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ISSUED WEEKLY

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still were unwilling to accept it hastily, and a fight over the insertion of an initiative and referendum plank, attended with a score of speeches, almost culminated in a fist fight on the floor. Action on the plank finally was deferred until the next convention, and the delegates scrambled for trains.

"The platform as adopted denounces the Payne tariff bill and arraigns the republican congressmen of Michigan for their acceptance of it. It demands bi-partisan state boards and committees as a protection against scandals such as were recently exposed in the state. The placing of all state employees under civil service was recommended and the candidacy of Lawton Hemans for governor and John T. Winship for United States senator were lauded.

"Although the delegations from several counties failed to answer roll calls, the gathering was said to be the largest democratic convention in point of attendance that has been held in recent years."

- The candidates nominated were:
- Justice of supreme court—Mark Norris, Grand Rapids.
 - Attorney general—T. J. Bresnahan, Cassopolis.
 - Secretary of state—Adolph Peterson, Ironwood.
 - Treasurer—R. V. McArthur, Grand Rapids.
 - Land commissioner—O. F. Barnes, Roscommon.
 - Auditor general—Thomas Gordon, Howell.
 - Edward C. Shield was named as chairman of the state central committee.

MINIE BALLS

Bankers and business men gave out interviews commending President Taft's "prosperity speech" delivered in New York City for its optimistic tone.

Senator Tillman announces that he expects to be a candidate for United States senate in 1912.

W. R. Hearst of New York announces that he will support Stimson on the republican ticket instead of the democratic candidate.

Governor Haskell has declined an invitation to be at Little Rock and serve in the reception to Theodore Roosevelt. He takes occasion to administer severe criticism on Mr. Roosevelt.

A Chicago dispatch, thought to be of sufficient importance to be carried by the Associated Press, is as follows: "Vice President Sherman and United States Senator William Lorimer will sit at the same banquet board here October 12,

when local Knights of Columbus will celebrate Columbus day. The feast will be spread in the gold room of the Congress hotel, where the Hamilton club dinner took place some weeks ago and Theodore Roosevelt declined to attend unless the club's invitation to Senator Lorimer was withdrawn."

Theodore Roosevelt was greeted by large crowds on his southern trip.

Democrats of the Fourteenth Massachusetts district met and nominated Thomas C. Thacher of Yarmouth to succeed Congressman Eugene N. Foss.

An organization of negroes met at Washington and decided to help the democratic ticket of New York and to fight all the Roosevelt candidates and also to help the democratic ticket in Ohio and republican candidates for the legislature who are known to be favorable to Foraker; also to help the democratic ticket in Massachusetts and to fight Senator Lodge.

Theodore Roosevelt and Senator Cummins of Iowa held a two hour's conference in New York City.

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 October, when accompanied by this notice.

A WORLD-OLD PRAYER

Dear Lord, this boy whose face
Is like a morning flower
Before the shower
Has dashed its loveliness away,
O keep him fair, I pray.

This baby boy whose smiles,
Like sunbeams bright with cheer
From heaven's clear,
Turn out gray gloom to golden day,
O keep him sweet, I pray.

This little boy whose heart
Knows only right and truth,
In heedless youth
When far from guarding love astray,
O keep him pure, I pray.

Dear Lord, this boy of mine
Whose soul no sin has stained,
No shame profaned,
When I no longer watch and pray,
O keep him Thine always. Amen.

—L. H. Robbins, in Newark News.

A LATER METHOD

For ages past war, pestilence and famine have depopulated the earth. But now we have the Vanderbilt cup races and the automobile joy rider.

The Commoner's Million Army

John R. Boddie, St. Louis, Mo.—If all subscribers to The Commoner will secure five new subscribers each, especially among lukewarm members of our party and republicans, we would win the next presidential election in a walk. The verdict on February 1 in the Sixth congressional district of this state at the polls for the election of DeArmond's successor is only a slight indication of how the masses appreciate the way the party of trusts, special privilege, as run by Cannon and Aldrich is fulfilling its promises. The agents of special privilege have been sowing the wind for many years and from my point of view the whirlwind is near at hand that will destroy their temple of unrighteousness, filled with ungodly gain, and restore to its ancient moorings our old ship of state.

J. W. Hamilton, Rogersville, Tenn.—I wish to assure you that it will give me pleasure to lend whatever influence I may have to The Commoner's million army move. It is a citizen's as well as a democrat's duty, so I regard it, and immediately upon my return to Texas I shall assume that duty and forward to you the names of those whom I regard worthy members of the army.

Harry Herbert Hughes, Springfield, Mo.—I enclose herewith a pledge for assistance in enlisting the million Commoner soldiers, having already renewed my subscription. I am more firmly for Mr. Bryan than ever. I not only admire him politically and personally, but the more I learn, the more I am convinced that his policies are for the interest of the great mass of common people, so-called. All the democrats who were with us in 1896, with whom I have talked, are stronger than ever for the principles set forth then, and no man who helped defeat that ticket will have much chance of being elected to any important office. As to why the people do not get what they want, I believe the

main reasons are two: First, a great many people do not know exactly what they want; and, second, those who do, do not agree as to the ways and means of getting it. The people of India overwhelmingly outnumber the British, yet the latter rule because the Indians are so hopelessly divided that a sufficient number do not unite on any one policy of government to adopt it. Were they all to unite in a common cause they could brush the British into the sea like flies, but they do not. One of the Englishman's important jobs is to keep them divided. So it is here. We could wipe out privilege, corruption and oppression here, but we do not do it—we do not combine—the combiners of wealth and greed keep us separated, following the old maxim, divide and conquer.

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.

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 66 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 66 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