

## Booze Element on the Run

Following are a few letters from readers who have joined The Commoner Army to assist Mr. Bryan in driving the liquor interests out of the democratic party and out of the nation:

Peter P. O. Graber, Kans.—I am exceedingly glad to know that Mr. Bryan takes position against the liquor traffic. I have learned from experience that the liquor business is the root of many evils.

W. R. McKernon, Ill.—I think Mr. Bryan is right when he advocates that the democratic party should embody in its platform in 1920 the prohibition plank. It is the leading party, and it is for the democratic party to advocate those progressive ideas.

C. W. Arnold, Ohio.—After thanking you for the excellent paper you furnished us with during the year 1916, will say we are anxious to continue our subscriptions for the "big" year to come, namely, the year 1917, when we will attempt to place Ohio where it properly belongs, in the dry column.

J. M. Wolfe, Ark.—I am sending you herewith five subscriptions, including my own, will try to send another list in the near future. Will say, I heartily endorse the plan Mr. Bryan has marked out for the fight against the liquor interests, and sincerely hope he will be spared and given the health and strength to make the fight for the people as he has always done.

Mrs. E. McCaull, Ia.—I approve of W. J. Bryan's plans, and hope he will live to see them succeed.

W. Carls Richards, Md.—I am in perfect sympathy with Mr. W. J. Bryan's plan to reorganize the democratic party and to lead in the fight for national prohibition, and nothing would please me more than to see Mr. Bryan a candidate for the presidency on this platform in 1920. If such a great blessing should come, let me assure you that I will do everything in my power to bring about his nomination and election and the success of the great cause he is so nobly advocating. As an evidence of my good intentions, I have enclosed a check for \$3 and you will kindly send The Commoner for one year to the enclosed list of names and addresses.

R. T. Kelly, Tenn.—I think your plans in regard to prohibition are all O. K.

Thos. A. Owens, Ill.—I am in favor of W. J. Bryan in calling on the better element of the democratic party to fight the liquor interests in the party and driving them into the republican party, where they belong.

R. Bland Jones, Mo.—I am glad to enter upon the battlefield against the liquor traffic.

J. N. B. Shelton, Mo.—Enclosed find bank draft for \$5.25 for which please send The Commoner for one year beginning with January, 1917, to enclosed list. May I add that it is a real pleasure to ask my friends to subscribe for The Commoner; I feel that when I have placed this paper in the home, that I have added a good and wholesome magazine whose influence will be felt for good.

R. A. Garrett, W. Va.—Yours of the 2d to hand, and in answer to same will say you may count on me. Where he leadeth I will follow. Will send you list of names later that will cooperate.

J. W. Fewel, Cal.—The Hon. W. J. is on the right track. Hope he brings the democratic party to realize it must endorse prohibition.

J. L. McCormick, Mont.—Your plans for the future can not fail to put new life into the democratic party. Your work in the campaign just ended was wonderful. The west rewarded you richly and will back you loyally in your splendid fight for prohibition and woman suffrage throughout the nation. You will be democracy's candidate four years hence, and America's next president.

A. J. Anders, Ia.—I will assist Mr. Bryan in driving the liquor interests out of the party and out of the nation.

Jno. Michelet, Wis.—I agree with you in all plans stated, and believe you will succeed. I am now past 86 years, I was one of the first supporters of Lincoln and after the rebellion the party did not act to suit me and I became a democrat and have voted with them since.

Clodd M. Jackson, Mont.—I have been trying

my hand at soliciting for subscribers to The Commoner. I did better than I expected, got twelve for one year, 1917, at the clubbing rate of 60c. I include my own renewal. I think it is my sacred duty to help and is the duty of every loyal American to help W. J. Bryan to establish sobriety in the place of inebriacy in the minds and hearts, and cast out devils generally, thereby bettering our conditions morally, physically, spiritually and financially.

J. Thos. Hines, Ala.—Yours of several weeks ago received in regard to the issues that confront us. I heartily indorse the stand taken about the question of the saloon and you can at any time depend on me taking this side of the issue you have presented.

Henry Fingado, Co.—Am sending a list of new subscribers and the names of voters who will be pleased to help in ushering in national prohibition. Personally I am heartily in favor of suppressing the liquor traffic, and with W. J. Bryan to lead the fight, it is a foregone conclusion that whisky is doomed.

T. E. Higgins, Phillips, Wis.—I am in complete accord with Mr. Bryan in his endeavor to lead the democratic party to espouse the cause of national prohibition within the next four years. I shall do what I can to assist.

P. J. Sweeney, Wash.—I am in full sympathy with Mr. Bryan's declaration of principles, and am satisfied that the next four years will be a history-making epoch for this nation. I want to take this opportunity of expressing my renewed confidence in Mr. Bryan's ability at all times to do the right thing and he will be found, I believe, as he has always been found, fighting the battles of the common people.

