

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

of The Commoner, published monthly at Lincoln, Nebraska for October 1, 1917.

State of Nebraska)
County of Lancaster)

Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Chas. W. Bryan, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of The Commoner, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, postal laws and regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, associate editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: Charles W. Bryan...Lincoln, Nebraska
Editor: William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Nebraska
Associate Editor: Charles W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.
Business Managers: None.

2. That the owner is: William Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Nebraska.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

CHAS. W. BRYAN, Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23th day of September, 1917.

J. R. FARRIS, Notary Public.

(My commission expires July 19, 1918.)

The retreat in Italy and the revolt in Russia make it more necessary that every American citizen should support his government.

The present whereabouts of King Constantine seems to be another matter about which there does not appear to be any great public curiosity.

When your dollars are called to the colors see that the response is just as ready as when other men's sons answer the call for their own services.

After having had several months' experience as the ruler of all the Russias, Kerensky can better understand why Mr. N. Romanoff made no objections to having his job taken away from him.

The world is moving. Formerly the chancellor of the German empire held office at the will of the emperor. Apparently it is now the reichstag that determines when his term expires.

There are times when old and tried phrases don't do their duty. For instance, who would say that it was a sign of peace when enemy naval fleets of different size meet and proceed to sink their differences?

The fact that among the first American soldiers to land in France were the marines, suggests that it was merely a polite way of having somebody handy for the kaiser to tell it to when he next steps forward to say he desires peace.

The Social Evil

On another page will be found extracts from speeches of Secretaries Daniels and Baker on the social evil as it affects the navy and army. Secretary Daniels discusses the subject at some length before a congress of surgeons in session at Chicago. His speech is a powerful arraignment of this form of sin and an eloquent plea for the single standard of morality. It is addressed, too, to members of a profession which are in position to render very efficient service in stamping out the vice.

Secretary Baker voices the same warning in a speech at Boston. The press dispatches do not carry so much of his speech, but it is along the same line.

But why not apply to those who attack the efficiency of our soldiers in this way the same rules that are applied to other enemies of the government? If woman spies can be put to death in Europe, why may we not imprison, during the war, women who make merchandise of virtue and spread disease for pay.

And the men, what punishment is too severe for those who, having sworn to support their government, deliberately incapacitate themselves for military service, and make their return to civil life a menace to their communities?

The country is fortunate in having at the head of the navy and army at this time two such men as Daniels and Baker.

W. J. BRYAN.

POSTAL CENSORSHIP

Postmaster General Burleson gave out the following authorized statement of the policy of the department in exercising its power to suppress periodicals:

"I am going to enforce the law, but I am not going a step beyond what the law means, and it does not mean a political censorship. Nothing could be more repugnant either to the President or to me than a political censorship. Any newspaper of any political opinion or any shade of opinion can say anything it chooses in legitimate criticism of the President, the administration, the army, the navy or the conduct of the war. It can go the limit. It can say anything it chooses about me, personally. I don't care what it says about me. But there is a limit. And that limit is reached when it begins to say that this government got in the war wrong, that it is in it for wrong purposes, or anything that will impugn the motives of the government for going into the war. They can not say that this government is the tool of Wall street or the munitions makers. That kind of thing makes for insubordination in the army and navy and breeds a spirit of disloyalty through the country. It is a false statement, a lie, and will not be permitted.

"And nothing can be said inciting people to resist the laws. There can be no campaign against conscription and the draft law, nothing that will interfere with enlistments or the raising of an army. There can be nothing said to hamper and obstruct the government in the prosecution of the war. Political criticism, on the other hand, can go to any lengths it will. It makes no difference what is a paper's political faith, what party it belongs to, or how strong or how weak are its views, it can say what it pleases in the line of legitimate criticism. We won't look at any man or any paper with the thought in our minds that he belongs to the socialist or any other political party. The whole question is the limit he attempts to go in his criticism. He can say anything he wants to within the limits I have marked out. But he can't overstep that limit one inch."

