

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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One Hundred New Commoner Readers in a Bunch

L. E. Smith, editor and S. R. Stewart, trustee, Indiana: I, L. E. Smith and S. R. Stewart, trustee of Worth township, Boone county, state of Indiana write: Believing in your honesty, integrity and fidelity to the cause of Jeffersonian democracy, and feeling as we do that you fought a great fight and won such a sweeping victory for progressive political principles at the recent Baltimore convention, we want to manifest to you in some way our appreciation of your splendid effort and final success in behalf of the common people of this nation. We have thus gone out and obtained for you the following named one hundred subscribers for The Commoner until after the fall election. We do not know your subscription price for this period of time so are forced to ask you to kindly wait until you send in the bill for the same when we will forward the amount. You were our choice for the presidency at Baltimore, but we also feel kindly toward Woodrow Wilson and will do all we can for his election.

A Deserved Compliment

Mr. Roosevelt, in the Outlook, pays a deserved compliment to Governor Wilson when he quotes with approval the following sentiment expressed by the democratic candidate:

"No one pretends to find a reason for not voting for Mr. Wilson in the character or in the ideals of Mr. Wilson himself. It is plain that he approaches public questions from the point of view of the public interest. What he said the other day in a speech at Atlantic City is a genuine expression of his spirit. He was speaking of an issue raised in that place by lawlessness and corruption, of the need of moral pride, and of the willingness to fight evil at all costs. 'There can be,' said Mr. Wilson, 'so long as we are honest men, no quarrel with any man who deals privately or publicly in a practice that is unrighteous; a man who lays himself, his life, down for that purpose, ought to die more happy than he lived. Life is a little thing. Life lasts only a little while, and if it goes out lighted with the torch of glory, it is better than if it had lasted upon a dull level a thousand years. * * * That is the test of manhood, it is the test of humanity, and it is the glory and sign of Christianity, that a man will lay down his life for another, no matter what the consequences may be to himself, either in this world or in the next.'

"These words, especially as they come from a man just chosen to receive the highest gift in the hands of his party, presents a view of public service that should actuate all men in public life. They are a pledge of his own purpose.

"So far as the country at large knows it, Mr. Wilson's record since he entered public life two years ago has not been inconsistent with his lofty purpose or his high character. While in office he has been not only the chief executive of his state, but also the leader of his party in the state."

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TWO PICTURES

Mr. Hearst draws a harrowing picture of Mr. Bryan leaving the Baltimore convention "generally detested by those who had been his friends." Mr. Bryan is so discredited that according to Mr. Hearst, "the best thing Bryan can do is to hold his tongue, and keep out of sight and give Wilson and democracy a chance to win." Too bad, too bad, to thus lose the confidence of so great and good a man and so loyal a democrat as the owner of the New York, Chicago, San Francisco, etc., Examiner, Journal, American, etc. And the worst of it is that Mr. Bryan has fallen in spite of the splendid example set by Mr. Hearst who has spent his life showing ambitious young men how to rise in politics. He began in a very humble way in 1900 as president of the national organization of democratic clubs to hold which it was necessary to go through the humiliating experience of supporting Mr. Bryan for president. This, in his opinion, is the only stain upon his character, but his youth and inexperience ought to be considered in mitigation. He next appeared as a candidate for president in 1904. He had the support of nearly all of his employes and a few others. In 1908 he assisted in the election of Mr. Taft by running a ticket of his own in a personally conducted campaign. By peculiar efforts he secured for his ticket, 82,872 votes, including the votes the candidates drew on their own merits. This year he has added to his laurels by superb generalship in the management of Speaker Clark's campaign. He made a brilliant play when he threatened to become a candidate himself if Mr. Clark was not accepted, but his known modesty robbed the threat of value.

The sight of one so universally beloved as Mr. Hearst is makes it harder for Mr. Bryan to bear being "detested by those who had been his friends," and it is ungenerous in one occupying so exalted a position as Mr. Hearst does to kick one so completely "down" as he thinks Mr. Bryan is.

IOWA DEMOCRATS PROGRESSIVE

The Iowa democrats are progressive. The convention recently held indorsed the reforms outlined in the national platform and declared for the initiative and referendum. Good for Iowa and the democrats are to be congratulated also for not allowing the liquor interests to run their convention.

"BILL MURRAY'S" GOOD WORK

Hon. William H. Murray, commonly known in Oklahoma, where he is beloved of all men, as "Alfalfa Bill," was one of the striking figures at the Baltimore convention. Mr. Murray's great ability, courage and devotion to principle were of great service to those who fought to hold the democratic party true to its ideals.

THIS IS MEAN

The Ohio State Journal says: "It is saddening to reflect that there is almost certainly some conscienceless person who will blithely suggest that it be called 'The Tennessee Coal and Iron Party.'"

Now isn't that just too mean for anything?

Poor Advice

The New York World advises Governor Wilson that he should not be governed by the one term plank in the democratic national platform. According to the World that plank is very good for the future and men may be governed by it when it becomes a law, but the World says Governor Wilson ought to make it clear that he does not consider that he is limited by this platform to one presidential term.

The World is giving Governor Wilson very poor advice. The one term plank grew out of the conviction that the occupant of the presidential chair is in better position to serve the people when he is not shaping his policies and his conduct to the view of re-election. While a constitutional law will be necessary to make it effective, the party that advances the proposed reform is bound by it even before the enactment of the law. Governor Wilson's announcement that he will not be a candidate for a second term will be the highest sort of proof of democratic sincerity so far as its one term plank is concerned.

BERGER IS RIGHT

Federal Judge Hanford has resigned, evidently for the purpose of escaping impeachment proceedings. Several members of congress have expressed the opinion that further proceedings against Judge Hanford would not be necessary for it would take on the form of persecution. Unquestionably, Judge Hanford has suffered sufficient disgrace. The investigation of his methods disclosed that he used his position on the bench to aid certain special interests. It is freely charged that representatives of these interests persuaded Judge Hanford to resign in order that they might avoid further exposure. Mr. Berger insists that there shall be thorough investigation of the disclosures concerning this federal judge's agency for corporation concerns.

Mr. Berger is right. A thorough investigation on this line may open up investigation with respect to other federal judges. No one could desire the further humiliation of the unhappy man who has brought disgrace upon the bench, but there ought to be no turning back now that the way has been opened for inquiry all along the line.

BUT HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT SLAUGHTER HOUSES

"But when it comes to presidential timber, Colonel Bryan sizes up Marse Henry as a poor stick."—St. Louis Republic.

"Well, anyhow, your Marse Henry has not been beaten three times in succession, each defeat being greater than its predecessor."—Henry Watterson in Louisville Courier-Journal.

But he has "marched through a slaughter house to a bloody grave" on several occasions when he undertook to betray democratic principles and sacrifice democratic candidates.

Take an anti-Morgan, Ryan, Belmont resolution every morning if you feel any internal symptoms of reactionaryism. It is a sure cure.