

Ask Your Congressman

The time is past for sham battles and in order that a real victory may be won for the people every candidate for congress should be questioned on several particular subjects by the men whose votes he seeks.

Readers of The Commoner everywhere should ask their congressman:

(1) Do you believe: "A platform is a pledge, given by the candidate to the voters, and when ratified at the polls becomes a contract between the official and his constituents. To violate it, in letter or in spirit, is not only undemocratic, but repugnant to the principles of representative government, and constitutes an embezzlement of power."

Answer

(2) Will you vote for a change in the house rules, putting the selection of committees in the hands of party caucuses, each caucus selecting its own committee membership?

Answer

(3) Where do you stand on the tariff question? Do you believe in the principle of protection as interpreted by the republican party or do you favor tariff for revenue only?

Answer

(4) Do you endorse the democratic platform declaration that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable?

Answer

(5) Will you do your utmost to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist?

Answer

(6) Will you favor a bill requiring the publication of all campaign contributions prior to election day?

Answer

(7) Are you opposed to national incorporation—that is, the grant of corporation charters by the federal government instead of by the state government as at present?

Answer

(8) Are you in favor of the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people?

Answer

(9) Are you in favor of the income tax?

Answer

(10) Do you approve the democratic national platform for 1908?

Answer

[Note: It is suggested that voters cut out the above list of questions and send it to the candidate for congress in their district, asking him to fill in the answers and return the same to the voter. The voter may, if he desires, forward the same to The Commoner, and it will be printed in this paper.]

FROM MINNESOTA

George B. Stedman, Utica, Minnesota.—I forwarded to our candidate for congress, Judge H. L. Buck, Winona, Minn., the list of questions as printed in The Commoner. He answers every question yes. I hope he will be elected. Republicanism is surely doomed in old Minnesota, and William J. Bryan has been the one national figure that has brought it about. May his life be spared to round out a full one hundred years.

FROM MISSOURI

W. H. Coffey, M. D., Kansas City, Mo.—Dear Editor of the greatest paper published. I would not be without it. My wife says that it is my Bible. Being a woman and not having a vote in this state, she does not understand that you must read both The Commoner and the Bible before you can un—(I was about to say understand either) but I will modify that a little and say before you can be a good citizen. As soon as The Commoner arrives it goes with me where ever I go until I have finished it. I enclose herewith Mr. Borland's answer, also his letter. I am going to vote for Borland for what I think and hope he will do in congress for the common people. He answers every question "yes," except No. 2, which he does not answer at all.

Kansas City, Mo., September 28, 1910.—Dr. W. H. Coffey, Bryant Building, Kansas City, Mo. My Dear Doctor: Since you have taken enough interest to send me the enclosed list of questions, I shall take pleasure in answering them

and returning them to you. I have not answered the second question, because I do not feel sufficiently familiar with the parliamentary history of the house from my one term in congress to take a positive position on this question. I believe in Mr. Champ Clark's leadership and shall follow his advice and suggestion on this important matter. With kindest regards, I remain
Yours truly,
WILLIAM P. BORLAND.

F. S. MONNETT ON THE TARIFF

Columbus, Ohio, October 3, 1910.—Mr. F. S. Monnett, in the following communication, addressed to S. B. Dietz, Secretary Madison Grange, Canal Winchester, Ohio, has answered some questions put to him by Mr. Dietz on his position on the tariff and other questions. The facts and figures therein are easily verified from the records he has at his office and he will be only too glad to take up with any one disputing any of the facts:

When the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill went into effect, the farmers of Franklin county were receiving from eighty to ninety cents for corn. The September option has just closed at 48½ cents per bushel, a difference of 66 per cent of the value to the farmer, in less than two years, and only 35 cents per bushel offered for the new crop.

Last year September wheat sold at Chicago at the close of the market at \$1.20. This year

it sold at 93½ cents, a difference of 29 per cent, or one-fourth of the farmer's income.

Last year I received 33 1-3 cents per pound for my clip of Ohio wool. This year the best I have been offered is 22 cents to 25 cents per pound for the same grade of wool, a difference of about 33 per cent of my income.

Last year September oats closed at 48 cents per bushel, in the Chicago market, and this year at 31½ cents, a difference of 52 per cent, or more than one-half of my income from oats.

Woolen blankets from the same wool have increased 25 per cent; wire nails made by the United States steel trust, and wire fence are 40 per cent higher than before the trust fixed the arbitrary prices.

Farm machinery, mowers, reapers and the repairs thereon, wagons, engines and manure spreaders are selling from 50 to 150 per cent more than they cost, under the manipulation of the International Harvester company.

Now under the tariff bill, the farmers of Franklin county get no protection upon their hay, their oats, their wheat, or their corn, because they export 24 per cent of these products.

Therefore, the tariff in no way protects any of the farmer's products, except wool, and with a tariff of 11 cents per pound, wool forthwith shrank 8 1-3 cents per pound in Ohio.

The latest report of the American Woolen company, according to their report of August, 1910, shows they increased their income from \$29,886,000 to \$48,000,000, a net increase of profits from \$1,287,705 to \$5,798,059, or more than 400 per cent.

After paying all their dividends on the watered stock and fictitious bonds, they increased their surplus \$2,000,000 and their current assets \$8,000,000. The net profits of the American Woolen company were as above stated, and it is the sole buyer of the wool in this state and county, having increased its profits under the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill 40 per cent, and the farmers, in the meantime, lost or depreciated their profits 25 per cent.

These figures can be verified from Moody's Manual or by inspecting Otis and Hough's records, at Columbus, Ohio, or any other reliable financial house in the city.

I will offer a \$50 prize for the best paper prepared by any resident of the townships of Franklin county, Ohio, the paper not to exceed two thousand words, and "To furnish the best reasons why farm products, under the Aldrich tariff bill have made this depreciation and the manufactured products used by the farmer have all increased or maintained their monopolistic prices." If there are more than fifty competitors, I will give 10 as the second prize, the papers to be passed upon by suitable judges.

I will use the best of these papers in the Sixty-second congress and have them placed in the Congressional Record by any of the contestants that wish to have it so done. All contestants' papers must be filed at my office, Columbus, Ohio, before November 5, 1910.

F. S. MONNETT,

Candidate for Congress,
Twelfth District of Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio, October 3, 1910.

INFORMATION WANTED

A. G. Catlin, Aitkin, Minnesota: I think the move to have congressmen adhere to the wishes of the constituents is proper and right. I do not like to see officials get a "big head" and say, "who are you, that you can dictate and tell me, a public officer, what to do?" I have a couple of problems which should be solved.

Problem 1. If the last straw breaks the camel's back, how many "ship subsidies" will it take to fill the "full dinner pail" with wind?

Problem 2. How many "cabbage leaves" and "other inducements" will it take to stifle the mind of the people sufficiently to enable the "special interests" to put a "hypnotic sleep" upon the voters by "waving the flag" and calling up "patriotic phrases" to place them in "full control" of the law-making machinery?

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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 October, when accompanied by this notice.
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