

111 New Commoner Readers from One Township

Oliver Van Syoc, Milo, Iowa: Enclosed find draft for \$27.75 to pay for 111 campaign subscriptions to The Commoner. When I read in The Commoner of a certain township in Indiana sending 100 subscriptions, I set out to beat them in my township. I am a private citizen, living in Belmont township, Warren county, Iowa, and have no political obligation whatsoever; my township has always gone republican and my county has never been democratic. My 111 subscribers are from 111 people, each paying for their own paper, except four, who were already Commoner subscribers and each of these sent the paper to a friend. My list consists of 45 republicans, 64 democrats, 1 prohibitionist and 1 socialist. Eighty-six are people who have never read your paper. Now I challenge any township in the United States to beat us.

A GOOD AMENDMENT

Senator La Follette has introduced a resolution submitting an amendment making it easier to amend the federal constitution. A newspaper dispatch says:

"Senator La Follette by a resolution proposed a radical change in the method of amending the constitution of the United States. By the terms of the resolution a majority of the two houses of congress would have authority to propose a constitutional amendment, or it might be proposed on the petition of ten states acting through their legislatures or through popular vote."

The La Follette amendment is in the right direction but it should go further. It should permit ratification by a majority of the states, providing the states ratifying contain half the population of the United States.

There is no reason why three-fourths of the states should be required. The present constitution enables a minority to prevent progress.

SO SUDDEN

The reform impulse sometimes comes on one very suddenly. Take Mr. Roosevelt's case, for instance. When, last winter, Mr. La Follette pointed out the dangers which a second Taft term would bring, Mr. Roosevelt refused to take sides with him against the administration. Now the danger is deemed sufficient cause for a new party.

ALONE!

A cartoonist, after reading the president's pathetic appeal for an unamended constitution and his enthusiastic indorsement of himself as the last surviving champion of that constitution, might be excused for recalling a declaration that the children learn in school. Why not a picture of the good ship Constitution on fire in mid-ocean and just below:

The boy stood on the burning deck
Whence all but him had fled,
The flames that lit the battle's wreck
Shone 'round him o'er the dead?

Senator Beveridge, in his speech as temporary chairman, trotted out the same old protective tariff fraud that has been exhibited every four years by the republican party. If the manufacturers are to be permitted to write our tariff laws they can do it as successfully through the old republican party as through a new republican party.

It took Mr. Roosevelt seven years and a half as president to say nothing against the steel trust. How long will it take him under Mr. Perkin's management to do something to protect the people from the steel trust?

If Mr. Roosevelt has earned a third term because of the service he has rendered to the republican party, how many terms will he be entitled to if he succeeds in organizing a successful new party?

They used to say that nothing but hard times could produce a new party, but here we have a progressive democratic party and an entirely new party with good crops.

Mr. Roosevelt thinks that a great revolution is coming unless he is given a third term. No need for alarm. He is the only blood spot on the moon.

Mr. Taft now sees the mistake he made in allowing himself to be indorsed so highly in 1908. He could not live up to the advance notices.

Editor Hamilton Holt of the New York Independent pleads for an "endowed newspaper." Well? Carnegie, Rockefeller or Morgan?

WHY THE DEMOCRACY SHOULD WIN

The New York Independent prints the following statement made by Mr. Bryan to the New York Independent at Baltimore: "Because it has won the right to put its principles into practice. While in the minority during the last sixteen years it has dominated public opinion and coerced the republican party into accepting many of its ideas. It is the only great party today with a policy and purpose and an enthusiastic membership. The republican party is divided between the standpat element and the progressive element, and the progressive element is divided into two factions. Each branch of the republican party would rather see the democratic party win than to see the other branch of the party triumph. The policy of the present administration is only an indication of what would happen if either of the three factions in the republican party obtain control of the executive office. Until the republican party passes through the struggle in which it is now engaged and is unified along some line of action, it can not hope to administer the government with satisfaction to the public. The democratic party passed through its regeneration sixteen years ago and is now in position to lead the progressive forces of the country."

Having been notified of his nomination, President Taft is now very much in the position of the animal that thrust its paw into the urn and didn't know how to let go.

Yet, may not Theodore Roosevelt be as badly mistaken about his own ability as he was about the ability of the man he foisted upon the country as his successor?

