

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

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Republican campaign managers tell the reporters that they are certain of gaining many seats in the lower house of congress because of what the democratic administration has done.

Some fear is expressed by congressional candidates that their enforced presence at Washington during the campaign months will result disastrously to them at home.

The republican candidate for congress in the First Nebraska district, in his opening campaign speech, denounced the democratic tariff bill as sectional, and cited as proof that "Underwood, who comes from Alabama, was instrumental in having the tariff raised on cotton, which is a southern product."

The special committee of congress which has been investigating the question of whether the railroads are receiving proper compensation for hauling the mails has reported in favor of allowing them rates which will increase the expense of the government \$3,000,000 a year.

Immediately following the direct primaries this year, the politicians who were deprived of party control by this method of nominations gained the ear of the newspapers long enough to state that the people were plainly dissatisfied with the plan and would welcome the substitution of the convention in the larger political units.

Several western towns have been trying the experiment this summer of holding weekly band concerts in order to attract folks in from the country. They have been remarkably successful.

Pius X

The death of Pius X recalls Mr. Bryan's description of a visit paid to his holiness in December, 1903, and described in a letter to the Commoner published in the issue of February 12, 1904. It reads as follows:

"Pope Pius received us in his private audience room adjoining the public audience chamber, where the distinguished Catholics from all over the world were collected and ready to be presented and receive the papal blessing. The private audience room is a rather small apartment, simply, but beautifully furnished and decorated. A throne bearing the papal crown occupied one side of the room. His Holiness greeted us very courteously and cordially.

"His Holiness has already gained a reputation as a democratic pontiff and enjoys a large and growing popularity with the people. He is an orator and often on Sundays goes into one of the many court yards of the vatican and preaches to the crowds that gather quite informally. His gestures are said to be graceful and his voice melodious.

"I assured His Holiness that I appreciated the opportunity that was his to give impetus to the moral forces of the world, and he replied: 'I hope my efforts in that direction will be such as to merit commendation.' Answering the statement that I had called to present the good will of many Catholic friends as well as to pay my respects, His Holiness asked me to carry his benediction back to them.

This was written soon after the Pope's elevation to the office and the analysis of his character and qualities has been proven to be correct during the decade that has passed. He was not so great a statesman as his predecessor, Leo XIII, but his heart power and piety have made themselves felt upon the Christian world.

He was a lover of peace and his latter hours were filled with anguish because of the sudden outburst of the war passion in Europe. His death is a loss to the peace movement, to which he was thoroughly devoted.

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Upon hearing of the death of the Pope, the president requested the secretary of state to send the following telegram of condolence:

"The president desires me to express his sense of the great loss which the Christian world has sustained in the death of His Holiness Pius X. By his pure and gentle character, his unaffected piety, and his broad and thoughtful sympathy with his fellow-men he adorned his exalted station and attracted to himself the affectionate regard of all who felt his world-wide influence.

DYING POPE'S PLEA FOR PEACE

Before his death, at Rome, August 20, Pope Pius X. addressed the following exhortation to the whole world:

"At this moment, when nearly the whole of Europe is being dragged into the vortex of a most terrible war, with its present danger and miseries and the consequences to follow, the very thought of which must strike everyone with grief and horror, we whose care is the life and welfare of so many citizens and peoples cannot but be deeply moved and our heart wrung with the bitterest sorrow.

"And in the midst of this universal confusion and peril we feel and know that both fatherly love and apostolic ministry demand of us that we should, with all earnestness, turn the thoughts of Christendom thither 'whence cometh help'—to Christ, the Prince of Peace, and the most powerful mediator between God and man.

"We charge, therefore, the Catholics of the whole world approach the throne of grace and mercy, each and all of them, and more especially the clergy, whose duty furthermore it will be to make in every parish, as their bishop shall direct, public supplication so that the merciful God may, as it were, be wearied with the prayers of His children and speedily remove the evil causes of war, giving to them who rule to think the thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

"From the Palace of the Vatican, the second day of August, 1914. 'PIUS X., Pontifex Maximus.'

NEELEY FOR THE SENATE

The democrats of Kansas have nominated Congressman George A Neeley, of Hutchinson, as their candidate for United States senator, and have already begun their campaign. Congressman Neeley is now serving his second term from the old big Seventh district, formerly represented by Jerry Simpson, and is the first democrat ever sent to congress from that district.

The issue in Kansas this year is clearly Wilson and anti-Wilson, by reason of the fact that Congressman Neeley has been an earnest and enthusiastic supporter of the national administration, and is making his campaign upon this record. He has opposed to him ex-Senator Charles Curtis as the republican candidate, known for his championship of reactionary measures and men from the Payne-Aldrich bill down, together with Congressman Murdock, who voted against the tariff and income tax, fought the new currency system designed to break the power of Wall street over the country's finances, and who has looked with derision upon the peace policies of the present administration.

This is an opportunity for the people of Kansas to decide whether or not they will continue to keep pace with the progressive tendencies of the times by sending to the senate one who is in full sympathy with the Wilson policies and the national administration, or take a backward step by indorsing standpatism on the one hand and the policy of general opposition on the other.

Congressman Neeley should receive the enthusiastic support of every progressive in Kansas without regard to party, because he has accomplished things. As a member of the Pujo money trust committee, he contributed no small share in unearthing the disclosures used as a basis for the demand for currency legislation, and later as a member of the banking and currency committee in the house he took a conspicuous part in the framing of the new currency bill, leading the fight, both in the committee and in the democratic caucus, for the recognition of agricultural credits and for early action on the farm loan bill. He is capable and energetic, thoroughly progressive, and if elected, as now seems assured, will render a good account of his services in the accomplishment of things for the benefit of the splendid citizenship of our sister state.

W. J. BRYAN.

Son, you know your mother. Have you ever doubted her devotion to you? Don't you think she can be trusted to use the ballot in your behalf and in behalf of the children of others, as well as her own?