measures are not the kind to select to enact

and enforce them. When that times comes, Mr. Bryan, who is yet a young man, will loom up larger than ever. Although he may never be president, the trend of public sentiment is so

decidedly in favor of the reforms he advocates

the time may yet come when the public will

want to see the man who made the reforms pos-

sible in a position to make them secure. That

would have been the sensible course to have

pursued long ago, but the American people have

long been short on political common sense, al-

though they are to be congratulated on the

awakening that is to be noticed on every hand

and in every walk of public life. No greater

evidence of this is necessary than to state the

fact that ten years ago the kind of political reform talk that is now being given on a thousand

chautauqua platforms and applauded by republicans and democrats alike would have split the

average community into factions. The people

are awakening and the grafter politician is

doomed. The statesman who is ostensibly serv-

ing the public, but really working for the great

corporations, is having his last inning. And

above the roar of the conflict let it not be for-

gotten that the one man who has never wavered

in the fight for better government, who has

never ceased to uphold the highest ideals, even

at the price of public preferment, is none other

than this same man Bryan, who has been hooted

at and hissed at for fifteen years, but has a right to be happier every day as he sees the walls of a corrupt political Jericho falling—giving way

to an era of reform that his advocacy has

largely made popular. These are great days

for the men who believe in the people.-Hills-

SEARCHING QUESTIONS, OF COURSE

"catechism" of prospective democratic presiden-

tial candidates is delicious. He declares that

the Nebraskan's list of interrogatives is "impudent." If anything could be more impudent

than Mr. Bailey's presence in the United States senate it would be interesting to hear of. He

ought therefore to be an excellent judge of

what is decorous and what is not. Still in this

Mr. Bryan's catechism is not addressed directly to the candidates. He printed it in The

Commoner in the form of a suggestion to his

subscribers. Assuming that as American citizens they were interested in the political opin-

ions of the various men whom they may be

called to vote for or against in the next presi-

dential election he wrote out a list of questions

which he supposed would bring them into the

light. None of the readers of The Commoner

are obliged to send these interrogatories to

Governor Harmon or Governor Wilson and no

candidate who received a copy of them need answer unless he wants to. He need not say

boo if he prefers to keep silent. In view of these facts, it is a little difficult to perceive

where the "impudent dictation" which Mr.

instance we think he may be mistaken.

Senator Bailey's comment on Mr. Bryan's

dale (Mich.) Daily.

## The Commoner.

## "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?

2 Q—Do you favor free raw material and the placing of a revenue duty only on manufactured goods?

1 Answer ......

3 Q—Do you believe that in the revision of the tariff the element of protection should be given consideration?

2 A.....

4 Q-Do you believe that the three branches of government are co-ordinate and that each one should keep within its constitutional

3 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?

5 A.....

7 Q—Do you favor the election of senators by the people?

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?

8 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?

11 Q—Are you willing that the source e 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?

10 A.....

11 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

15 A.....

remedy?

16 Q-Do you approve the plan known as the Aldrich currency scheme?

17 Q-Do you favor asset currency in any form?

16 A......

18 Q—Do you believe in the establishment of what is known as a central bank?

banks to insure depositors?

19 A.....

Let democrats everywhere ask questions and secure answers, thus finding out just what every condidate stands for In this way democrats

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 re-

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

Bailey reprobates so fiercely comes in.

There seems to be more or less ground for the belief that Mr. Bailey belongs to a little group, as influential as it is quiet, which prefers to name the next democratic candidate for president. They assert the right to do this by virtue of their wealth and their powerful connections, and naturally they resent the intrusion of Mr. Bryan into a field which they have pre-empted and to which they feel that they have a sacred and exclusive property right. They would resent with quite as much heat the intrusion of anybody else not belonging to the charmed circle.

Mr. Bryan's proposition is that the only chance for democratic success lies in heeding the popular desires which have already given the party control of the house of representatives. The questions which he has formulated relate directly to these wishes of the people. Any candidate who refused to answer them or who gave unsatisfactory answers would undoubtedly find himself repudiated by the voting masses, while if he were asked nothing about his opinions he might slip through without difficulty. Hence it is easy to understand the dislike of politicians like Bailey and the persons whom he speaks for to this "catechism."

It is pretty searching. We do not wonder that it excites the ire of shady politicians. There are nineteen of the interrogatories and each one of them goes to the heart of a vital issue. Take the first one, for example, "Do you favor a tariff for revenue only?" Imagine Mr. Bailey's plight were he compelled to answer yes or no. The slippery Texan has devised a most ingenious tariff theory for the express purpose of evading questions of this sort. Ask him whether he wants a revenue tariff or not and he will answer that he is constitutionally opposed to abating the duties on raw materials until we have free manufactures. Since tariff reduction must evidently begin somewhere, Mr. Bailey thus puts himself in a position to avoid action on the subject forever. Between the duties on raw material and those on manufactures he stands like the indecisive ass between two bundles of hay which starved to death because it could make no choice.

Or take the tenth question, "Do you believe in publicity of campaign contributions?" Now there is no "practical politician" on earth who does not in his secret heart abhor publicity of campaign contributions. Mr. Bailey especially abhors it because his financial refreshments are drawn from singularly malodorous refrigerators. A man like Harmon would not hesitate to say that he did believe in publicity of contributions because he is honorable and wants no success which is not honestly gained. Nor can we imagine Woodrow Wilson squirming at the thought of telling who has given him money for his election expenses. But for Mr. Bailey the case is far different. He wishes to keep under cover because he has a great deal which sadly needs covering.

Searching as Mr. Bryan's questions are, they

ask for nothing which any honest statesman ought to wish to keep secret about his opinions. The election of a president is a very important act for the voters. It is perfectly right for them to learn as much as possible about any man who asks for their suffrages. If he has opinions which he is ashamed of or afraid to publish is he quite the proper person to choose for chief magistrate?

The innuendo that Mr. Bryan is by this catechism preparing the way for his own candidacy, a fourth candidacy after three failures, is absurd. Like every other intelligent American, he takes a lively interest in public affairs and tries by a number of perfectly legitimate methods to make his opinions count. He differs from most of his countrymen only by being a little more intelligent and active. From Mr. Bailey he differs by being a good deal more frank.—Portland Oregonian, (rep.)

## THE UNDERWOOD BOOM

At a conference of Birmingham, Ala., citizens recently, a boom was launched for Congressman O. W. Underwood for president. Steps were taken to have the organization spread over the entire country, first attention of course to be given to the south. If this committee is truly representative of southern democracy, the sconer they get over into the republican ranks the better it will be for the democratic party at large.—South Bend (Ind.) New Era.