If the "Bull Moosers" and "Steam Rollers" continue to tell what they know concerning one another the postoffice authorities will have to get busy.

It required 10,000 words from President Taft to accept a nomination previously received for by Elihu Root.

The indications are that this is one year wherein the people will not be deceived by "political hysteria" upon the one side and "calm political poise" upon the other.

WANTED—A DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND BY POPULAR CONTRIBUTION

Governor Wilson has announced that no campaign contributions will be received from corporations. This act of the democratic candidate for the presidency will be approved by democrats who want their party to be free from the control of the special interests. The national committee must, however, have money with which to carry on the campaign and this money must come from the people. The Commoner will assist in the collection of this fund and it will receive contributions, acknowledging the same in its columns and delivering the fund to the treasurer of the democratic national committee. Every democrat ought to have some part in this work. Do not be ashamed to make a small contribution. Give what you can afford and every penny will be acceptable.

Here is a hint: Circulate a subscription list at once among the democrats of your precinct and send the proceeds to The Commoner office without delay. The democratic national committee must be supplied with funds immediately.

HAVING FUN WITH "MARSE HENRY"

The newspaper boys are having fun with "Marse Henry." The veteran editor of the Courier-Journal insists that he feels very comfortable and is "resting easy," but his hysterical actions belie his words and "the boys" are unkind enough to remind "Marse Henry" of the fact.

Referring to one of Mr. Watterson's ill-natured criticisms of Mr. Bryan, the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal says: "It is true that in 1904 Mr. Bryan missed a cog and failed to get the nomination. His misfortune extended to denial of absolutism in writing the platform. But Mr. Bryan did not bolt. He took his medicine, though the faces he made on the stump gave him the reputation of a contortionist. But he did not bolt. His method of speech suggested the disquietude of his mind, it is true. But he did not bolt. He held to it that the democratic party had a future, and he looked forward to being a part of it. The spirit of prophecy was upon him. He was able to demonstrate in the democratic national convention of 1908 that in 1904 the democratic party had made an egregious blunder. Mr. Bryan was rehabilitated and again made the leader of his party. The result of the election in 1908 did not make Mr. Bryan president, but it produced the figures to prove that Mr. Bryan was a better man than Judge Parker. Mr. Bryan did not care for himself (if that is the suspicion that is in Colonel Watterson's mind), but he was moved by ambition to save the democratic party to the people. It is worth while to note with what courage he placed himself in subordination at Baltimore. He hit some of Colonel Watterson's friends hard, and lodged his Louisville friend in the hole from whence there was nothing for him to do but to cry out that he would support 'Satan.' The reference, to be sure, was to Governor Woodrow Wilson. If Mr. Bryan did not have his way altogether at Baltimore, he had enough of it to save him from nervous prostration. As the case stands, Mr. Bryan is a national hero. The proof is presented in the rush to use both hands in exchanging greetings. Mr. Bryan is for Wilson this year beyond a doubt. He is enthusiastically so. If the New Jersey governor is elected we can thank Mr. Bryan for it, and Mr. Bryan can continue to point with pride to his faithfulness to the democratic party, at whatever personal sacrifice, all for the uplift, the disenfranchisement and the glory of the common people. It ill becomes Colonel Watterson to exhibit envy."

THERE ARE OTHERS

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington says: "One hundred and twenty million dollars was filched from the American people during the last fiscal year by swindlers who operated largely through the United States mails, according to a statement just made public in a formal report to Postmaster General Hitchcock. This is an increase of \$50,000,000 in the aggregate of the previous year. Of those who are alleged to have operated the fraudulent schemes, 1,063 were arrested by postoffice inspectors. During the year which ended June 30 last, 452 persons were convicted and sentenced and 571 cases are awaiting final disposition. Postmaster General Hitchcock's order to inspectors to collect evidence that would warrant criminal prosecution of the swindlers gradually is building a wall of protection against such frauds around the American people."

This, however, is not a mark compared to the amount filched from the pockets of the people through the trust system and other highly protected republican party policies. If the federal authorities would only prosecute the influential men who conspire against the lives of the people, with half the zeal they employ in the prosecution of the ordinary violators of the law, the results would be immediately noticeable in the cost of living.