

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, CHARLES W. BRYAN, Editor and Proprietor Associate Ed. and Publisher

One Year \$1.00 Three Months .25 Six Months .50 Single Copy .10

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where such agents have been appointed.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 18 means that payment has been received to and including the issue of January, 1918.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to—

THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

RENEWALS

The subscriptions of those who became subscribers with the first issue of The Commoner, and have renewed at the close of each year, expire with the January (1918) issue. In order to facilitate the work of changing and re-entering the addresses upon our subscription books and mailing lists and obviate the expense of sending out personal statements announcing that renewals are due, subscribers are urgently requested to renew with as little delay as possible.

After reading what the President had to tell congress we suspect that the kaiser won't even admit that Mr. Wilson is of an agreeable address.

With ham at fifty cents a pound and bacon keeping close company, it scarcely needs the government adjuration to go without meat one day a week, for the average family.

It isn't the shortage of fuel that is bothering coal consumers so much as the shortage in bank accounts left after they have contributed their levy for the benefit of this industry.

After raising what it thought was a perfectly good and big corn crop the west discovers that a great deal of the yield is of the soft variety. In fact it is feared that a lot of it won't amount to shucks.

A number of internal disturbances in the United States was reported during the closing days of November, but an investigation discloses that they were confined to those who had visited the old home for a Thanksgiving dinner.

There is one danger confronting Fuel Administrator Garfield. It is that he will find out through his present job what a lucrative business coal mining is that he will be disinclined to go back to his old job.

Colonel Roosevelt might be able to secure better consideration for his comments upon the war if he could forget, during their composition, that Woodrow Wilson is the man to be credited with the fact that the colonel has been a private citizen for a considerable number of years.

Now that their newly-found friends of the bolsheviks are giving the Germans a look at the secret treaties of Russia with her allies, the kaiser ought to be willing to reciprocate and

show them the secret treaties he has with Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey with respect to what they intend to do with Russian possessions.

The United States Brewers' association, started on a campaign to educate the people to the belief that beer is harmless, overlooked one excellent argument. It might have pointed to the fact that the greatest gain yet recorded on the western front has been made by tanks.

Some confusion of mind seems to exist as to what is meant by the railroad pool that the government has permitted to be organized. At least some persons have wondered if it was formed by the government wringing some more water out of their securities.

The American people subscribed fifteen million dollars more for the war work of the Y. M. C. A. than the national organization asked for. The American people are learning to give with a thoroughness and an enthusiasm that is the best indication of whether they are with Woodrow Wilson or not.

With millions of bushels of potatoes and apples and millions of dozens of eggs in the cold storage warehouses of the country, and prices on these products as high as they are, it will be a little difficult to convince the buying public that the man who invented this system was a public benefactor.

Apparently the only way to make sure of a dry majority in Ohio is to have the vote of Cincinnati taken first or at least counted before the result is known in the remainder of that commonwealth. The political bosses on the river won't know then how many more are needed to beat prohibition.

Loyalty is not a matter of location but of the head and heart. If any of the soldiers in the trenches or elsewhere would talk about striking while the country is facing the danger of war, there would be no dissenting voice to the judgment of guilty of treason. A strike behind the lines, in the factory or on the railroad, is not so spectacular, but vital injury there is just as possible. Loyalty demands of workers that they stay on the job and of the rest of us that we see the government does the right thing by them.

Less than a decade ago when Mr. Bryan tentatively brought forward the necessity at some time in the future of the government taking over the railroads because they were unwilling or unable to fulfill their functions as carriers he was greeted as an impractical visionary. For more than six months now the nation has witnessed the control of the railroads through a war board appointed by the President, and the prediction is now freely made that through the failure of the railroads to keep enough equipment on hand for the demands of trade the government will take them over completely.