Mr. Burleson referred The Public to the foregoing statement as an accurate and adequate statement of his policy and intention.—The Public.

The man who fights for a continued opportunity to reap exorbitant profits from the people, or who has heaped up a lot of treasure because of our entrance into it, will never be able to convince a great many persons that when he urged upon the President that we should declare war on Germany he did not have in mind just what happened, his opportunity for his own enrichment. What a man does indicates more clearly than what he says what his scheme is.

NEW YORK RESULT AS ROOSEVELT SEES IT

[By Theodore Roosevelt, in Kansas City Star.]

The triumph of Tammany in New York city and the large socialist vote have in some quarters been hailed as showing that New York city is for peace at any price and that it is against the administration. Neither statement is warranted by the facts.

The socialist vote was about one-fifth of the total vote. It included most of those who wished the war stopped at once, this number being made up of professional pacifists, of red flag anarchists and of poor, ignorant people, who pathetically believed that the socialist mayor would somehow bring peace at once. But it also included its professional socialists and poor, ignorant people who did not think of the war, but who pathetically believed that a socialist mayor would somehow give them 5-cent milk. The voters in New York city who wish immediate peace without any regard to national honor or to what future horrors such a peace would bring, are certainly less than a fifth of the whole.

The vote was not anti-administration. A far larger proportion of the supporters of the administration voted for Mr. Hylan than for Mr. Mitchel, and officially the administration was neutral between the two. A goodly number of pro-Germans supported Mr. Hylan, but he was also supported by a large number of entirely loyal men, and he, himself, unlike the socialist candidate, Mr. Hillquit, was avowedly for America against Germany and for the prosecution of the war. The election in actual fact turned directly on local issues. New York occasionally witnesses an occasional insurrection of virtue, but the city has never in fifty years given a good administration a second term. The insurrection of virtue at one election is followed by a Tammany revival at the next.

The result of the election in New York city was not heartening to patriotic persons, but right next door, in the Connecticut district, which includes Bridgeport, a contest for a vacant congressional seat resulted in a way that speaks well for the republican candidate, Schuyler Merritt, a man of high probity and capacity, with a forward look in international affairs, came out in bold and straightforward fashion, saying he would support the President in all measures for the efficient prosecution of the war until victory came; that he would do all he could to prevent our again falling into the condition of shameful unpreparedness we had for three years occupied, and that he was for universal obligatory military training for our young men. He won by a majority much greater than that which his predecessor received at the time of the presidential election last year. — (Copyright, 1917, by the Kansas City Star.)

PRESIDENT'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

Mr. Wilson has made several notable contributions to the official literature of the country within the last few months, but none nobler in its conception and import than his proclamation designating Thanksgiving day. The simplicity of the language in which he sets forth the reasons for the occasion is impressive. His ordinary style is limpid, devoid of flourish and direct, and in this it is employed to its best purpose. The high calling of the American people is made the subject of this timely exhortation. We are urged not only to give thanks for blessings enjoyed and mercies shown, but to humbly petition for favor and direction along the dark way before the nation. Our mission to the world requires that sobriety of expression and earnestness of action characterize our conduct. The President in this sets a good example for the people, and Thanksgiving day will be observed this year with a devout attention it seldom has received.—Omaha Bee.

MR. BRYAN FIRST LOAN SUBSCRIBER

The United States treasury department authorizes the following:

"William J. Bryan, former secretary of state, sent in the first subscription to the second liberty loan of 1917, received at the treasury department. Mr. Bryan subscribed for eight \$50 liberty loan bonds, one of which he will give to each of his eight grandchildren. Secretary McAdoo immediately allotted the subscriptions. In the first liberty loan Mr. Bryan subscribed for eight \$50 bonds for his grandchildren. With the subscriptions Monday each of his grandchildren now owns \$100 worth of Liberty bonds."