

The Commoner.

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"The Passing" Again

In another column of this issue The Commoner reproduces some of the things, kind and unkind, said about Mr. Bryan. Among these articles is one written by A. Maurice Low, and printed in the National Review of London.

Mr. Low is an American correspondent who moves in the circles where trust magnates most do congregate. Mr. Low has devoted many years of his life to attacks upon the principles for which Mr. Bryan stands. He has lost no opportunity to assail Mr. Bryan himself.

It will be observed that Mr. Low says that the conspicuous part played by certain distinguished democrats whom he names means that "Bryan and Bryanism" are no longer to be tolerated among democrats. Mr. Low adds: "The radical republicans stole Mr. Bryan's policies and made them their own. Now conservative democrats have robbed Mr. Bryan of the party, of which he was once chief. Mr. Bryan can follow his policies into the insurgent ranks or can rejoin his party under conservative leadership."

Democrats have heard just such talk before. They heard it in 1902, 1903 and 1904 when they told us that reorganization of the democratic party, with the special interests acting as the reorganizers, meant victory in November. But the November election returns told another story. The party went to ignominious defeat.

Since then the thing which these gentlemen misname "Bryanism" has so grown in popularity that men of all parties endorse it. It is not "Bryanism." It is good old democratic principle honestly applied to present day problems. And the reason they call it "Bryanism" is that Mr. Bryan has insisted that it be honestly applied by public officers who are heartily in sympathy with it.

If it be true that the insurgent republicans now have a monopoly upon these democratic principles then the democratic party is no longer what it ought to be. If it be true that the democratic party is properly described by Mr. Low then the democratic party has ceased to be of service to the people.

These points are, however, yet to be determined. If the so-called "conservatives," which is another name for "reorganizer" and is, in fact, a democratic synonym for republican "stand-patter," are to control the democratic national convention for the use and benefit of these special interests, then the American people will witness the inspiring spectacle of an effort made by democratic statesmen to erect a democratic structure upon a foundation so false that it could not even support republican framework.

Here is one hint to democrats everywhere: If these so-called "conservatives" or "reorganizers" mean well with this great government of ours, why do all their writers and representatives take it for granted that their efforts

Look Him Up

If the democratic nominee for the presidency is to represent democratic principles, he should be a man whose record justifies the belief that he favors the election of United States senators by popular vote.

Don't let any political literary bureau or any "local statesman" persuade you to follow any candidate for the democratic nomination until you know just what he will represent and work for when elected.

Examine his record.

Study his environment.

Notice the character of his backers.

The republican party is all but wrecked by "standpatism."

The thing called "conservatism" in the democratic party is only another name for the influences that have brought the party of Lincoln to its present day plight.

are necessarily antagonistic to Mr. Bryan's efforts?

What has Mr. Bryan ever done to justify anyone in believing that he could be courted upon to wage war against men who are really laboring for the general good?

The fact is that there is a move on foot, larger in proportion than the movement in 1904, to turn the democratic party over to the predatory interests. These writers understand that Mr. Bryan recognizes the real purpose of this movement and they know he may be depended upon to fight it.

Hence "the passing of Bryan" in so many corporation-controlled publications.

GAMBLING DEVICES

Now that the state legislatures are about to convene it would be well for the reformers to look into the many gambling devices that are being used to cultivate the gambling spirit in the young. It is useless to denounce gambling at cards, at the wheel of fortune, and through the lottery so long as slot machines and other games of chance are allowed to run openly. Gambling is one of the most fascinating of the vices and one of the most demoralizing. It is harder to reform a confirmed gambler than a confirmed drunkard, for while drink diseases the whole body, gambling robs the moral fibre of the man. It is not a matter of degree; the principle itself is wrong. It is destructive of morals to try to get something for nothing. Not only is the principle vicious, but it cultivates extravagance in the successful and crime in the unsuccessful. That which is won by chance is soon spent while embezzlement often follows gambling losses. Laws should be passed in every state prohibiting all games of chance and all schemes by which sales, compensation or words shall depend on chance, whether it be by throwing dice, the turn of a wheel or any other device. Save the young from the snares of the gambler.

JUST AS PREDICTED

Last June when The Commoner urged Ohio democrats to nominate a candidate for senator, John R. McLean, through his Washington Post and Cincinnati Enquirer objected and denounced Mr. Bryan for "interfering" in Ohio politics. The Commoner stated at the time that Mr. McLean objected to senatorial nomination for the reason that he desired to be a candidate himself and preferred to risk his chances with the legislature rather than with the people.

It was denied at the time that Mr. McLean intended to become a candidate, but time has justified The Commoner's warning.

Mr. McLean is a full-fledged candidate and an organized effort is now on foot to persuade the democratic legislature of Ohio to elect a monopolist to the United States senate.

Harvest Time

Harvest time is approaching. The election returns of 1910 indicate that the democratic party is approaching the hour of its triumph. For fourteen years it has been laboring in behalf of certain fundamental reforms which were much needed. At first its policies were regarded as dangerous, and every possible effort was made to arouse opposition to our party among the timid radicals as well as among the avowed conservatives. When the democratic party took the side of the people on the money question and insisted that the country needed more money, the money changers organized and terrorized the people into apparent submission to the disastrous conditions caused by an insufficient volume of money. Now the world knows that there was not enough money in 1896, and intelligent people understand that the prosperity that followed since would not have been possible without an unexpected increase in the volume of money.

When the democratic party fought for an income tax, those who favored the tax were called demagogues and disturbers of the peace, and were accused of trying to array the poor against the rich. Since a republican president, a republican senate and a republican house have submitted the income tax amendment, the people have become convinced that the democratic party was the champion of the masses in its advocacy of the income tax.

When, eighteen years ago, the democratic party began its fight for the election of senators by direct vote of the people, it was accused of attempting to revolutionize the government and destroy the influence of the states in the federal congress, but now that two-thirds of the states have endorsed the reform; now that three republican congresses have declared for it and a republican candidate for president has admitted that he is inclined to favor it, the people recognize that the democratic party has spoken for the masses of the people.

When the democratic party began, fourteen years ago, to demand railroad regulation and spoke out against rebates and discrimination, the railroad officials rushed into the republican party and made it the representative of the big railway combines, but now that the republican leaders have been compelled to admit the necessity for better regulation, now that the rank and file of all parties demand it, the democratic party is recognized as the pioneer in this work. During all these years the democratic party has been pointing out the evils of private monopoly and insisting upon the enforcement of the criminal law and the passage of such additional statutes as may be necessary to protect the public. Now that even republicans are compelled to admit that the trust evil demands attention, our party is recognized as the defender of the people's interest on this subject. Our party's opposition to the ship subsidy and to extravagance in legislation is now more popular than it was a few years ago.

For more than twenty years the democratic party has been pointing out the iniquities of a high tariff and calling attention to the necessity for tariff reduction. A great many have been so wedded to the principle of high protection that it has been difficult to check their faith in the system, but the promise made by the republicans two years ago and their violation of it in the first session of the present congress, these together have opened the eyes of the blind and aroused a country-wide protest against the high tariff leaders.

The growth of public sentiment in favor of the things which the democratic party has been advocating and the disgust with the management of affairs by republican leaders, have led to the signal victory won by the democrats on November 8, but the victory will be of no purpose unless the democrats entrusted with power are in sympathy with the forward movement which the democratic party has been leading. There must be no backward step; there must be no dallying with the reactionary element of

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