

# The Commoner

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## NOW FOR 1916

The election returns of 1914 indicate that the voters approve of the president and his policies. They have given him an increased democratic majority in the senate and a safe majority in the house,—not as much of an endorsement as his splendid record deserved, but enough for all practical purposes.

The republican gains in the house, however, are notice to the party that it must gird itself and begin the campaign of 1916. The progressive republicans have almost disappeared—the membership of that party having largely returned to the regular organization. The fact that men who marched with and shouted for Roosevelt have so quickly returned to the bosom of the standpatters, shows how incomplete an un-

derstanding they had of reform principles. President Wilson has more than fulfilled his promises; his fidelity to the people's cause has been tested, and it has stood the test. Surely he deserved the support of those republicans who profess progressiveness, but he did not receive anything like the number which he might have reasonably expected. A larger percentage of them went over "horse, foot, and baggage" to the reactionaries. Cannon was returned to congress from Illinois, and Curtis goes to the senate from Kansas! With the closing up of the breach in the republican party, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and other eastern states have returned to the republican party, and the fight of 1916 must be made on fundamentals. It is evident that the republicans, whether progress-

ive or regular, will not, as a rule, support a democratic president—even when he is laboring under great international burdens. They praise him and express great satisfaction that he has kept the country out of war—but vote for those who pledged to support the president?—well, that is another matter.

Now that the lines of battle are drawn, it behooves democrats to get to work and convert republicans. There never was a better time; the voters are seeing democracy successfully applied to great questions, and democrats should be ready to point out and explain the difference between the policies of the two parties—the difference becomes more plain the longer democratic policies are tried. Get to work.

W. J. BRYAN.

### The Alcoholic Millstone

The democrats of the nation have an issue to face and they may as well prepare for it. The liquor interests are at bay; they are on the defensive. They realize that they have but a few more years in which to fatten upon the woes of their victims, but they are fighting desperately and are willing to hold any party between them and the fire. The democratic party can not afford to shield the brewery, the distillery and the saloon from the rising wrath of a determined people. Democracy is the nation's hope on political and economic questions—let it not, by taking sides with the liquor interests, repel those who put moral issues first. The young men of the country are democratic by nature, but they will not submit their claims to political preferment to those who conspire against the home and everything good—neither will they find pot house politicians congenial party associates. The president has set a high standard in intelligence and morals, and the party can not afford to lower the colors to gain a temporary advantage. Those whose support depends upon subservience to the liquor interests disgrace the party while they are with it, and then leave it if it refuses to obey them. They are a millstone about the party's neck. The democratic party is the party of the future—it has a chance to enter the Promised Land—why allow the liquor interests to lead it away into the wilderness? Get ready for the fight.

W. J. BRYAN.

#### THE CALL ANSWERED

The democratic majority in the United States senate has been increased six votes by the election of Phelan, of California, Johnson, of South

Dakota, and Husting, of Wisconsin; but their election has increased the fighting strength of the democrats in the senate more than the mere voting strength would indicate. The three new senators from the northwestern and Pacific slope states are men of wide acquaintance with public affairs, have been identified for years with the fight for progressive democratic principles, and are known in their respective states as men who will not compromise with wrong and men who are fearless in their advocacy of the people's rights. The west has answered the president's call for help. It has not only maintained its democratic representation in the lower house, but it has made a splendid contribution to the democratic side in the upper branch of congress. The democratic majority in the senate after March 4 will be sufficient to enable the administration to pass its measures through that body without unnecessary delay, and the three new senators representing states formerly represented by republicans will have no small share in the legislation to be considered by that body during the next two years.

### Falsehood No Longer Necessary

The following news item which appeared in the New York Times of November 6th, is worth remembering:

"That the business of this country is about to enter a new era of prosperity was the belief expressed last night by John F. Norman, general manager of the Bigelow-Hartford Carpet company, at a dinner given in his honor by the sales department of the newly consolidated company at the Hotel Astor. His opinion was reflected in the optimistic remarks of President R. P. Perkins and the other speakers, who advised the business men of the country to believe in the national administration and stop 'calamity howling.'

"Evidences of prosperity in the carpet trade, which was one of the industries hardest hit by the new tariff, was taken by every one present as a sure indication that any other depressions which may exist in other trades will be effaced, and that the business of the country will soon be booming.

"'It is true,' said Mr. Norman, 'that a sharp blow was struck at the beginning at the industries of the country, but the grit of the business man of the United States has brought him back fighting harder than ever. There is no place in the ranks for the calamity howler. The man who can not stand a little adversity without immediately denouncing the administration, must go down. There has never been a place in the business world for this type of man, and there never will be.'

"'The spirit which made San Francisco greater than ever after its earthquake; the spirit that made Galveston greater after its flood; the spirit which made Baltimore the greater after its fire, is the spirit which will prevail in this country and make the United States trade greater than the world has ever known. My agents report normal conditions throughout the country and

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