

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor CHARLES W. BRYAN Associate Editor and Publisher

Editorial Rooms and Business Office, Suite 207, Press Building One Year \$1.00 Three Months .25 Six Months .50 Single Copy .10 In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75 Sample Copies Free. Foreign Post, 25c Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where such agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by post-office money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or currency.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 14 means that payment has been received to and including the issue of January, 1914.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

All who are opposed to a ship subsidy and all who believe that the United States should keep faith with other nations are urged to immediately write or wire their senators to assist the president in bringing about the repeal of the canal tolls bill now pending before the United States senate.

The British house of commons did its best, but it made the mistake of trying to get a first page position at the same time that the American house of representatives was busying itself backing up President Wilson.

For confirmation of the long held theory that language is something used to conceal thoughts, see congressional speeches delivered during the debate on tolls exemption with the object in view of discrediting the national administration.

Ample proof is at hand to show that the race of martyrs is not extinct. In at least a dozen states in the north men are coming forward and offering to accept nominations at the hands of the republican party for governor and other executive offices.

A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

The following is a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Bryan to Mrs. Bacon at Macon, Georgia, on the demise of her husband, the late Senator A. O. Bacon of Georgia:

STATE DEPARTMENT, Washington, February 17.

My Dear Mrs. Bacon:

Being prevented by important public business from accompanying your husband's remains to Georgia, I have, at the president's direction, designated former Governor Folk, solicitor of the state department, to deliver to you a message of condolence and sympathy.

During the past year I have been in intimate association with the senator and my affection for him grew as did my appreciation of his great ability, his tireless industry and his conscientious devotion to duty. He was a tower of strength to the executive department as well as to the senate, and will be missed by all who are connected with the administration, especially by those who deal with foreign affairs.

His death is a personal loss and I share your sorrow. But more soothing than any words must be the consolation that you find in the fact that he rendered a large, a conspicuous service to his country and won the respect and admiration of all who were fortunate enough to be brought into official relations with him.

His life was rich in fruitage and crowned with that "loving favor" which is rather to be chosen than silver and gold. His good name and his wide extended fame are to you a sacred possession, and to his children and grandchildren a priceless heritage. Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

To Mrs. A. O. Bacon, Macon, Ga.

What Has Been Done in Ohio

By GOVERNOR JAMES M. COX OF OHIO

In 1912 a constitutional convention, made up of delegates selected without regard to party or partisan ballots, submitted forty-two proposed amendments to the constitution. In September of that year all but about half a dozen were adopted. A number of these amendments were mandatory—a command to the legislature to pass laws along specified lines.

In the fall of the same year the present governor and a democratic legislature were elected on a platform carrying definite promises and pledges.

Today it can be stated to the everlasting credit of the commonwealth of Ohio and the officials, legislative and executive, who participated in the work of redemption, that every pledge made by the democratic party has been kept and every mandate given by the people has been carried out.

The privileged interests and reactionaries, after the legislature had adjourned, set on foot a propaganda to the effect that a perfect hodge-podge of laws had been passed. The people at this time, however, are beginning to see the

widespread result of humanitarian and progressive laws; by the conditions created by them they are enabled to understand the wrongs which were corrected; and besides it is apparent that the whole program of progress was methodical and orderly. Underlying the laws that have been passed are three definite principles which stand out now in bold relief; first, a larger measure of humanity in the laws; second, increased regulation of commercial and social activities; and, third, the doing away with useless state departments and the cutting out of wasted energy and resource.

A compulsory workmen's compensation law was passed. It is conceded by experts on the subject to be the model plan. Manufacturers pay into the state fund twice each year a fixed sum, based upon the number of employees and the average of accidents that have occurred. If it develops that the amount paid the first six months was in excess of the amount based upon the average of accidents, a reduction is not only made for the second six months of the year, but

(Continued on page 26.)

