

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor  
 RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor  
 CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher  
 Editorial Rooms and Business Office 224-330 South 12th Street

One Year.....\$1.00  
 Six Months......50  
 In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75  
 Three Months..... .25  
 Single Copy..... .05  
 Sample Copies Free.  
 Foreign Post. 5c Extra.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

**DISCONTINUANCES**—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year.

**PRESENTATION COPIES**—Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to that effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

**RENEWALS**—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 21, 1910, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1910. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

**ADVERTISING**—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to  
**THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.**

that republican convention? Of all places in the world where he could have made a fight that was the best because he would have been conspicuous by being almost alone. He did not do it. He lost his opportunity.

## DENVER PLANK ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

But when the democratic convention met at Denver the platform adopted there included a plank which demanded the publication of all contributions above a reasonable amount, before the election, and demanded that a limitation should be placed upon contributions. When that convention adjourned, the national committee came to my house, and Mr. Kern came with the committee. He joined with me in a written request that our committee should apply our platform in that campaign; he joined with me in a request that no man should be allowed to give more than ten thousand dollars to our campaign fund. The Standard Oil company gave a hundred thousand dollars to the republican campaign fund four years before. But Mr. Kern was not willing that we should have more than ten thousand dollars contributed by any one man. Mr. Harriman, at Mr. Roosevelt's request, gave fifty thousand dollars—five times as much as we were willing that any democrat should give. Our committee put the plan into operation, and after that Mr. Taft said that his committee would make a report after the election—not before, like our committee, but afterwards. And Mr. Roosevelt endorsed his position, and found fault with me because I wanted publicity before the election. He gave his reasons why it would be highly improper, if not indecent, to make the disclosure before the election. Well, the election came on and the congress elected two years ago has held its first session and the house of representatives endorsed the democratic plank, in spite of the opposition of the president, and the president of that party; but the senate refused to concede this, and so the house had to recede, and consent to publication after the election, in order to get it at all. But the house endorsed our plan, and lo and behold! When Mr. Roosevelt went to Osawatimie he said he favored publication BEFORE and AFTER the election, and so we have him on our side on that question at last. I do not know where Mr. Beveridge stands on that proposition, but I presume he has come over, too. I am glad if we have them both, for we need their aid.

## DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF LABOR

Another question: Take the labor question. For fourteen years the democratic party has been writing platforms in defense of the rights of the laboring man, and Mr. Kern has been defending those platforms each year. Two years ago we had the best platform, from the laboring man's standpoint, that was ever adopted by the convention of a great party, and we had the leaders of the labor organizations supporting our platform. They failed to get what they wanted from the republican convention at Chicago, although Mr. Beveridge was a delegate there. They not only failed to get what they wanted in the way of a platform, but the republican ticket was the most objectionable presidential ticket—that is, so far as laboring men were concerned—the most objectionable presidential ticket that had been put out by a great party; and yet, with Mr. Kern running on this best of platforms for the laboring man, and with Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman running on the republican platform, Mr. Beveridge spoke for the republican ticket and against Mr. Kern and the platform that the laboring man de-

sired. Does this not show you that Mr. Kern has been the pioneer on the labor question, as compared with Mr. Beveridge?

But once more: At Osawatimie Mr. Roosevelt said that the corporations must be driven from politics, that we could not allow corporations to dominate the politics of this country; and here, in Indianapolis, he reiterated it and said that the crooks must be driven out of politics. You do not know how glad I am that he has come around to that position. Why, my friends, if he could have come with us a few years ago what easy sailing we would have had, because we have been fighting crooks for a great many years—before he found it out. Not only that, we have been fighting the crooks when they were electing him and electing Mr. Beveridge, and neither one of them seemed to know it.

Talk about driving the corporations out of politics, read our platform of 1900, written at Kansas City, ten years before his Osawatimie speech and within a hundred miles of the place where his speech was made. If you cut out what he says and cut out what our platform says and shake them up in a hat the chances are sixteen to one that you can not tell which is which.

