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WHERE FOLK STANDS

The Omaha Daily News prints the following news item: Joseph W. Folk, ex-governor of Missouri and prominently mentioned in connection with the democratic nomination for president in 1912, was in Omaha recently and took a rap at the Douglas county democrats for their attack on W. J. Bryan.

Mr. Folk declared that such attacks served merely to strengthen Mr. Bryan nationally and that it was ridiculous for anyone to even imagine that such attacks would hurt Mr. Bryan. Governor Folk said:

"It is to be regretted that the Douglas county democracy should attack Mr. Bryan. They may not agree with all of Mr. Bryan's views, but he unquestionably is the greatest democrat of today and has had more influence for better things than any other living man in public life.

"He has a larger personal following than any other dozen men in America. Of course the democrats of Nebraska feel proud of his name and fame as any state should."

Mr. Folk feels very confident of democratic success in 1912 if the party is able to convince the people that it is in earnest in the matter of opposing privilege and trying to help the people rather than the interests.

He agreed with Mr. Bryan that the doctrine of free wool should have been adhered to by congress, and criticised the action of the democratic members of congress in agreeing to a 20 per cent tariff on raw wool. He said:

"Prospects for democratic success are bright if the party is true to its ideals.

"According to my views, in order to win, the democratic party must oppose privilege in every form, not only the privilege of lawlessness, but the privileges conferred by law in the shape of subsidies, bounties and tariff for any other purpose that than of revenue."

Mr. Folk declined to discuss his own attitude toward the presidency and also declined to pass any judgment on the administration of President Taft at this time.

SHEEP

There were fewer sheep in the United States in 1910 than in 1900, according to the census figures. In view of the increase in population in the decade this means that sheep raising has retrograded. The ranges of the west are more and more restricted, as more profitable uses are being found for the land.

Meanwhile a tariff rate of 45 per cent on wool has been forcing the American people to pay high prices for clothing and blankets, or to use fabrics adulterated with cotton. A pretty expensive way to maintain a languishing industry. —Kansas City Star.

"ASK THE CANDIDATE"

Commoner readers everywhere are advised to submit to the various presidential candidates questions something like the following:

- 1 Question—Do you favor tariff for revenue only? 1 Answer ... 2 Q—Do you favor free raw material and the placing of a revenue duty only on manufactured goods? 2 A ... 3 Q—Do you believe that in the revision of the tariff the element of protection should be given consideration? 3 A ... 4 Q—Do you believe that the three branches of government are co-ordinate and that each one should keep within its constitutional sphere? 4 A ... 5 Q—Do you approve the recent Standard Oil decision wherein the United States supreme court legislated the word "unreasonable" into the Sherman anti-trust act? 5 A ... 6 Q—Do you favor the repeal of the criminal clause of the anti-trust law or do you believe that in view of supreme court legislation congress should make it clear that all restraint of trade is unreasonable? 6 A ... 7 Q—Do you favor the election of senators by the people? 7 A ... 8 Q—Do you favor the income tax? 8 A ... 9 Q—Do you believe that it is the duty of the American people to promise independence to the Filipinos immediately and to give it in the same way in which they gave independence to the Cubans? 9 A ... 10 Q—Do you believe in the publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures both before and after election day in order that the people may know in advance the

character of support each party and candidate receives?

- 10 A ... 11 Q—Are you willing that the source of every dollar of contribution made to your campaign fund either after your nomination or during the contest for the nomination shall be made public prior to election day? 11 A ... 12 Q—Do you believe in the support of the state governments in all their rights? 12 A ... 13 Q—Do you indorse the labor planks of the 1908 platform? 13 A ... 14 Q—Do you believe in the strict regulation of railroads? 14 A ... 15 Q—Do you indorse the democratic platform of 1908 respecting trusts wherein it declares that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable" and presents a remedy? 15 A ... 16 Q—Do you approve the plan known as the Aldrich currency scheme? 16 A ... 17 Q—Do you favor asset currency in any form? 17 A ... 18 Q—Do you believe in the establishment of what is known as a central bank? 18 A ... 19 Q—Do you favor legislation compelling banks to insure depositors? 19 A ...

Let democrats everywhere ask questions and secure answers, thus finding out just what every candidate stands for. In this way democrats may be able to determine with some degree of intelligence as to the available candidate.

The Commoner will be glad to print the replies made to these questions by gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in connection with the democratic presidential nomination.

LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN

Marion, O., June 12, 1911.—Hon. Carl C. Anderson, M. C., Washington, D. C. Dear Sir: Permit me to thank you for the record in the Standard Oil case and for other favors. I can not let this opportunity go by to express my dissatisfaction with the Underwood tariff bill. I have some excuse for the "dye in the wool," republican protectionists, who have stolen so much for the people through the tariff, that it has become by force of habit, a virtue to them rather than a crime; but I assure you I have no excuse for the democratic protectionist, if there is such a thing, which I doubt, because a protectionist can not be a democrat, only a republican can be a so-called protectionist. The people who would consume clothes made of wool, if they could get "all wool and a yard wide," far outnumber those who own sheep. The consumer pays the steal of 20 per cent ad valorem, under this bill. It is pretended that it is necessary as a revenue getter, and we need the revenue on account of the extravagance of the republican administration. The former is false, and the latter is true. It will cost the consumers, and not get the wool, \$150,000,000 to only get about \$14,000,000 revenue. Why not get this revenue from a product that is more of a luxury than wool, raw rubber and silk, for instance. This would have been democratic. If Mr. Underwood is a democratic member of congress, why does he not present and support democratic resolutions and bills? Why don't others who claim to be democrats, act like democrats and

not like republicans? No, these men are not democrats, they are republicans so far as the tariff on wool is concerned. They are in the wrong pew. They are pretended democrats, when they are running for office, but once in office they become black sheep with the republican herd. They receive the republican doctrine of wool protection, and pay the salary of the republican preachers out of democratic funds. Let these fellows get into the republican crowd where they belong, and stay there—when they get home and their time is out they will—or if we had the recall we would not wait for the expiration of their term of service. The service is for the privileged class, not for the mass. It is for the 22,000 of sheep owners, which includes herders and against the 90,000,000 others who do not own sheep but consume the sheep product. Why give 22,000 people \$14,000,000 and make 90,000,000 people pay it. Why not give 90,000,000 people \$14,000,000 and let the 22,000 sheep owners pay it? This is "robbing Peter to pay Paul." If this is the case and is true, why not put the robber in the penitentiary? Robbery is robbery and stealing is stealing, both crimes. It is no worse to rob by law than without law or rob under the law. The law maker who robs by enacting a law is as guilty as the thief who violates the law that says "Thou shalt not steal thy neighbor's goods." We will have different laws, when we have a law that fines and imprisons the lawmaker who makes a law that robs the masses and gives the stolen goods to the special privileged class. We need such