chicago too busy or too indifferent to speak? A little moral courage would go a long way.

ROOSEVELT IN 1912

It looks like Roosevelt expected to be a candidate in 1912. Some of his enthusiastic friends have been talking about him but there was nothing to support their prophecies until the confidential friends, who visited him after the turn down for chairman, announced that he will be a candidate only if it is necessary to do so in order to carry out "his policies". That means that he is not satisfied with the administration and expects to contest the nomination two years hence. That means fun. And how will he set forth, specifically, the policies which he regards as his? It will be interesting to know what policies he regards as of such vital importance as to justify him in violating the precedent of a century. Are there any good policies that a democratic victory would not protect?

MAYOR GAYNOR RECOVERING

The readers of The Commoner will be gratified to learn that Mayor Gaynor of New York is rapidly recovering from the wound inflicted upon him. It was a dastardly attempt upon the life of a faithful public servant and the mayor has had the sympathy of the nation in his brave struggle with the would be assassin's bullet. The revengeful Gallagher, instead of killing, has simply focused attention upon the mayor and his splendid record.

THE NEBRASKA SENATORSHIP

Mr. Hitchcock has made an excellent record in congress and Mr. Bryan will do all in his power to secure Mr. Hitchcock's election to the senate. He ought to have every democratic vote and enough insurgent votes to elect him.

Missionary Movement

The late missionary conference at Edinburgh grows upon one. Its size, its representative character, the spirit manifested throughout its sessions, the vast amount of information brought out, and its far-reaching results—all combine to make it the most important religious gathering in the history of Christendom. Some eleven hundred delegates were present, from every important denomination of the Protestant branch of the church, from all the Christian nations, and from all the important mission fields. The United States and Great Britain (including Canada and Australia) took the leading part both in number of delegates and in number of speakers, as they did in the preparatory work; but Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian nations made valuable contributions to the discussions. Japan, China and India were heard through representatives of the native churches, and these added no little to the interest.

Three halls were used for the sessions, which were held simultaneously, in the forenoon, afternoon, and evening, and the galleries as well as the main floors were generally filled. No one could attend without being impressed with the intellectual and moral strength of those who participated. They were, for the most part, past middle life, averaging fifty-five years or more in age—men and women who had won their right to speak for the church by long and devoted service to this branch of Christian work. A spirit of consecration pervaded the halls, and the attitude of earnest attention lent encouragement to those who spoke. The pressure for time was such that the speeches in the general discussions were limited to seven minutes—all too short for the hundreds who came with a message. The work to be done during the conference was much simplified by the preliminary reports prepared by the eight commissions appointed in advance and composed of the most prominent of the exponents of missions. One day was given to each report, and the eight constituted so important a part of the total work done that even a brief review of the conference would be incomplete without an enumeration of the subjects considered and the names of the chairmen of the commissions.

First. Carrying the Gospel to all the Non-Christian World; chairman, Mr. John R. Mott, M. A., of New York, general secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation. Mr. Mott, it should be added, was chairman of the conference, and proved a most admirable and efficient presiding officer.

Second. The church in the Mission Field; chairman, the Rev. J. Campbell Gibson, D. D., of Swatow, China, and representative of the Presbyterian church of England.

Third. Education in Relation to the Christianization of National Life; chairman, the Right Rev. C. Gore, D. D., bishop of Birmingham, England.

Fourth. The Missionary Message in Regard to Non-Christian Religions; chairman, Professor D. S. Cairns, D. D., United Free Church College, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Fifth. The Preparation of Missionaries; chairman, President Douglas Mackenzie, D. D., Hartford (Connecticut) Theological Seminary.

Sixth. The Home Base of Missions; chairman, the Rev. James L. Barton, D. D., secretary American board of commissioners for foreign missions, Boston, Mass.

Seventh. Missions and Governments; chairman, the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K. T.

Eighth. Co-operation and the Promotion of Unity; chairman, Sir Andrew H. L. Fraser, K. C. S. I., LL. D., of Great Britain.

The several reports summarized the replies received from a large number of representatives in the mission fields—sometimes from one hundred and fifty or two hundred—with the conclusions and recommendations of the commission. The discussions emphasized, approved of, or dissented from the various part of the reports. And what a wealth of material these reports