How glad we are to have the support of these two distinguished republicans, if we can assume from what they have said that they will be with us two years from now, when we have another fight of that kind? Drive the corporations out of politics? There has not been a campaign in which I have been a candidate that I would not have been elected but for the interference of predatory corporations. Mr. Kern is a candidate for the senate. Mr. Kern would now be president of the senate, and I would be president of the United States but for the fact that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Beveridge helped the crooks to beat us in the last election.

## NOT THERE WHEN NEEDED

I am glad that, at last they have found out what has been going on; but when I think how valuable their services would have been a few years ago. I can not help feeling like the old colored man who was hoeing cotton in a July sun. He was mopping the perspiration from his brow and, looking up at the sun, he inquired: "Whar was you last December when we needed you?"

I have gone over some of the great reforms that have been growing in this country that Mr. Roosevelt did not see fit to mention, and I have shown you how the democratic party has led the way and how John Kern has been near the front of the fight.

But nobody is enjoying progressive republicanism more than I am. Even the progressive republicans do not get as much satisfaction out of the endorsement that some of them are giving at this late day, and with some hesitation, to the things that we have been advocating all these years. If you want to find the smile that won't come off you need not go to the advertisements of a breakfast food. Come to Nebraska.

I began to enjoy this some years ago when Mr. Roosevelt first commenced to make excursions into our platform yard. I was in Washington at a Gridiron club banquet. He was the chief guest, and sat on the right of the toastmaster and I sat on the other side. The boys of the club were joking him from the beginning of the banquet to the end about what he was taking from the democratic platform; and when it came my time I joked him too. I mentioned some of the things, but assured him that I did not speak complainingly; that while some of the democrats objected, I did not. I told him that our platform was made for use, and that if we could not get a chance to use it I was glad to have anybody use it. I told these banqueters that I felt so good to see the republicans coming up on to our platform that I was much in the attitude of a young fellow down in Alabama, a bashful young fellow who courted his girl for a year before he had the courage to propose to her. One evening he told her that he loved her, and asked her to marry him. She was a very frank sort of a girl and said: "Why, Jim, I have been loving you these many months, and I have just been waiting for you to tell me so I could tell you." Jim was so overcome with delight, he went out and looked up at the stars and said: "Oh, Lord, I hain't got nothing agin nobody."

That was the way I commenced to feel years ago about this matter, and I have been feeling better and better ever since. I don't know what I am going to do if I get to feeling much better than I do now.

## UTILIZING DEMOCRATIC FEATHERS

A little while after this banquet the cartoonists began to take it up. Collier's Weekly had a cartoon that some of you may have seen. It represented the president and myself as birds, both of us birds, but he was on the nest and I was on the limb, and his nest was feathered with feathers that I had formerly worn. And there I stood on the limb all bare, with just one feather left—tariff reform—and I was wondering whether he would try to get that. And sure enough, two years ago the republicans tried to take that feather, but they got into a quarrel as to whether he feather ought to turn up or down, and it split the party.

But when I found my feathers were gone I proceeded, like any bird ought, to raise a new crop, and I worked diligently, especially while he was gone in South Africa. When he got back I had reached about that period of development that you notice in the chicken when it runs across the road in front of an automobile in the fall. You notice that sometimes the chicken has lost its first feathers, and that its second feathers are not fully developed. I was in about that condition, so to speak, when he came back; and then he went to Osawatimie, and there he tried to get every pin feather that I had.

But the cartoonists are now after him. He is getting what is coming to him. A friend of mine sent me a cartoon the other day that appeared in the Baltimore Sun. I don't know whether Mr. Roosevelt has seen this one or not. I am afraid he will not like it, but I have sent for the original; I want to keep it in my office. It represents Mr. Roosevelt with a large family of boys—no race suicide; it is a family of good size—and each boy represents a political issue. The oldest is anti-trust. He is about seventeen years old. And they

run on from that down, and every boy looks like me.

If I were to leave this matter here I am afraid that you might think that I believed myself worthy of the credit which these cartoons imply, but it is not that. I recognize that I am only getting now the reaction from what they did a few years ago. When these things were unpopular they called them Bryanism, in derision; and now, when they have become popular, they can not rub the label off. I did not deserve the censure then. I do not deserve the credit now. I did not invent these things. They were true before I advocated them. They would have been true if I had never advocated them, and they would have grown even if I had never lived. And so now I am not deserving of the credit that these cartoonists give me, because I was but one of six millions and a half who stood by these things when they were unpopular, and deserve as much credit now since they have become popular.

