

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Vol. I. No. 42.

Lincoln, Nebraska, November 8, 1901.

\$1.00 a Year

The Election Returns.

In order to have The Commoner reach all the subscribers before the end of the week, it is necessary to begin mailing on Tuesday. It is impossible, therefore, to report or comment upon the election returns in this issue. They will be discussed next week.

Hoar is Consistent.

Senator Hoar has shown his consistency by declining an invitation to deliver a political eulogy on the late president. In explanation of his refusal he says that he is extremely busy just now, but adds:

"I ought in frankness to state another and even stronger reason. I think the eulogy on the president should be delivered by some person who was in full accord with him upon the principal political measure of his administration. I never questioned his absolute honesty, his devotion to the public welfare, his love of liberty and his desire to do his duty as God gave him to see it. I was fully in accord with him on the great fiscal measures with which he was identified. But, as you know, I differed with him and his administration (and my opinion on that subject has been strengthened and not weakened in the lapse of time) in regard to his policy in dealing with the Philippine islands."

Like many others who differed with Mr. McKinley on one or more political questions, Senator Hoar has expressed his admiration for the many personal virtues of the dead chief magistrate, his sorrow at his death and his detestation of the manner of his taking off, but he thinks, and very properly, that praise of the president's views on political questions should come from some one in harmony with all of the policies of the administration. It will be remembered that the Massachusetts senator declared that, if an imperial policy was pursued, the fall of the republic would date from Mr. McKinley's administration, and it will also be remembered that he closed his memorable speech against imperialism by appealing from "Philip drunk to Philip sober." He says that his opinion on this subject has been strengthened rather than weakened by subsequent observation. How, then, could he be expected to deliver an eulogy that would satisfy partisan republicans?

Opponents of imperialism may be expected to share in all exercises that give expression to the unanimous regard for Mr. McKinley as a man and to the respect entertained for the high office to which he was elevated by his countrymen, but they cannot be expected to participate in any demonstration which could be construed as an endorsement of the late president's change from hostility to "forcible annexation," and "criminal aggression" to the advocacy of "benevolent assimilation." The moment the republicans attempt to use the life or death of Mr. McKinley to advance the policies for which their party stands, that moment they substitute partisan ends for a patriotic purpose and should confine their appeals to those who are republicans on all questions.

Death Without Hope.

The lesson taught by the last hours of Czolgosz should not be lost upon the world. He expired like one who sinks in mid-ocean without a sail in sight. How barren of real happiness must be the life of one who denies the existence of a God, de-

fies all government, and cultivates the belief that he can, without moral guilt, take the life of a fellow being merely because that fellow being is administering for a little while the authority conferred upon him by his countrymen. How can he delude himself with the belief that he is living upon a more exalted plane than ordinary people?

Consider the perennial joys of the gray-haired patriarch who learned in youth that "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom," who has met life's responsibilities with a prayer for light to see his duty and courage to perform it, and who approaches the grave "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams." Consider the life of such a one, and compare it with the career of one who lives in constant rebellion against nature and in constant antagonism to society, and then ends life as a lonely traveler would turn from a deserted house out into a dark and starless night.

Compare the sweet contentment of one who accepts life's successes and reverses with the sentiment of the psalmist: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. * * * Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: For Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Compare this with the lot of one who curses the Creator and His creatures, and then swears back at the echo of his blasphemy.

An Interesting Letter.

The editor of The Commoner has received an interesting letter from one who describes himself as a former gold democrat, one who in 1896 supported the Palmer and Buckner ticket until election day and then voted the republican ticket. He says that when the campaign of 1900 began the republicans advanced the same arguments that they had in 1896, namely, that "if a party comes into power that will not cater to the large institutions, capitalists and bankers, the money of the country will be taken from circulation."

He says that this was the argument which caused him to leave the democratic party in 1896, but that in 1900 the same argument drove him "from the party that advocated such unpatriotic principles."

He commends the work which The Commoner is doing and protests against any surrender to the reorganizers. He says: "What would democratic victory amount to if the leadership was in the hands of those who represent the financial institutions of this country? What every true patriotic democrat wants is a victory at the polls won on the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform."

He suggests that it takes many people a long time to learn to vote for their own interests, (and adds that it took him four years), but insists that the fight must be continued until a victory is won. The letter is referred to because so many democrats do not seem to realize that reorganization, as advocated by the gold democrats, would mean the despotic control of conventions and democratic administrations, (if there were any under such leadership) by the financial interests that are today arrayed against the masses on every important issue. It is not so much the gold standard that these men want as the absolute and unquestioned control of the treasury department,

and with it the control of the attorney general's office. They will be satisfied with nothing less, but as soon as their real purpose is fully understood they will be powerless to thwart the honest aims and plans of the rank and file of the party.

One Man's Great Power.

Walter Wellman, the well-known correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, writing to his paper under date of Washington, October 28, said:

President Roosevelt today put his finger on the button which moves most of the wires in the United States senate. Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island is the button. He is the greatest wire-puller in the upper branch of the American congress. In all matters pertaining to tariff and finance he is by long odds the most influential man in the senate. He is the acknowledged prince of the politicians of that body. He has fixed more tariff schedules to suit interested parties, defeated more legislation that some one of wealth and power did not want, achieved a greater success as a managing editor of the dignified senate, than any other man in all its history.

President Roosevelt had Mr. Aldrich at the White house today for a luncheon and a conference. What was said by either of them no one knows. But it is presumed that the president endeavored to secure Mr. Aldrich's consent to the ratification of the French reciprocity treaty as a sort of start on the reciprocity program which the president has very much, though not too much, at heart. Whether or not Mr. Aldrich has consented will come out in the wash.

It was intended that the senate as a body should have power and influence, in certain matters, co-ordinate with the president; but it was never intended that any single senator should have not only a greater power than the president, but the "power to move the entire senate."

Senator Aldrich is a republican. He belongs to that school which the Record-Herald and its able correspondent have told us had a monopoly on the championship of "national honor." But here Mr. Wellman informs us that this champion of "national honor" has "fixed more tariff schedules to suit interested parties, defeated more legislation that some one of wealth and power did not want, achieved a greater success as managing editor of the dignified senate than any other man in all its history."

And yet we are told that we are living in a government in which the people rule. We are told that the republican party is not the party of a special class, but that it is a party having an eye single to public welfare!

Real Greatness.

A distinguished New York citizen, speaking at a gathering of young men, said: "The way to make a city or a country great is to make all their citizens great. Pickling some one fellow and putting him in office and telling him he is a great fellow is not going to bring on the millenium."

This is but another way of saying that the strongest chain is no stronger than its weakest link. This was not an original thought. It is an idea which the founders of this government sought to impress upon the men of colonial times. It is an idea which the statesmen who succeeded the men of the colonial period endeavored to emphasize at every critical period of our country's history. Because this is a republican form of government in which the character of policies put in