

## The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

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## DENVER PLATFORM

The Denver platform contains the following plank on imperialism:

"We condemn the experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder which has involved us in an enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and laid our nation open to the charge of abandoning a fundamental doctrine of self-government. We favor an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us as we guarantee the independence of Cuba until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers. In recognizing the independence of the Philippines our government should retain such land as may be necessary for coaling stations and naval bases."

This is, in substance, the same as the declarations contained in the platforms of 1900 and 1904, except that neutralization is suggested as a relief from the necessity for protection. Now that the new congress will have a substantial democratic majority an effort should be made to secure the passage of a resolution carrying out the democratic platform on this subject.

## MICHIGAN DEMOCRATS

The following dispatch was printed in the Detroit Evening News: "Muskegon, Mich., March 2.—An effort of Hugh Nichols, of Cincinnati, who has twice directed Governor Harmon's presidential boosters' club, to spring a Harmon boom just before the democratic banquet broke up here this morning fell flat. Statements concerning Harmon met with but perfunctory applause. E. O. Wood, of Flint, making the introductory speech for Nichols, was greeted with wild applause when he mentioned Bryan's name. When Nichols arose and started in on the Harmon boom, but few handclaps greeted his statements and he turned the subject to other questions at once."

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 March when this notice is mentioned.

## The Commoner's Work for the Public Good

Writing in Hampton's Magazine, Judson C. Welliver and Louis Brownlow, Washington correspondents, pay this tribute to The Commoner's work for the public good:

"Immediately after the November election 'lifelong' democrats who had been voting the republican ticket ever since 1896, set in motion a scheme to call a democratic conference to meet in Baltimore to declare a party program. This was a tory scheme designed to commit the newly victorious party to conservative policies. Of course, Mr. Bryan was not consulted. Things went on merrily for a week or two, and then Mr. Bryan wrote an eleven-line editorial in his weekly paper, The Commoner, in which he denounced the proposed conference and its organizers. And then, lo and behold! there were not enough democrats left willing to accept the invitation to make up a conference. The scheme was called off, and a Jackson day ratification banquet was substituted, Mr. Bryan being invited to be one of the chief guests!

"When the democratic members of the old congress began to assemble in Washington for the winter session several of the veterans were inclined to minimize the importance of rules revision. They were not at all pleased with the activity of the progressives who were insisting upon immediate redemption of the party pledges in that respect. Another Commoner editorial, a few personal letters from Mr. Bryan, and some of these same men were running around in circles declaring that the revision of the rules was the most important duty on the democratic docket.

"To minimize the Bryan influence in the democratic party in congress is to confess utter ignorance of the situation."

Following are merely samples of the letters that are coming to The Commoner office these days:

John A. Merrill, Los Angeles, Cal.—I am a republican who has voted for Mr. Bryan from 1896 down, and I have promised to vote and work for him at every opportunity. I have taken The Commoner since it started. During the last campaign I paid for twenty-five sub-

scriptions for three or four months and sent them to republican friends hereabouts, and many of them came through for Mr. Bryan. In my judgment Mr. Bryan has done more to bring to the front the insurgency of the republican party than almost all other forces combined. There is practically no difference between a progressive democrat and an insurgent republican, and with every drop of blood in my veins I protest against the deliberate effort on the part of some of the leaders of both parties to rob Mr. Bryan of the fruits of his victory.

N. E. Devore, Redondo Beach, Cal.—I hope to double the number of your subscribers here within a short time. If convenient, kindly mail me your one and two-year offers for subscription to The Commoner. I quite agree with you insofar as the democratic prospects for 1912 are concerned. If our representatives make good and our party places at the head of the ticket progressive men and a united party as well as an earnest endeavor on the part of all loyal democrats, the next president will be a Jeffersonian democrat.

It goes without saying that the larger The Commoner's circulation, the greater its influence will be. Every Commoner reader who believes that this paper is a power for good can help to enlarge its field of influence. Mr. Bryan will do what he can to co-operate in what is intended to be an organized movement on this line. He has given instructions that every new subscriber may receive The Commoner for the period of two years (which will carry it until after the presidential election of 1912) for the sum of one dollar.

