

# The Commoner.

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## "Shall Democratic Party be Aldrichized?"

The fight is on! Shall the democratic national convention of 1912 be controlled by an Aldrich democracy or shall it represent real democratic sentiment?

By reason of its democratic platforms the party now occupies advanced ground. Shall it retreat to the lowlands?

Although the democratic party has not controlled administrations in recent years its democratic platforms have given it a power possessed by no other party in history—the power to compel opposing parties to recognize the righteousness of its platforms.

Never in all its history has the democratic party so well represented the hopes and aspirations of the progressive patriotic men of all parties as it does today.

This advantage has been won by the party's persistent fight for the people during the past sixteen years.

Today the American people are looking to the democratic party as the leader in real reforms. The people have lost confidence in the republican party. Can the democratic party be trusted?

The democratic national convention for 1912 will provide the answer.

The special interests that have wrecked the republican party are seeking to gain control of the democratic party. They hope to nominate for president a "reactionary" who will be satisfactory to the Wall Street interests.

If they find that the progressive sentiment is too strong to be entirely ignored they will take someone who has been progressive enough to furnish them something to talk about but not progressive enough to fight the interests.

The democratic party seems ready to come into its own. After a long fight the progressive policies which aroused the opposition of all the predatory interests in 1896 are becoming the accepted policies of the country, but the interests will do their best to nominate a candidate who is not in sympathy with them and who tried to retard their progress.

Let not the democrats be deceived. The work of a democratic president will be no easy work. The cleaning out of the stables will be a Herculean task. It will require strength of body, strength of mind and unflinching moral purpose. It is no time for compromise. The times require a stalwart, fearless, progressive leader.

Congress will largely shape the issues and may develop the man but whether he comes from the senate or the house or from a state position or from private life, he must measure up to the requirements of the occasion and be able to summon the progressive hosts to his banner. He must be positive and progressive if he is to win the confidence of those who are seeking remedial legislation.

Do you believe that the democratic party should be kept free from entanglements with special interests? Do you believe that its representatives should mean to redeem the spirit as well as the letter of its platform pledges?

If you believe the democratic party should be true to its name you may help win the fight to protect its national convention from the invading forces of those who would make the party the laughing stock of real democrats.

Mr. Bryan will do his part in the effort to protect the democratic party from "Aldrichism." On the stump and through *The Commoner* he will insist that the progress made by the party during the past sixteen years shall not be thrown away; that the special interests shall not control the convention; that its platform shall be honest and unequivocal and its candidates devoted to genuine democratic doctrine.

In order to place his views before a larger number of people Mr. Bryan has given instructions that his paper, *The Commoner*, be sent to every new subscriber for a period of two years for the sum of \$1.00—the regular price for one year.

You are invited to join Mr. Bryan in this great fight. Every *Commoner* reader can aid greatly if he will secure one or more two-year subscribers at this special rate. This will carry the subscription beyond the presidential campaign.

Will you assist in this effort to prevent the Aldrichization of the democratic party?

### General Sam Houston

Mr. Bryan delivered an address on General Sam Houston, at Huntsville, Texas.

The following dispatch to the *Houston Chronicle* tells the story: Huntsville, Texas, April 21.—In the presence of a crowd of several thousand people in a corner of the cemetery of the quiet little town of Huntsville, Nettie Houston Bringhurst, granddaughter of General Sam Houston, pulled the cord that drew back the twin flags of the republic of Texas and the republic of the United States and revealed the gray granite monument to the hero of San Jacinto.

High above the monument on a cord stretched between two tall flag poles, there hung banner fashion two huge tattered silk flags of the two republics.

Amid the inspiring strains of patriotic music the monument was revealed and cheers came that were hushed to silence when William Jennings Bryan began an eulogy of the first citizen of Texas.

The first governor of Texas, Pinckney Henderson, is represented by his granddaughter, Mrs. Julia Henderson Geissler of Oklahoma. Mrs. Perry of Bay City is a daughter of the late Guy M. Bryan; Mrs. Roach, president of the San

Antonio chapter, is Deaf Smith's granddaughter. Of the Houston family, there were present, Mrs. Nettie Houston Bringhurst and her daughter, Miss Nettie Houston Bringhurst of San Antonio (who unveiled the monument to her grandfather), Mrs. McDonald, of Stanford, Mrs. Nanine Morgan of Georgetown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert John of Houston (the latter being Houston's granddaughter), William Houston of Childress and Mr. Isabelle Taylor of Crockett, a niece of Sam Houston, whose personal likeness to her uncle is very striking. Mrs. John H. Reagan and daughter, of Palestine, and Miss Emma Burleson are representatives of noted pioneer names.

Among the prominent daughters who were present are: Mesdames R. J. Fisher and B. B. Throop of Austin, C. B. Stoen, Walter Gresham of Galveston; J. J. McKeever, R. G. Ashe, C. H. Milby, Miss Fenn, M. B. Urwitz, Miss Bennett of Houston; Mrs. Roach of San Antonio, Miss Emma Burleson of Austin, Mrs. Smith of Victoria, Mrs. Perry of Bay City, Miss Mary Jane Lane of Marshall, Mrs. Geisler of Oklahoma and Mrs. Nettie Houston Bringhurst of San Antonio.

Guy M. Bryan, jr., son of William Joel Bryan, Lewis R. Bryan, jr., son of Moses Austin Bryan; Guy M. Bryan, son of Col. Guy M. Bryan. William Joel and Moses Austin Bryan, were

in General Houston's army in the San Jacinto campaign, Moses Austin acting as Spanish interpreter for General Houston, when he interrogated Santa Anna.

The Bryans attending the unveiling are also grandnephews and nieces of Stephen F. Austin. Orators for the occasion included Senator McDonald Meachum, who offered the resolution

### CONTENTS

SHALL DEMOCRATIC PARTY BE ALDRICHIZED
GENERAL SAM HOUSTON—MR. BRYAN'S SPEECH AT HUNTSVILLE
DEMOCRATS ARE ACTIVE
MARTIN'S HONEST "ANTIPATHY" SNOBBERY
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THIS SCHEME
STEEL TRUST TRIES TO SCARE UNDERWOOD
FRIENDLY AND UNFRIENDLY PRACTICAL TARIFF TALKS
HOME DEPARTMENT
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK
WASHINGTON NEWS