

Plan National Club of Democrats

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, under date of January 28, says:

"At a meeting of the Common Counsel club today, its president, Joseph W. Folk, solicitor of the state department, announced that plans have been perfected for the creation of other 'common counsel clubs' in every school district of the United States. The purpose is to create a national organization, which shall support the men and measures of 'progressive democracy.'

"Today's meeting took the form of a luncheon at the University club. Secretary of State Bryan was the guest of honor and was introduced by Mr. Folk as 'the richest man in the world, not in silver or gold, but in the affections of his fellow men.'

BIWEEKLY LESSONS FROM PARENT CLUB

"Explaining the proposed extension of the sphere of influence of the Common Counsel club, Mr. Folk said:

"This plan contemplates weekly or biweekly lessons being sent to each common counsel club from the parent organization in Washington, somewhat along the lines of the international Sunday school lessons.

"We have decided to establish a common counsel club in every school district in the United States, with the schoolhouses as social centers. We shall employ a professional organizer who will devote his whole time to the work.

"About 500 applications already have been received to form local common counsel clubs. They come from all over the United States and indicate the widespread interest in the idea."

"Mr. Folk suggested the naming of a committee to draw up a permanent constitution and by-laws for the parent organization of Washington, and similar constitution and by-laws for the local clubs. Upon motion of Joseph F. Davies, commissioner of corporations, he was appointed one member of the committee, with Mr. Folk as chairman. The other members of the committee being Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor; William J. Harris, director of the census; Samuel H. Thompson, Jr., assistant attorney general; Samuel J. Graham, assistant attorney general, and Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the congressional commission on industrial relations.

BRYAN PRAISES PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

"The club here consists of cabinet officers, assistants, senators, representatives and other leading democrats in the government service.

"Secretary Bryan told the club adoption of the presidential primary plan would mark the completion of the movement by which the people are coming into absolute control of



TO STAKE OUT A RADIUM CLAIM FOR UNCLE SAM

—Washington Star.

the naming of their president. Never again, he declared, would Wall street have anything to say in the election of a president.

Mr. Bryan denounced the rules of the senate allowing unlimited debate, referring to them as the 'last stand of the reactionaries,' which permitted a few to do what they ought not to do and preventing a majority from doing what ought to be done.

"Louis D. Brandies of Boston told the club the government ought to furnish to small industrial, commercial and business men of the country information which would enable them to conduct their affairs with the same scientific management employed by the big business man or concern with large capital. This, he asserted, would be the final step in progressive democracy."

REPUBLICAN PARTY NEEDS PRINCIPLES

Mark Sullivan in Collier's Weekly: The trouble with the republican party as it exists now is that it has no principles, and in the present state of this country it is not leaders nor conventions that make parties; it is principles. The republicans avow frankly that they have no principles; their position is that they hope for hard times, and when hard times come they expect to persuade the country that the democratic party was the cause. The turkey buzzard is the appropriate symbol for a party with such an attitude toward the nation. The republican position has been put into apt words by The Buffalo Times:

There is no party at the present time which bases itself, as a party, on negation of the administration's policies. There are republican leaders who try to keep the ball rolling by reiteration of outworn ideas, and there are republican newspapers which seem to think it a party obligation to criticize the administration, simply because it is a democratic administration. * * * They are clinging to a formula. They either don't realize, or don't care to see * * * that the people have walked away from them and their methods.

A TALKER IN ATHENS

Socrates called himself "The Gadfly of the State." What made him such an influence was that while he stirred and challenged other minds he was modest and just about his own. It will be remembered that when the oracle said he was the wisest man, he could explain it only on the ground that he knew the limits of his own mind, and others did not know even that much.

"I am one of those who are very willing to be refuted if I say anything which is not true, and very willing to refute any one else who says what is not true, and quite as ready to be refuted as to refute; for I hold that this is the greater gain of being cured of a very great evil than of curing another." And again, "If unintentionally I have said anything wrong, I pray that He will impose on me the just punishment of him who errs; and the just punishment is that he should be set right."

Athens tired of him at length and gave him the hemlock, just as she tired of hearing Aristides called "The Just." She was a volatile country, but after all, she was full of genius, and while she may have punished the great at times for their troublesomeness, she did not reward the commonplace as so many other nations have done and still do.—Harper's Weekly.



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