Will every Commoner try to secure at least one new subscriber? With the awakening of interest in public questions, it will be found that many will be able to secure a large number of subscribers at this rate but every Commoner reader may at least secure one new subscriber and this in itself would provide an enormous increase in The Commoner's circulation.

Put your shoulder to the wheel today. Help in the effort to keep the democratic party true to its name.

## "NEVER SO DRAMATIC A FILIBUSTER"

Concerning the dramatic filibuster carried on by Senator Owen of Oklahoma, John Temple Graves writes for the Hearst newspapers the following interesting story:

"The last filibuster of a filibustering senate was its most striking and dramatic.

"That last lone stand of Owen of Oklahoma, held the senate in terror and alarm. Rising like a lone Indian upon the plains of uncertainty with a chin as firm as a rock and with an eye as keen as a hawk's, he held a whip hand over eighty-nine senators for seventy-five minutes and threatened for a time to let the gavel fall upon his as the last utterances of the Sixty-first senate.

"Owen was ostensibly fighting for Arizona and the Arizona constitution. New Mexico's constitution had been received and its reactionary provisions were acceptable to the president and to the republican majority and New Mexico was about to be admitted alone.

"Owen took the floor to fight for Arizona under a constitution that was progressive and vitally that it contained the initiative, the referendum and the recall.

"He planted himself upon the proposition from which the entire senate failed to move him.

"First, that the two great forces fighting for supremacy in this government were the forces of progress and popular sovereignty represented by the Arizona constitution, and the reactionary influences of interest and ultra conservatism represented by New Mexico. Upon this ground he felt he was justified in detaining the senate to the last moment of protest in behalf of the people of the great government in which he believed.

"His second ground was the re-admission of the proposition which he had thundered for the last five days upon the floor that the Sixty-first congress since the November elections had not been representative of the people's will.

"Incidentally, but with perfect frankness, Senator Owen declared the senate majority was about to admit New Mexico because it would add two republican senators to the list and he refused to see Arizona excluded because its admission would bring in two democratic senators.

"Planted upon these two positions, the fiery

senator was absolutely immovable to all the influences that could be brought around him.

"Senators were in terror over the fate of individual bills. Other senators were in terror over the fate at the last moment, of certain important remnants of the appropriation bills and there were one or two who cherished the faint hope that at the last hour some lingering reaction toward reciprocity might bring that matter to a successful conclusion and save the senate and the people the terrors of an extra session.

"Grave and dignified senators swarmed around around the desk of Owen of Oklahoma. Senator Carter of Montana, came and pleaded, but the Oklahoman only shook his head and went on. Mr. Gore, Owen's blind colleague came and was turned aside. Bacon came, to no avail. Senator Stone was refused; the venerable and beloved Hernando Money, made the last personal appeal he has ever to make in the senate, but the stern young senator turned from each of them and tranquilly continued his argument for Arizona.

"Then finally the vice-president of the senate himself stepped down from the chair of the senate and, leaving Smoot in his place, went over to plead with Owen to relinquish his position of advantage and give way to other business. Even to the vice-president the Oklahoman turned a smiling face but an absolutely obdurate ear and went coolly on.

"A message came from the president of the United States then in the marble room of the capitol, offering that if Senator Owen would come to the president, a sincere effort would be made to reach an agreement on the Arizona matter. At this Owen shook his head with emphasis, snapped his black eyes and refused to enter into any conference looking to a compromise of Arizona's life. There was never so dramatic a filibuster seen upon the floor of the senate or a filibuster upon which was leveled such wealth and personal and political influence, all in vain.

Finally Senator Owen, in his own good time agreed that if the senate would vote there and then for the admission of Arizona and New Mexico upon equal terms, he would surrender the floor. This was accomplished at 11:30. The vote was adverse to the proposition by 43 to 35 refusing both states and Owen