CONGRESSMAN OLDFIELD A CASE IN POINT

Congressman Oldfield, from the second Arkansas district, has been nominated by an overwhelming majority. This is not surprising as Mr. Oldfield is one of the aggressive, influential young democrats of the house. His success is gratifying to his friends but there is a much deeper significance attached to his sweeping majority. The contest in one sense was a trial of the popularity of the national democratic administration. The acute issue of the campaign was the wisdom of the president in urging the passage of legislation providing for the construction of a railway in Alaska. Congressman Oldfield stood loyally by the president in his Alaska policy, and voted for the Alaskan bill, as he has stood by the president with unshaken fidelity through his entire program of progressive and patriotic reform. His opponent assailed his Alaskan vote and attempted to use it to defeat the congressman.

Mr. Oldfield stood squarely upon the democratic platform adopted at Baltimore, as evidenced by the following language: "Immediate action should be taken by congress to make available the vast and valuable coal deposits of Alaska under conditions that will be a perfect guaranty against their falling into the hands of monopolizing corporations, associations or interests." This plank of national platform was approved by President Wilson in his message of December last as the following quotation will demonstrate: "A duty faces us with regard to Alaska which seems to me very pressing and very imperative; perhaps I should say a double duty, for it concerns both the political and a material development of the territory, and Alaska as a store house should be unlocked. One key to it is a system of railways. These the government should itself build and administer and the ports and terminals it should itself control in the interest of all who wish to use them for its service and the development of the country and its people." The policy also had the hearty approval of the secretary of the interior who is peculiarly charged with the development and destiny of the splendid Alaskan region. In his letter to Senator Pittman, Secretary Lane said: "My opinion is requested as to senate bills 48 and 133. These measures, in a word, provide for the construction by the national government of a railway system in the territory of Alaska. I favor the adoption of this policy. I believe it to be that under which Alaska will develop most safely and speedily and under which the resources of that territory will most certainly become available to the people."

The people of this typical congressional district gave unmistakable proof of their confidence in the wisdom and ability of their representative as well as in the wisdom, statesmanship and patriotism of the president.

We cite this contest and its result as an illustration of the discriminating judgment of the people and as an assurance to other public servants that their devotion to duty, that their support of the progressive measures, that their

fidelity to the national administration will be approved and awarded by an enlightened and patriotic constituency. W. J. BRYAN.

When demand was made upon Representative Knowland, republican, of California, for proof of his charge that the administration had made a deal with Sir Edward Grey by which Great Britain was to keep hands off in Mexico if the tolls exemption clause in the canal act was repealed, he said that a man in whose word he had confidence told him that a British diplomatic agent had told him. Mr. Knowland's facility at back-pedaling could only have come from long training as a bicycle rider.

The railroads of the country declare that they are being underpaid \$29,000,000 a year for carrying the mails. This, of course, is the difference between what they get and what they think they ought to have. As most of the rates were fixed in the days when each of the big railroads boasted of a senator or two, the public may be excused for its lack of enthusiastic support of the campaign to raise them.

All of the progressive or third party members of the house but two voted against the request of President Wilson for a repeal of the free tolls provision in the Panama canal act. Various reasons were assigned, but the real one was that the progressives thought they saw a chance to help discredit the administration. A third party politician plays the same sort of a stupid political game as other kinds of party politicians.

Possibly Ambassador Page might be induced to submit a copy of his speeches to his republican critics before he delivers them. But the chances are that this wouldn't satisfy them. Mr. Page represents a democratic administration, and that is the real reason why republican editors and statesmen are using caustic pens exclusively in his case.

Premier Asquith of the British government displays commendable bravery in declining to wait until the next general election to find out if his course as a liberal party leader meets with the approval of his particular constituency. He resigned at once and thus forced a special election. This occurred in England.

BRYAN FIFTY-FOUR YEARS OLD

Thursday, March 19, was the fifty-fourth anniversary of the birth of William Jennings Bryan. No; not of Secretary of State Bryan, but of William Jennings Bryan; for the man is greater than the office he holds. It is twenty-four years since he came into public notice on account of his first tariff speech in congress. Six years thereafter he was the democratic candidate for president, and since that time he has been a great influence for good in this country. His influence for good is greater now than it ever was before. May he have many more years of useful service to his country. He lives to serve his fellow-men.—San Francisco Star.