## GENERALS GET THE GLORY

In public life it is as in the army; the generals get the glory while the enlisted men die in the trenches. I would like to unload a large part of this credit upon those who deserve it as much as I. In Irequipa, Peru, Harvard University has an observatory. Irequipa is up on the side of the Andes, 7,500 feet above the sea. They have but two inches of rain there, and the air is so clear that they consider it a good place to photograph the stars. One night they turned their great camera upon a star and when they examined the photograph that was taken they found that instead of one star there were four thousand stars; and so, my friends, if you will examine this composite picture, to which my name has been given you will find that it is composed of more than six millions of democrats who have been fighting for these reforms in the face of every obstacle; and who rejoice now that they are endorsed by some who ridiculed them. I will forgive them that; I am so happy now.

Why have I dwelt upon this? I have referred to the growth of these reforms for a purpose. It is because in this great fight John Kern has been one of the ones who has always been true, and deserves to be remembered. I was a soldier in the Spanish war. I sent a telegram to the president tendering my services on the day the war was declared; I resigned the day the treaty was signed. At the request of the governor of my state, I raised a regiment and commanded it. We prepared ourselves. We were ready for duty. Less than two years before that call was issued I had been a candidate for the position of commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and the election was so close that twenty thousand votes changed from one state to the other in the close states would have elected me instead of my opponent; and yet, when he called for volunteers I put my life in the hands of the man who had defeated me; I was ready to go anywhere at his command. But he did not need us and we remained in camp. We did all that we could; but I do not call myself a soldier when I am in the presence of the veterans of the civil war. They served a year or two, or three or four. They endured the perils of the battlefield and the dangers of the camp, and I would not be presumptuous enough to go up to one of these scarred veterans and say, "Get up and give Colonel Bryan your chair." So, my friends, I think it is presumptuous in a new recruit, like Senator Beveridge to ask a veteran like John Kern to stand aside, and let him enjoy the reward.

## GOOD RESULTS SOUGHT

But I recognize that elections do not turn on gratitude. After while you may have time to rear monuments to those who have been pioneers, if you think their services have been worthy of monuments, but now you are more interested in electing somebody who will do something for you next year than in paying somebody for doing something during the years that are gone; and so I want now to give you a stronger reason why you should elect Mr. Kern than the reasons I have given you, based upon an appreciation of his fidelity to your interests in the past. And what I say now in regard to the importance of having Mr. Kern in the senate applies equally to the importance of having your young congressman, Mr. Korbly, re-elected to represent you in the next congress.

The senate to be elected will probably have to deal with new nationalism, and you ought to know what new nationalism means. You will not feel offended if I assume that some of you may not know, because I did not find out until about a week ago, and I make it my business to keep posted on what is going on politically. But I was so rejoiced to find Mr. Roosevelt endorsing several democratic reforms that I overlooked some of the things that he said at Osawatimie I had wondered why he called it new nationalism. It seemed to me that old democracy would really be a better description, because the things that attracted attention were things for which democracy has been fighting.

But a little more than a week ago I saw an extract from his own magazine, the Outlook, and in this extract, Mr. Roosevelt himself had condensed his new nationalism into four sentences. When I read these sentences I was amazed; I was astounded. And you will be both amazed and astounded when you find out what new nationalism means.

Before I read the three sentences that I desire to comment on I will read the fourth, which is not so important. He says:

"New nationalism demands of the judiciary that it shall be interested primarily in human welfare, rather than in property."

Well, there is nothing new about that demand. It is now more than sixty years since Lincoln coined the phrase which is the most apt expression of this doctrine; he said that when the dollar and the man come into conflict he was for the man before the dollar. Now the democratic party has been preaching that doctrine for years; that is all that fourth sentence means. You do not have to advocate new nationalism to get that old doctrine. But let me give you the three sentences which contain the essence of new nationalism.

"First, the new nationalism is impatient of the