

## WHAT IS A "PROGRESSIVE?"

The following telegrams are self-explanatory: New York, N. Y., July 12.—Hon. W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.: Disputes between partisan advocates have in the view of the World obscured the popular conception of the term "progressive," as applied to current political controversy. In order to clear up this confusion will you, as a recognized authority, send to the World a definition of your interpretation of the term, illustrating as clearly and concretely as possible its applicability to present conditions, what is a "progressive."

## THE WORLD.

To The Editor of the World: A progressive is one who is moving forward. Recognizing the imperfection that pertains to the handiwork of man a progressive is seeking to make improvement in present conditions wherever improvement is possible. As the trend is more and more toward popular government, the progressive is, of course, going in that direction. He has faith in both the right of the people to self-government and in their capacity for self-government. He believes that a government is secure and strong in proportion as it draws its authority from the people and is responsive to the will of the people.

The progressive favors justice in government and believes that this can only be secured through the application, in all departments of the government of the Jeffersonian doctrine of equal rights to all. It follows that to be a progressive, one must be in a position to do his own thinking. No one can be expected to go forward if he must ask permission of the beneficiaries of privilege and favoritism. A progressive, in other words, is a free man whose sympathies are with the people and who has the intelligence to see what needs to be done and the courage to do it. Yours truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

## A GOOD COMMITTEE

The democratic campaign committee whose members will assist Chairman McCombs in the management of the campaign of 1912, have been chosen as follows: Robert S. Hudspeth, of New Jersey; Josephus Daniels, of North Carolina; Willard Saulsbury, of Delaware; Robert E. Ewing, of Louisiana; A. Mitchell Palmer, of Pennsylvania; Joseph E. Davies, of Wisconsin; Will R. King, of Oregon; all of whom are members of the national committee and Senators, Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma; James A. O'Gorman of New York, and James A. Reed, of Missouri; Representatives Daniel J. McGillicuddy of Maine; Albert S. Burleson of Texas and William G. McAdoo of New York City.

Governor Wilson has done well in the selection of this committee. They are good men and most of them have taken conspicuous part in efforts toward progressive government.

## WILSON AND MARSHALL CLUBS

Preparations for the national campaign can not begin too early and the work ought to be started at once in every precinct in every state. The Commoner calls upon its readers everywhere to proceed to the organization of Wilson and Marshall clubs. Sometimes it is difficult to get men to attend meetings but these clubs could be organized even if only two or three persons are in attendance and then the membership could be built up as the enthusiasm of the campaign grows. The Commoner will print brief announcements of the organization of Wilson and Marshall clubs. Organize your club and send the fact of the organization and the names of the officers to The Commoner.

Let us see how many Wilson and Marshall clubs can be organized among Commoner readers.

Who will be the first?

## "AVERSE TO CONTROVERSY"

In an interview with a correspondent for the New York Times, Mr. Henry Watterson says some pretty means things about Mr. Bryan, and then adds, "No one could be more averse to acrimonious controversy than I am." He explains, however, that he tells these things because he is "an honest man, committed to the telling of truth without favor or fear."

Two negroes listened for a time to an orator who had a great deal to say in praise of himself. One asked the other: "Sam, who is that gemmen?"

"I don't know his name," replied Sam, "but he suttinly do recomen' hisself mos' highly."

## CIRCULATE THE COMMONER

An old-time reader of The Commoner writes: "Wherever The Commoner is regularly read the democratic vote increases. One of the most effective methods of increasing Governor Wilson's vote would be by the circulation of The Commoner (particularly among men who have heretofore voted the republican ticket) in every state of the union. I suggest that you make a special rate for campaign purposes and I am sure there are many hard working democrats who will take advantage of that rate to put The Commoner regularly into the hands of their republican neighbors." The Commoner will be sent to any one from now until the close of the 1912 campaign for the sum of 35c, or three subscriptions will be entered until the close of the campaign for \$1.00.

## PUSH THE MONEY TRUST INVESTIGATION

More than two months ago the house of representatives passed the bill amending the banking law and making possible a continuance of an effective investigation of the money trust. This bill reached the senate and is now pending in the senate finance committee. It is charged that certain distinguished senators, democrat and republican, have blocked the report on this measure by direction of leading New York financiers. In the meantime J. Pierpont Morgan, William Rockefeller, James Stillman and other big financiers remain in other lands for the purpose of avoiding subpoenas to appear before the investigating committee and give testimony.

Democrats in the senate ought to force consideration of this house bill before adjournment. The passage of this bill will make possible an investigation that will expose the money power conspirators and will accomplish great good through remedial legislation.

