

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 13, NO. 8

Lincoln, Nebraska, February 28, 1913

Whole Number 632

Democratic Opportunity

Last week The Commoner printed this sentence: "The democrats who, as a result of the congressional and senatorial elections, are entering official life should learn early that the secret of success in public life is to have no secrets from the public."

In control of both houses of congress, as well as the White House, the democratic party will have a great opportunity. While democrats have gone to defeat repeatedly they may obtain satisfaction from the investigation of the record their party has made. In the first place the democratic party is the only political organization that ever reformed itself. In 1896 the rank and file of the party rose in protest against the policies of the democratic national administration and put the party in line with the progressive thought of the day. It is also gratifying to remember that although the party has not been in power it has forced the republican administration to adopt some of its reforms and it has provided inspiration to men of all parties who would work for the public good. In short, it is the only political party which, even in defeat, has been able to force its victorious opponent to adopt some of its leading reforms. The income tax and the election of senators by the people are democratic measures. They were practically accomplished under republican administrations and won through the persistent championship of those measures by the party which claims Thomas Jefferson as its leader.

Now the democratic party is about to enter upon the administration of the national government. The new president has the confidence of men of all parties and he is recognized as the leader of progressive thought. The Commoner wishes for the Wilson administration the highest sort of success.

THE NEW CORRESPONDENT

The Philadelphia Public Ledger pays a high tribute to its new Washington city correspondent, and says there is a "peculiar appropriateness" in the selection of this particular gentleman to represent a Pennsylvania newspaper at the seat of the national government for the reason that his ancestors were Pennsylvanians. The Public Ledger then proceeds to name its new correspondent's distinguished ancestors, and it is plain that he came from excellent stock. This will not, however, help him particularly in the gathering of news at the national capital. That his ancestors were splendid people who made large contribution to society will be, of course, an inspiration to him. But, after all, the new correspondent will discover that in the gathering of news, particularly at the national capital, there is considerable "leg work" to be done, even by one who is able to boast of distinguished ancestors. He will find some very

THE NEW FREEDOM

Messrs. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York City. Gentlemen: I have just read an advance proof of President-elect Wilson's book "The New Freedom" and hasten to commend it. Anything coming from one just entering upon the responsible duties of the presidency would be worth reading, and the fact that the incoming executive deals with great problems of interest to the whole public, gives additional weight to his utterances. And it is only fair to add that the value of the volume is still farther enhanced by the style of the author—clear-cut, forcible, and abounding in apt illustrations.

Those who would calculate with accuracy the course of the ship of state under the pilot who takes his place at the wheel on March 4th, can find in "The New Freedom" a chart of the seas to be traversed during the next four years. Progressives will welcome the book as renewed evidence of the author's consecration to the great task of popularizing the government and putting the people in the control of the instrumentalities of that government. Those who have, from lack of information, viewed with alarm the changes that are taking place, will be instructed, and, to a large extent, relieved of their fears by the definitions given and the distinctions drawn by Governor Wilson.

You are rendering a real service by offering this book to the public at this time, and I feel that I am contributing, also, to the extent that this letter may draw attention to the book and secure a reading of it. Very truly yours,

W. J. BRYAN.

capable men among the Washington city correspondents who are of humble origin, many of whom never even had a relative who could boast of Pennsylvania blood.

Let us hope, however, that the new correspondent will make good, not through the boast of ancestry, but through the record made by conscientious, intelligent effort.

PERSONAL GUILT

Judge Howard C. Hollister, presiding in the federal district court of the southern district of Ohio, recognized what most other federal judges have failed to recognize—personal guilt—when he came to pass sentence upon the 29 officers and employes of the cash register trust. These men had been convicted of violating the Sherman anti-trust law. Instead of permitting them to escape with a mere fine, Judge Hollister sentenced them to jail, including even John H. Patterson, the president, whose motto is said to be, "Kill off competitors as you would a dog." All honor to Judge Hollister. May his tribe increase.

IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS

In response to a number of requests from time to time for permission to reproduce articles that appear in The Commoner, Mr. Bryan directs that the statement be made that anything that appears in The Commoner may be reproduced.

NEW HAMPSHIRE IN LINE

The New Hampshire legislature has ratified the proposed amendment providing for the election of senators by the people. Good for New Hampshire. Next!

Governor Wilson Retires

Woodrow Wilson has resigned as the governor of New Jersey in order to prepare for the higher responsibilities to which he has been called by the American people at the November election. As governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson has made a proud record, one that may be held up as a model to the governors of this and succeeding generations, and those who have watched his course feel that as president of the United States, he will do even better by way of faithful service to the people. The Buffalo (N. Y.) Times well says: The close of Woodrow Wilson's administration as governor of New Jersey has been signalized by one of the most brilliant triumphs of his career. The seven bills to purge New Jersey of trusts and monopolies and to regulate corporations have passed both houses of the legislature, and will become law on receiving the signature of the governor. The achievement is a superb one and rounds out in a consummated whole, the memorable gubernatorial administration of which it is the crowning work. It is a splendid augury to immediately precede the entry of Governor Wilson into the White House.

TUMULTY'S GOOD WORK

Complimenting Governor Wilson for the selection of Joseph P. Tumulty to be secretary to the president, Louis F. Post, writing in The Public, says: "On the authority of Frank Parker Stockbridge, it may be stated that Mr. Tumulty's first term in the New Jersey legislature was spent inconspicuously but studiously; and that in his second term he fell into the habit of using his education of the term before by explaining to the house, modestly but significantly, the precise character and location of concealed graft in bills as they came up. This disturbing habit of his had already 'got on the nerves' of big grafters when Governor Wilson came into office and availed himself of the young legislator's abilities and fidelity."

This will give the reader some idea of the characteristics that have won for Mr. Tumulty the confidence and respect of those who have carefully watched the young man's career.

GOVERNOR DUNNE OF ILLINOIS

Governor Dunne of Illinois is receiving compliments from all sections of the country for his good efforts toward progressive state government. Louis F. Post, writing in The Public, says: "There is spirit and power as well as high principle and sagacious policy in Governor Dunne's inaugural speech. It can not but encourage the true democracy of Illinois and of the nation, even as it shocks reactionaries wherever they cluster. The new governor proposes a program which will serve at once as a guide and a touchstone. Watch the men, watch the newspapers, watch the groups that question this program. They may not, indeed, be unfaithful; but significant symptoms call for prudent observation."

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RENEWALS NOW DUE

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