

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

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

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Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year .....	\$1.00	Three Months ....	.25
Six Months ... ..	.50	Single Copy .....	.10
In Clubs of Five or		Sample Copies Free.	
more, per year..	.75	Foreign Post, 25c Extra	

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Address all communications to—

THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

German-American Alliance, or the "Omaha Deutsche Tribune," or any other individual or organization, with the exception of the writer, had any part in the preparation of that letter, or even a knowledge of it prior to the time it was mailed to the publishers, the writer brands as an absolute falsehood. The writer assumes sole responsibility for the preparation and mailing to the publishers of the letter in question, and we challenge you to qualify the impression you seek to give your readers that any "German Language Newspapers," or "renegade Bohemian publishers" had anything to do with the preparation or sending of that letter.

"Furthermore, your statement that Val J. Peter, editor of the "Omaha Deutsche Tribune," a German language daily published in Omaha, had anything whatever to do with the organizing of the Associated Foreign Language Press, or that he has any voice in the management or policies of the Associated Foreign Language Press, is a deliberate falsehood.

"The letter that the writer sent to the foreign language publishers of Nebraska was sent without the knowledge of Chas. W. Bryan or any of the other candidates mentioned in it, and whose names you have suppressed. We said in that letter that we understood Mr. Bryan's views are in accord with those of the national administration. What is wrong with that statement, or what do you seek to criticize? Do you approve the policy of President Wilson and the national administration? The patriotic Bohemian citizens of Nebraska can not support any one who is not in perfect harmony with the national administration.

"Your reference to any Bohemian publisher in Nebraska as "renegade Bohemian publishers" is a direct attack upon the loyalty of the Bohemian people, one of the allies of the United States, and an indirect attack on the millions of brave sons of Uncle Sam born under the glorious Stars and Stripes that are gladly sacrificing their life blood on the battle front in France to help make the world safe for democracy. Every publisher of a Bohemian paper in the state of Nebraska is helping in the work of recruiting men of Bohemian blood for the American Czecho-Slovak national army, and every citizen of Bohemian birth, as well as every other nationality that is fighting as an ally of the United States, resents the insinuation of disloyalty contained in your statement.

"In your issue of August 9th, under the heading of "German Papers Asked to Print Ad for C. W. Bryan," you reproduce part of an editorial suggestion written by me and sent to foreign language publishers, and which attached to the letter signed by me and referred to above. In your article you credit this editorial suggestion of mine to Val J. Peter, and then attempt to prejudice the voters of the state by falsely and maliciously crediting my editorial suggestion to the German-American Alliance. This attempted imposition and deception is unworthy of the editor of an American newspaper. Val J. Peter or the German-American Alliance had nothing whatever to do with the preparation or mailing out of my editorial suggestion or my

letter which accompanied it, and you were in a position to know this to be a fact when you forced this misrepresentation.

"We request the immediate publication of this correction and the writer demands, on behalf of the publishers of foreign language newspapers whose native countries are allies of the United States, that you cease your treasonable attacks on these allies of the United States who are fighting in France, Italy and Russia with the legions of Freedom and Liberty.

"Yours very truly,

"ASSOCIATED FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS,

"(Inc.)

"By WALTER ROSICKY,

"Pres. and Gen. Mgr."

Campaign Lie No. 2 Nailed

Another clumsy effort on the part of the Lincoln Daily Star to mislead the voters of Nebraska appears in their issue of August 9, under the heading "Thompson Calls Circular Fraud." In this article the Star states "Everything is in readiness for an eleventh hour coup by C. W. Bryan to spring fake endorsement of his candidacy for governor purporting to come from the dry federation and labor organizations and scattered broadcast over the state just before the primaries, when it would be too late to expose the fraudulent character of the document and refute its assertions."

The Star then proceeds to tell its readers what this purported circular will contain. The article contains an interview that it secured from W. T. Thompson, former chairman of the Nebraska Dry Federation, in which Mr. Thompson states that the dry federation had not endorsed the candidacy of Charles W. Bryan for governor and that it was not their policy to endorse candidates, and that no one had authority to use the name of Mr. Thompson, etc. The facts are that no such circular has been printed and none contemplated, but there is a leaflet in circulation in Nebraska which is put out by the Anti-Saloon League, and the man who wrote the above mentioned article in the Star had a copy of the circular in his hand at the time his misrepresentation was prepared for publication.

The leaflet does not say, nor does not attempt to convey the impression that the Nebraska Dry Federation and the allied dry organizations had endorsed the candidacy of C. W. Bryan for governor or that they intended to do so. The circular did contain a copy of the official endorsement of the German-American Alliance in Nebraska of Governor Neville's candidacy at the time he was elected in the fall of 1916, and that endorsement of the German-American Alliance was signed by its state president in Nebraska, and the endorsement contained an appeal to all German voters to support Mr. Neville for governor. Without that endorsement and without the support of upwards of twenty-thousand German republicans and other republican wets who voted in the democratic primaries for Mr. Neville, the latter would have been defeated for the nomination two years ago by more than ten thousand votes.

