

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
 Six Months50
 In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75
 Three Months25
 Single Copy10
 Sample Copies Free.
 Foreign Post. 25c Extra.

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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.

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ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

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of The Commoner, published monthly at Lincoln, Nebraska, required by the Act of August 24, 1912:

Name of— Postoffice Address

Editor and Owner— William Jennings Bryan... Lincoln, Nebraska

Associate Editor and Publisher— Charles W. Bryan... Lincoln, Nebraska

Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders, holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

CHAS. W. BRYAN, Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of March, 1914.

(Seal) J. R. FARRIS, Notary Public.

My commission expires July 19, 1918.

PEACE

Edwin Markham, who is the author of "The Man With the Hoe," and other poems dealing with the vital concerns of life, has penned a brief tribute to peace. It ranks with the best of his utterances, having the terseness, the clearness, the strength, and the hearthold which characterizes his words. It follows:

What was the first prophetic word that rang
 When down the starry sky the angels sang,
 That night they came as envoys of the Birth—
 What word but peace, "peace and good will on earth?"

And what was the last word the Master said
 That parting night when they broke brother-bread,
 That night He knew men would not let Him live—
 Oh, what but "peace I leave" and "peace I give?"

And yet behold: near twice a thousand years
 And still the battle-wrath, the grief, the tears.
 Let mercy speed the hour when swords shall cease,
 And men cry back to God, "There shall be peace."

The Washington newspaper correspondents say that the most striking characteristic of the president's administration of national affairs has been his persistence in hewing to whatever line he started upon and the success which has greeted his every effort to have things done the way he thought they ought to be done. If Huerta could have found out this fact a little earlier in his career it might not have been so long a career but it would have had an entirely different ending.

The republican editors and campaigners are not exactly sure whether they want the farmers of the country to raise good crops this year. If the harvest is great the farmers will have so much money that they won't pay any attention to the editorials and speeches calling attention to their pitiful condition under a democratic tariff. If the harvest is below the average, prices will be so good that they will be equally callous.

The Initiative and Referendum

If any one thinks that the initiative and referendum concedes too much power to the voters, he ought to read the Virginia Bill of Rights drafted by Mason, and adopted June 12, 1776. Sections 2 and 3 read:

"Section 2. That all power is vested in and consequently derived from the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them.

"Section 3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community, and all the various forms of government that is best, which is capable of producing the greatest happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration; and WHENEVER ANY GOVERNMENT IS FOUND INADEQUATE OR CONTRARY TO

THOSE PURPOSES, A MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY HATH AN INDUBITABLE, INALIENABLE AND INDEFEASIBLE RIGHT TO REFORM, ALTER OR ABOLISH IT IN SUCH MANNER AS SHALL BE JUDGED MOST CONDUCTIVE TO THE PUBLIC WEAL."

The advocates of the initiative and referendum insist that a majority of a community have a right to alter their laws or constitution, but the Virginia Bill of Rights goes farther and declares that a majority has a right to abolish the government; and to leave nothing more to be said, the right is not declared to be "indubitable, inalienable and indefeasible." However timid some of our later day politicians may be about trusting the people, there was no timidity about the revolutionary patriots. They believed in the doctrine that the people are the source of power, and it is fortunate for posterity that their faith was so strong and so clearly expressed.
 W. J. BRYAN.