Patriotism is often a matter of pocketbook. This fact is proved by the large number of lines of business in which high prices are maintained in spite of government edicts and the fact that war profits are not compatible with loyalty to the government. The automobile men have just entered a vigorous protest because the government, needing alloy steel for munitions, has indicated its intention of stopping motor production. They say it will injure their business. The millions that automobile makers have made in past years do not apparently satisfy them even when the nation needs the steel they must use.

Large half-page advertisements of the United States Brewers association have made their appearance recently in a number of newspapers the country over. These plead that beer has been given a bad name through its association, in sales, with whisky, and that as a matter of fact it is true temperance to drink this beverage. Presumptively this is a calculated effort to save beer from the destruction that a nation bent upon prohibition threatens. There are a number of false statements in this advertisement, but these need not be noticed. The fact that it has been the brewer who is responsible for the multiplication of saloons in this country and that it has been the brewer who has persistently meddled in politics where he had no direct concern made the people determined to include it in the general condemnation of the traffic is sufficient.

Woman's Suffrage in Ohio

It is some consolation to know that the real majority against woman suffrage in Ohio is not as large as it appeared to be on the face of the returns. The vote cast against prohibition was 523,720, the vote against woman suffrage 564,972, or only about 41,000 more, although the majority against woman suffrage was over 140,000 greater than against prohibition. The reason is to be found in the fact that only 420,166 votes were cast for suffrage while 522,950— or over 100,000 more—were cast for prohibition.

The suffrage issue was submitted just before the election, too late to bring the matter to the attention of all the voters. Then, too, there was some confusion as to how to vote for suffrage. Some voted "no" thinking that they were voting against a referendum on the law giving suffrage to women.

When all the facts are known the result is not so discouraging to the friends of suffrage but, making all allowances, it is hard to understand how any one at this late date can oppose the extension of suffrage to woman on equal terms with man. This reform is needed to insure national prohibition in this country, and when the war is over suffrage will be needed throughout the world to prevent future wars.

W. J. BRYAN.

FORESEES PROHIBITION AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE

[From The Lewiston, Me., Evening Journal.]

"Is the subject of prohibition too trite?" a representative of the Lewiston Journal asked Hon. William J. Bryan at the DeWitt hotel this noon.

A smile touched for a moment the corners of the great Commoner's mouth. "The subject of prohibition," he responded, "is never trite. It was never more vital than the present day. It is worth discussing—always."

He sat upon a wicker divan in a little reception room opening from the office—a commanding figure, made a bit picturesque by the semi-military cape that fell below his knees. Even were he not William J. Bryan, one would pick him for attention—and admiration—in any throng.

"I see by the morning papers," said he, "that the judiciary committee is in favor of both the suffrage and prohibitory amendments; and Kitchin, the democratic house leader, is quoted as saying that both will be voted upon before Christmas. I believe that both will pass—although the vote will not be the same. The south and west are solidly for prohibition; and I think we will have sufficient votes in the Mississippi valley and farther east to make the necessary two-thirds. The entire west is for woman suffrage; and New York having declared itself, it will have a tremendous influence in strengthening the cause in the north and northeast. Therefore, while the support of the two amendments will differ, both will have a two-thirds vote. I believe both will be ratified; and thus, in the near future, we may expect the triumph of the two reforms which, in their far-reaching effects, are the greatest in recent years."

It is interesting to note that in the Iowa constitutional prohibition amendment election the majority for prohibition outside of Dubuque county was 5,129 votes. Dubuque county gave a majority of 6,061 against prohibition. Dubuque county has been one of the menacing centers of agitation against the prosecution of the war. Disloyalty to the government's interests seems to run true.

Some one asks if Iowa, having, by a popular vote, rejected constitutional amendment, will now re-enact a liquor license law. It will not. Anyone who examines the returns will discover that the majorities for the saloon were rolled up by a small group of counties where Germans predominate. To repeal statutory prohibition it will be necessary that a majority in each house be secured. With the great majority of the legislative districts voting dry, it is impossible to conceive of any such misrepresentation of local legislative district sentiment.