

CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND

In the campaign of 1912 President Wilson (then governor of New Jersey) announced that no campaign contributions would be received from corporations. This act of the democratic candidate for the presidency was approved by democrats who wanted the party to be free from the control of the special interests, and it established a precedent that should guide the action of all political parties.

In that memorable campaign the democratic national committee appealed to the people for the funds with which to conduct its campaign, and received a generous response from all sections of the country. Funds will be needed this year, and the committee will again depend upon the people for financial support. The Commoner will assist in the collection of this fund and it will receive contributions, acknowledging the same in its columns and delivering the fund to the democratic national committee.

Every democrat ought to have some part in this work. Do not be ashamed of a small contribution. Give what you can afford and every penny will be acceptable.

Here is a suggestion to Commoner readers: Circulate a subscription list at once among the democrats of your precinct and send the proceeds to The Commoner office without delay. The democratic national committee must be supplied with funds immediately.

To Mr. Ben Marley, Gorman, Texas, belongs the honor of making the first contribution to the national democratic campaign fund, through The Commoner. Mr. Marley sends his check for \$1, under date of June 24, 1916.

Now for Good Roads

While the appropriation for good roads seems small when compared with the money to be spent in preparing for imaginary wars, still it is a beginning. It establishes a principle, and plans can now be laid for a system of interstate highways. The Lincoln highway has already been entered upon, and there will be room for a Washington, Jefferson and Jackson highway south of it—and why not an Adams highway from Boston to Chicago. The Washington highway could run west from the national capital. The Jefferson highway could run from Washington, past Monticello and thence west through the Louisiana purchase, or the Jefferson highway may be laid out north and south, as some have proposed, traversing the Louisiana purchase and running from the Canadian line to New Orleans. The Jackson highway could run from Washington southwest to New Orleans. There will be highways enough to honor all of our presidents. The movement commencing with interstate highways will continue later to the improvement of local roads until the mud embargo is lifted from the nation.

W. J. BRYAN.

The New Yorkers complain that they are paying too large a portion of the income tax. Not at all, the figures simply show what the men with big incomes escaped before they were called upon to pay their fair share. The income taxes are an approach to justice.

Harmony and Hughes is a slogan the republicans are thinking of adopting. The harmony part of it is supposed to be furnished by the four millions who voted the progressive ticket in 1912 and whose return is now anxiously desired.

The bluffer is always called if he bluffs long enough. The case of Colonel Roosevelt is an illustration. He tried to hold up the republican convention with a painted pistol, and came up against a real bandit.

Colonel Roosevelt wants to take a division of soldiers to Mexico. Not much. The President would find him harder to deal with than the Mexicans. Imagine him taking orders from anyone!

Crop prospects are good—this is another blow to the republican party. It can no longer claim a partnership with Providence. But its partnership with all the special interests still holds good.

"How dry I am" seems likely to become the campaign song of the republican: who thirst for government favors

The brewers, who play politics all the time, succeeded in getting their candidate nominated for governor of Iowa in the last republican primary by the old expedient of getting several drys to run against him for the nomination. They realize how helpful in the governor's chair will be a man who sees no evil in the saloon that his fellow-citizens have banished by law, a law that the brewers and distillers intend to disregard. As a result thousands of blank pledges to vote for the democratic nominee are being circulated by the temperance people, and being signed by many republicans.

It will be interesting to notice how the republican figure jugglers will be able to present the prosperity issue with the facts as they are staring them in the face. It is going to be a difficult task to convince the ordinary citizen with a bank account that he is facing the poor-house. Yet we have no doubt big business, which doesn't get the lion's share when prosperity is diffused as it is now, will continue to feel that the democratic plan has robbed it of the share the republicans taught it was theirs.

When some republican orator declaims on the hustings this fall about the necessity of a higher tariff to protect the laboring men of this country from the pauper labor of Europe, just ask him why the skilled labor of this country which has no tariff protection enjoys a higher average wage than that employed in the factories built up under the protection theory. The bulletins of the census bureau upon wages show very clearly where the protection money goes.

The Nebraska delegation to the democratic national convention solidly supported the majority report of the committee on resolutions when the direct issue was the adoption of the plank on woman suffrage. That plank recommends that the states give women the ballot. The national convention will always be remembered as having converted some distinguished Nebraskans on the suffrage issue.

Without having thoroughly investigated the matter, we should say offhand that not more than seven supporters of the President were surprised to hear that Colonel Roosevelt had decided to support Justice Hughes. Approximately that number believed the colonel was sincere four years before when he called the same republicans who nominated Hughes "thieves and train robbers."

The dispatches tell us of the sons of prominent republicans going to Plattsburgh, N. Y., to drill; why go north just when the farmer boys are going toward the Mexican line?

If the west and south do not pay a large proportion of the income tax, they at least feed the cow that the big financiers milk.

The Good Soldier

The good soldier is the soldier who is ready to perform any duty assigned to him. To be a good soldier one need not be bloodthirsty, he need not be anxious to kill someone or be killed. It is no more necessary that the soldier should be ANXIOUS to fight than that the fireman should be eager for a fire. It is sufficient that soldier and fireman be ready to make any sacrifice required.

It is no reflection on the courage and loyalty of the fireman that the people who employ him try to prevent fires by encouraging the erection of fireproof buildings—no fireman feels offended if people prefer a hotel of steel and concrete to a firetrap structure. Neither is it a reflection on the patriotism of the soldier to try to avoid war. Peace treaties are intended to prevent war as fireproof buildings are intended to prevent fire. One can appreciate the service rendered by both fireman and soldier without desiring either a fire or a fight.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Vance C. McCormick, the new chairman of the democratic national committee, is a fighting democrat. A man has to be all of that to run for governor of Pennsylvania on a democratic ticket and make a good fight.

He is a Yale man, was a college football player and a good one; he publishes a newspaper in Harrisburg, Pa., is a director of the Federal Reserve bank in Philadelphia and was mayor of Harrisburg when he was 30 years old. He is 44 now, so that he has all of the balance and discretion of maturity, together with youth enough to work night and day through the strenuous months ahead of him and do good work all the time.

He succeeds Chairman McCombs, whose record of service in 1912 entitles him to the thanks of his party, and unless all the signs fail this second Mc. will keep up the good work.—St. Louis Republic.

FULFILMENT

You are the quiet at the end of day,
You are the peace no storms may ever mar,
You are the light that can not fade away—
Lost be the path in darkness, you the star.

Once as a dream that youth had held unreal,
Now as a dream more real than all things true;

You only—yet the symbol and the seal
Of dreams eternal that shall come through you.

—Thomas S. Jones, Jr., in Literary Digest.