The circular that the Lincoln Daily Star was describing and attempting to mislead the voters of Nebraska as to its contents contains a severe censure of Governor Neville and the eighteen wet state senators who prevented the ratification of the national prohibition amendment at the special session of the legislature held in Nebraska last spring. The censure of Governor Neville by the dry forces was written several months ago, was published by the daily press of the state at that time, it was signed by all the dry organizations in Nebraska, including the former chairman of the state dry federation, W. T. Thompson, and none of the signers will deny their signature.

The Star has been challenged to publish the circular it refers to so that its readers may see to what extent the Star has imposed upon them, but the Star does not seem inclined to let its readers know just what the circular contains. The censure by the dry federation of Governor Neville and the eighteen wet senators and the appeal to the voters of Nebraska by all the dry organizations in the state to put only ratificationists on guard, is as follows:

"Lincoln, Neb., May 24, 1918.—To the People of Nebraska: State prohibition in Nebraska is a success. To make prohibition permanent and perpetuate its benefits the national prohibition amendment must be adopted at the earliest possible moment. The dry forces of Nebraska are

greatly disappointed and humiliated on account of the action of the governor and the eighteen wet senators in preventing ratification of the national prohibition constitutional amendment at the recent special session of the Nebraska legislature. Congress submitted to the legislatures of the states the constitutional amendment for ratification, but the governor and the eighteen wet senators seemed to be more willing to please the German-American Alliance which privately endorsed them in the campaign, than they were the great moral and patriotic element of the people of Nebraska who voted in favor of prohibition by 30,000 majority.

"The people of Nebraska are loyally supporting the President in his every act and suggestion to win the war, and are opposed to continuing for one day more than is necessary the waste of food grains to the value of nearly \$100,000,000 annually that is being worse than wasted by the German brewers. The people of Nebraska object to the German-American alliance nominating and electing men to office in Nebraska who by their vote permit the food that should be going to our soldiers, to be wasted for booze. We must win another dry victory and do our part to destroy Germany's strongest ally in America.

"The only way to insure the ratification of the national prohibition amendment at the next session of the legislature is to elect a governor and members of the legislature who are known to be personally in favor of prohibition and who will not be under any obligation to the German-American alliance.

"We appeal to every voter in Nebraska and to every resident of the state who loves his country to unsheath his sword and fight until every German brewery and every pro-German influence in our politics are driven from our land. The ratification of the national prohibition amendment is the local issue in Nebraska of first importance, and we must take up the fight where we left off two years ago and nominate and elect a governor and legislators who believe in American institutions first—men who will wipe out the liquor business as a war measure, and for the promotion of clean politics and good morals.

"It is the duty of strong, moral men to make the necessary sacrifice to stand as candidates, and we appeal to the dry forces of Nebraska immediately to see that men are nominated in all parties for governor and as candidates for the legislature who will keep faith with public sentiment. Nebraska in her onward march has outgrown wet public officials. The saloon is as dead as slavery and witchcraft. Remember, that men elected by the liquor interests serve the liquor interests when their service is demanded. Let there be no mistake this year. All neutrals should be counted as enemies of ratification.

"With our faces to the future, we hope to give to the nation the blessings which we enjoy as a state."

NEBRASKA DRY FEDERATION, by W. T. Thompson, president, C. C. Crowell, A. C. Epperson, members executive committee; ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA, by H. F. Carson, superintendent; WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION, by Mamie Clafin, president; DOUGLAS COUNTY DRY COMMITTEE, by J. Dean Ringer, president, Elmer E. Thomas, manager; SPEAKER'S CLUB, by A. G. Wolfenbarger, president; DRY AUTOMOBILE CAMPAIGN, Frank Harrison, Mgr.; OMAHA COMMITTEE OF FIVE HUNDRED, by W. T. Graham, president.

LIEUT-GOV. HOWARD, CANDIDATE FOR U. S. SENATOR, ISSUES TIMELY WARNING

It is an old adage that the big corporations always play both ends against the middle in the game of politics.

Evidence daily multiplies that certain vast corporate interests, including the big meat packers and big millers — together with two great railway systems, will select two favorites in the Nebraska senatorial primary race — one in the democratic primary and one in the republican primary. If the big interests can succeed in nominating a friendly Indian in the democratic primary, and the same on the republican side, they will not care a penny which one shall be chosen at the November election, because both will be pledged to play the corporation game.

And it will be some game. A great publicist has said that the most gigantic graft of the world will be attempted by the big interests in the day when the government shall turn back to