

Prepare for Victory

in the Campaign of 1912

by doing your part to keep the democratic party progressive. Be prepared to fight those interests that seek to divert the democratic party from its true course.

Be prepared to answer the arguments of those who are seeking the destruction of the democratic party by the adoption of a reactionary policy.

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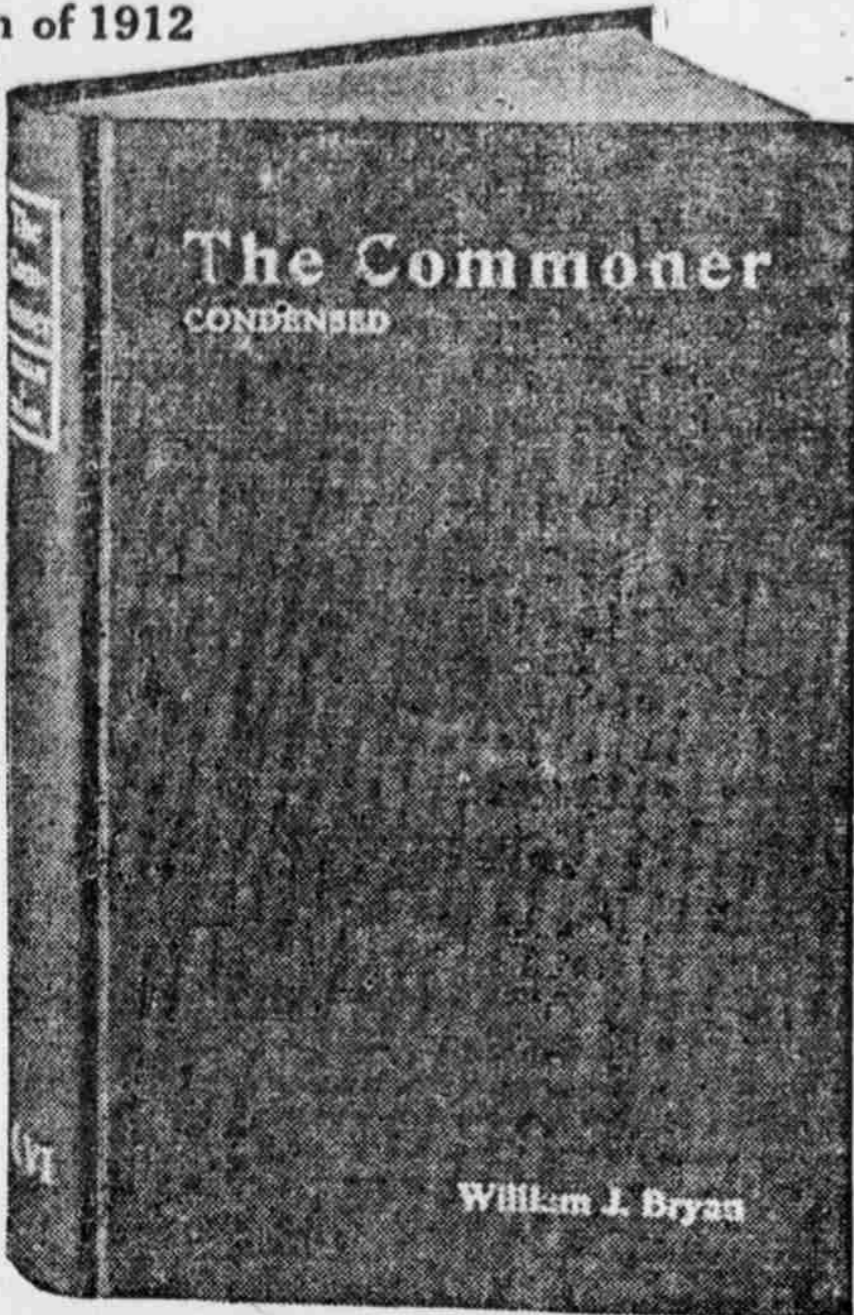
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AN AID TO LAWLESS WEALTH

Congressman Littleton of New York wants to add another to the large number of federal boards already existing, to pass upon all organizations and reorganizations of corporations engaged in interstate commerce and separate the sheep from the goats. He says:

"Organized business generally, while welcoming a short period of peace, lives in dread of the future. . . . The real vice in the treatment of the whole problem heretofore has been the attempt to legislate solely against the result or effect of a series of acts instead of specifically defining and prohibiting those acts. In an effort to prevent and punish confessedly conspicuous evils we have set all business groping and feeling about with uncertain step, like a man in the dark."