CONSERVATION OF SNOW WATER

On another page of this issue will be found a very interesting and instructive article by Mayor C. W. McConaughy, of Holdrege, Nebraska. Mayor McConaughy suggests that the flood waters from the mountains in the west be used to supplement the rainfall in the sections of the country where the rainfall is not sufficient to produce maximum crop results. The plan for utilizing the snow water as it flows east and south, where it causes so much destruction, should receive the careful consideration of the states and federal governments. Mayor McConaughy's plan is not an irrigation project, and it is not a promotion scheme for the sale of lands. The lands in the central western counties of Nebraska, in which he is interested in trying his plan, are well improved and are occupied by as intelligent and thrifty a lot of farmers as can be found in the United States. The average rainfall, however, in these counties is not sufficient to guarantee as large crops of corn, wheat, oats, alfalfa, etc., as this land is capable of producing. The water that Mayor McConaughy hopes to use to supplement the rainfall is not water that can be used for irrigation purposes further west in Nebraska or in Colorado, but it is the flood water that flows east during the winter and early spring. The plan proposed will lead these flood waters out over the fertile land in western Nebraska where it will be absorbed by the soil and cause a ten-fold increase in the production of crops the following season, rather than to permit this great flow of water to continue east and south unmolested, where it has to be later taken care of to prevent great destruction to life and property. The engineers from the interior department in conjunction with officials of the state of Nebraska, are now investigating the plan proposed by Mayor McConaughy and it is to be hoped that their plan will be found feasible, and that it may be used successfully not only in western Nebraska but throughout other sections of the United States where similar conditions exist.

The important duty resting upon the democrats in every state this year is not only to commend the national administration in their platform utterances, but to see that no man is nominated for state office who does not openly align himself with the forces that are holding up the hands of the president, before he secures a nomination. Important as state issues often are, there are times when the party's solidarity and success are more dependent upon getting behind the national administration. There are also times when success in the state is dependent upon whether the ticket is made up of men who are really for the president or whether they are only so for purposes of their own.

Colonel Roosevelt is back within reach of the telegraph again, and announces that he discovered a new race of men in the beyond. The colonel's test of a new race is whether the members thereof ever heard of him before.

The Mexican crisis developed one interesting fact, and that is that the crop of jingoes is a remarkably small one. This is one line of American industry where all will agree an over-production is a distinct menace.

A ONE-SIDED REFERENDUM

Senator Borah did not think all around the subject before introducing his referendum resolution. The referendum is a valuable reform when it is made a permanent part of the legislative system, for then it can be used by the minority—no matter what party happens to be in the minority at the time—to compel a popular vote upon a proposition. It is quite a different thing when used by those who happen to be in the minority on one proposition against those who at that time constitute the legislative majority. There is reciprocity about the real referendum because it treats all alike and each minority, in its turn, can invoke it. It is a very one-sided proposition, however, when in the face of defeat it is invoked on a special occasion by those who can repudiate it the first time they find themselves in the majority, and it is only a sham when a number of issues are scrambled together and mixed with partisanship.

When Mr. Brandeis suggested some months ago that the railroads of the country could effect economies amounting into the millions each year if efficiency methods were adopted, he was greeted with a sort of dissent from the magnates, who insisted that no outsider could tell them anything worth while in the conduct of their business. At the hearing later before the commission on the request of the roads for increased rates, Mr. Brandeis pointed out that if charges were made for "spotting cars," if allowances for the maintenance of industrial tracks were discontinued and if the roads would charge for variously enumerated services now rendered free for wholesalers, millions could be added to the revenues. Members of the commission indicated assent with this view. Evidently an outsider can give valuable pointers even to a railroad manager.

PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARIES

The Pennsylvania primaries are held next Tuesday and it seems now quite certain that Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer will be nominated for the United States senate and Vance McCormick for governor. They represent the progressive democrats of the state and will make a strong team. They are championing the president's policies and ably supporting them against the attacks which a few reactionaries are making.

Former Governor Warmouth, who made his millions in cane sugar growing and grinding in Louisiana, says that the principal sufferers among the beet sugar manufacturers from the new tariff will be the same men who own the trust mills. Just remember this when somebody wants to sob on your shoulder over the plight of the poor men who have invested their all in the beet mills.

The first few days of American occupation of Vera Cruz was marked by the work of snipers, Mexicans who shot at the marines and blue jackets from places of presumed safety. The practice is one that was probably borrowed from Washington, where sniping at the administration forces was the rule during the free tolls repeal debate.