David L. Hall, W. Va.—I heartily indorse your plan for the next four years to bring the democratic party in for prohibition, and send you a list of names who I think will take an interest in the matter.

Jno. C. Jones, Kans.—Certainly you may always depend on me to do what I can to assist in this fight for national prohibition. I have been with Mr. Bryan ever since he started in 1896, and can back him up more heartily in the cause he has just championed than in any other cause he has undertaken. Here's wishing strength to his arm.

Wm. J. Dunn, Ohio.—Yes, I approve of Mr. Bryan's new contest against the liquor interests, and shall do everything that is proper to help advance the cause. I herewith give you a small list of "dry" democrats, who I believe will add zeal to the cause.

D. A. Rensser, Kans.—I am in sympathy with Mr. Bryan's plan for the next four years; put me down for a dry democratic party and national prohibition for 1920. I will give you a few names who I believe will join the movement.

H. W. Payne, Mich.—In reply to your letter of about one month ago, which got misplaced, would say that I am very much taken up with the stand that Mr. Bryan has taken against the liquor traffic. It has been my view all my life, do away with the liquor business and it would help all other business. You may depend on me doing all I can for the cause and Mr. Bryan's plan and leadership.

W. L. Brockman, Ky.—You may put my name as one that is trying to help Mr. Bryan to put the whisky traffic out of the United States.

C. Howard Thompson, N. J.—Very glad to find out the plan of Mr. Bryan's attitude in regard to the coming campaign. I do without doubt believe that he could not make a stronger issue than to fight the liquor interests in this country.

W. F. Stevenson, S. C.—I desire to say that I approve very heartily of Mr. Bryan's proposition to drive the liquor interests out of this country and use the democratic party with which to do it. Don't stop shipping grain to Europe, stop converting it into destructive liquor here.

W. T. Longshore, Mo.—I am in thorough sympathy with Mr. Bryan's plan. Count on me for assistance.

J. H. Block, Pa.—Please find enclosed check for new subscribers, who wish to join in the fight for a saloonless nation; more will follow. It is an inspiration to know we have a leader who will not be guided by a desire to break into office. I never felt so good in my life; we whipped them without the aid of Tammany, Taggart or Sullivan; again we see the hand of W. J. Bryan, who was supposed to be a dead one.

J. F. Stillwell, Ohio.—His plan is the biggest

yet proposed. I have fought the saloon almost all my life, and know what a task he has undertaken.

A. B. Nicholson, Mich.—I am in hearty accord with the plans announced by Mr. W. J. Bryan and he can count on what influence I may have to assist in this vicinity for the great cause. I enclose list of democrats and independent voters, also a few subscribers.

B. W. Sisson, Mo.—I'm with W. J. in his fight for morality, sobriety, and honest government. Always have been with him in the past, see nothing to change my attitude yet.

A. P. Rose, Ind.—"Rah" for Bryan. He is on the right track. If we had squeezed the booze out of the democratic ticket at the convention last fall we would have swept Indiana for Wilson and the state ticket too.

Henry Avery, Ky.—I have been a subscriber to The Commoner for the last ten years. I am very glad to see Mr. Bryan fighting the liquor traffic; it is the greatest evil of the present day and will be hard to down, but public sentiment in this vicinity is growing more and more against it, but it seems that Kentucky will be one of the last to enter the dry column.

### PEACE COMMISSION ADVOCATED

[From the St. Louis Republic, Dec. 10.]

William Jennings Bryan advocates that Protestant, Catholic and Jewish churches of America appoint a commission to urge peace among the warring nations.

Former Congressman Bartholdt recommends that Bryan be sent as emissary of churches of America to Europe in interests of peace.

The liquor traffic, war, social immorality, the six-day work week and the anti-Japanese propaganda in America all received body blows yesterday at the busiest session the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America has held yet, in Second Baptist church.

William Jennings Bryan, apostle of peace and newly proclaimed champion of prohibition, furnished the thrill of the long sessions in a talk in the morning, at which he suggested that the council, working with the churches of the Catholic and Jewish faiths, appoint a representative commission to visit Europe and work in the interests of peace in the war-harried nations of that continent.

Richard Bartholdt, former congressman from Missouri, and peace advocate of international note, unwittingly was cogitating on the same thing at the time the "peerless leader" was uttering his views before the representatives of the Protestant faith in America.

Dr. Bartholdt appeared at the afternoon session without knowing Bryan had "beat him to it."

"When I heard that Mr. Bryan was in town and also heard that the council was considering peace measures," Bartholdt explained, privately, "I asked for an appointment before the body. I connected the conceptions of Mr. Bryan and a peace movement."

Bartholdt spoke briefly, only urging that Bryan's recommendations be acted upon favorably.



"AN UNFRIENDLY ACT"

—Cesare in the New York Evening Post