In view of Mr. Littleton's deserved reputation for keenness of mind and breadth of information, it is a pity that he did not take time to look over the transcripts of evidence in the Standard Oil and Tobacco trust cases before issuing this astounding pronouncement.

Had he done so he would have discovered that these trusts did not fall afoul of the law simply because they, by the operation of natural business laws, became bigger than their competitors. As an authoritative summing up of the actual situation we quote a few lines from the government's brief in the tobacco case:

"Through offers of large sums of money they (the American Tobacco company and its officers) have compelled other concerns to sell out, taking from their directors and stockholders agreements against competition; . . . and by unlawful contracts with opponents, they have apportioned the trade and commerce in tobacco throughout the world. They have concealed their relationship with controlled companies and used them, acting under the guise of independents, to break down opposition; . . . they have practiced unfair trade methods, sold their goods below cost, manipulated the markets and otherwise exercised their great power to gain control and destroy opponents."

There is much more, but this is sufficient for our purpose. Does Congressman Littleton seriously believe that the attempt to punish such practices as these has "set all business groping and feeling about with uncertain step, like a man in the dark?"

The fact is that the business man who has a good average American conscience in anything like fair working order, and has given heed to its mandates, is sleeping easily and thinking nothing at all about the Sherman law. In view of the evidence offered in federal courts as to the means by which the trusts have grown and prospered, the only use of a federal commission to pass on their plans would be that it might advise just how far they could with safety break the moral law without getting tangled up with the statute.

We do not believe the American people have any desire to see any such convenience furnished to would-be lawless wealth.—St. Louis Republic.

WHAT ONE MAN CAN DO

Denver News: It has often been said and often proved that when a man believes a thing with all his heart and soul he obtains the projectile force of a rifle bullet, and is able to tear through any wall that tradition, antagonism or corruption may throw up between him and his goal. Not in many years has this truth been given such demonstration as at Baltimore, where one man—William J. Bryan—his pierced the brazen

front of organized greed and shot dismay into the hearts of the arrogant mighty.

It matters not what the convention may or may not do, except in its intimate bearing upon the fate of a great party and the welfare of a people—there is no eventuation that can dim the splendid achievements of Mr. Bryan, or take away from the admiration that his great courage has won. His personal triumph is a feature of the convention that may not live in history, but it comes now to hearten the hopes of struggling thousands.

The odds were all against him. For months such bosses as Murphy, Sullivan and Taggart had plotted singly and together, while the long hand of Thomas Fortune Ryan, reaching into every corner of the country, had dropped its money, trades and promises for the beguilement of delegates. The Chicago victory so encouraged the interests that Ryan went so far as to force his own attorney, Alton B. Parker, upon the convention as temporary chairman.

Against this phalanx Mr. Bryan hurled himself, strong not only with his own strength, but filled with the consciousness that his efforts were responsive to public sentiment and public virtue. He knew that he was right, and the iron of his conviction tore through the fluid mass of politicians. Only Woodrow Wilson stood tall enough to escape the shame of a pitiful contrast between the great commoner and the small bore bosses and candidates.

A fight is never lost when it has such a leader. Out of his own courage, vision and indomitable purpose he gives hope and heart to those about him, erects standards by which men may be measured, and excites the generous emulation that leads weaker men to the doing of braver deeds.

There was a moment when it seemed that Baltimore would prove another Chicago, and that the great party of Jefferson would sink to the shame that now besmirches the organization that Lincoln honored. That the calamity has been averted is entirely due to William J. Bryan, and if the danger is completely escaped, that credit, too, will be due him.

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