Referring to the money trust investigation, the San Francisco Star says: "Since the democratic investigation of the money trust was started it has become apparent why the big New York banks so bitterly opposed the inquiry. It has been said that whenever the New York banks took snuff the country banks sneezed for them, and the money trust probe has brought to light the fact that the snuff has been pretty expensive to the smaller banks. This inquiry has shown that the people of the country have been paying dearly for the privilege of being connected with the financial gentry of Wall street. The New York Clearing House association, which comprises fifty of the larger banks of New York City, has been in the habit of charging the smaller banks throughout the country for collecting their checks for them. The charge, which still is exacted from the smaller banks, amounts to about 7 cents to do this work, but the clearing house charges 70 cents per thousand, or ten times the real cost. Where the volume of business amounts up into the millions the profit from this source is tremendous—running up to an average of \$50,000,000 per year. From this source alone the banks which belong to the clearing house association collected enough last year to pay an eight per cent dividend on their capital stock. In the face of this collection charge it is known that some of the smaller banks against which the charge was made carried money on deposit in the New York banks, so the smaller banks paid the New York institutions for the privilege of collecting their own checks. The average charge per day for making these collections amounts to about \$80,000, and this is the tribute of the smaller banks throughout the country to the big banks of New York City. A daily gift of \$80,000! The investigating committee has discovered that the New York Clearing House association has arbitrary power in fixing the rules under which New York City banks shall operate, and since the banks throughout the country are governed by the New York banks, this clearing house practically dominates the banking machinery of the country. It has been testified at the hearings in New York that the clearing house committee drove perfectly solvent banks out of business simply to satisfy the whim of some financial magnate. This association is not organized by any law, or chartered by any authority. The banks which belong to the clearing house, the testimony shows, have been

enabled to earn as high as 40 per cent dividends on a capitalization, in some instances, of as high as \$25,000,000."

## MR. BRYAN AND HIS NEIGHBORS

The Lancaster county democratic convention (the county in which Lincoln is located) met Saturday, July 20, to elect delegates to the democratic state convention to be held at Grand Island, July 30. Without a dissenting vote the convention adopted the following resolutions:

"We send greetings to the democrats of the nation and congratulate them upon the good results at the Baltimore convention in the nomination of Wilson and Marshall for president and vice president and in the adoption of a thoroughly progressive platform.

"We congratulate the democrats of Nebraska that it was left to a citizen of this great state—a Nebraska democrat—to become 'the hero of Baltimore.'

"When he saw operating in the democratic national convention the same influences that disrupted the republican national convention—the same influences that have wrecked the republican party—he threw down the gauntlet to the representatives of those interests and in the name of 'the folks at home' entered upon a battle for the preservation of the democratic party as an instrument of real service to the people.

"Rejecting the counsel of the timid, ignoring the threats of the hostile, unmindful of the predictions of the pessimist, he fought what at times seemed to be a hopeless struggle but what proved to be the best fought and the best won of all the convention battles in the political history of America.

"Through his splendid courage and his matchless leadership the convention at Baltimore was transformed from what at one time seemed to be a reactionary gathering—hopeless of results when it should submit its program to the people—into a real democratic convention with real democratic candidates standing upon a genuine democratic platform.

"Plainly the man who made this fight and won this victory needs no compliments at the hands of this convention or of any other convention; but the democratic party in Lancaster county, as well as the democratic party in Nebraska, owes it to the people whose votes it seeks to say exactly where it stands upon the line drawn so clearly at Baltimore by Nebraska's distinguished citizen—and America's great commoner.

"With cordial greetings to the democrats of Nebraska, the democrats of Lancaster county in convention assembled hereby take their stand beside William J. Bryan and in support of the principles for which he battled at Baltimore. We heartily commend him and those delegates who upheld his arms and fought by his side for the course they adopted and we congratulate them upon the magnificent victory they won. We instruct our delegation to the state convention to vote as a unit upon all questions and to cast their vote and exert their efforts toward the adoption of a state platform that shall be in harmony with the national platform."

## CHAIRMAN MCCOMBS

William F. McCombs is a strong man and he will make an excellent chairman of the democratic national committee. The selection of Joseph E. Davies of Wisconsin as secretary was also a wise one. These two gentlemen will bring new life and courage into democratic campaign work. They may be depended upon not to make any alliances during the campaign that would embarrass Governor Wilson after he has assumed the duties of his office.

The duties of the officers of the national committee are of the highest importance and genuine ability on the part of these officials is essential to the faithful discharge of those duties. The democratic party is entitled to congratulations upon the high character of its new chairman and secretary.

## WANTED—A MAN

New York democrats are demanding the nomination for governor of a man who may be depended upon to hold himself free from the influences of Murphyism. Surely the New York democracy will appreciate the importance of putting its best foot foremost when it comes to the selection in this progressive year of 1912 of a democratic candidate for governor. There are many democrats in New York who would fill this bill.

Governor Dix would better stand aside for the benefit of his party and his state—for Dix is a failure.