

F A I R V I E W

On this page will be found a picture of the family residence at Fairview. The house was not completed as soon as expected, and is not entirely finished yet, but sufficiently so to present an accurate exterior view. The ground upon which the house stands was purchased in the summer of 1893 and the house has been in contemplation ever since that time. The original five-acre piece has been added to from time to time until the tract now comprises thirty-five acres.

Ground was broken for the house on the 1st day of October, 1901, the seventeenth anniversary of our marriage and the fourteenth anniversary of our location in Nebraska. We moved into the barn March 19, 1902, and into the unfinished house October 1, 1902. The architect was asked to prepare plans for a house that would cost about \$10,000, but owing to the numerous alterations in the plans, to the expense of delivering material so far from town and to the recent increased expense of building, the house cost considerably more than I anticipated it would. This is not an unusual experience, I believe, with those who start out to build a permanent home.

Fairview is nearly four miles southeast of the business center of the city of Lincoln and overlooks as beautiful a piece of farm land as can be found anywhere. It is reached by the College View street car line, which runs within about a third of a mile of the house. My editorial work is done in a basement room, fitted up with a working library, and here I am always glad to see any of the readers of The Commoner, who may chance to pass through Nebraska's capital.

It is not often that one finds it necessary to dispute exaggerated reports of his wealth and income, but the erroneous accounts have been so persistently circulated as to have deceived friends.

From the tone of some reports it is evident that they were intended for a political purpose, namely, to create the impression that my views on public questions are determined by the amount of money to be made out of them. It ought to be apparent to any one that I would take the corporations' side rather than the people's side if my object was to make money. As it is, but a small portion of my time is devoted to remunerative work. Since 1896 more days have been devoted to my correspondence than to lecturing, and more days also have been devoted to speaking without remuneration (and often at my own expense) than to lecturing where compensation has been received. There is no reason why the readers of The Commoner should not know the facts and thus be prepared to meet the criticism of unfair opponents.

In the beginning the republicans made me appear poorer than I really was, and now they go to the other extreme and multiply my possessions from ten to a hundred times. One paper reports me as receiving \$750,000 from subscriptions to The Commoner, and says that none of this money has been used for expenses, alleging that the receipts from the advertising exceed by \$125,000 the cost of running the paper. Even democratic pa-

pers have been misled by these reports into assuming an accumulation entirely beyond what it would have been possible for me to make had I devoted all my time to money-making.

An another page will be found an editorial from the New Orleans Times-Democrat which defends the means employed for the accumulation of such wealth as I possess although it has accepted the republican estimate. The truth is, that in addition to my house, the tract of land on which it stands and my household goods, I have property, real and personal, that might at a fair market price be considered worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Of this, a sum amounting to between two and three thousand dollars (some of the land has not yet been disposed of) came to me by inheritance, and between three and four thousand was saved between the time I began the practice of the law and my first nomination for the presidency. The

recent years. I shall only lecture enough to cover my personal and household expenses and to lay aside a little for old age.

The Commoner, while a success in a business way and in the increasing circle of its influence, has not reached a position where I feel justified in drawing any considerable amount from it. The paper was not started as a money-making scheme, but as a means of contributing toward the advancement of those principles for which the democratic party stands. It was necessary that the paper should be self-supporting and it has been self-supporting from the beginning. It will be published as long as the patronage is sufficient to pay running expenses, and in view of increasing encouragement received it seems likely to live as long as its editor does.

As the subscriptions are payable in advance and when paid must cover the expense of the paper for the full subscription term. The

Commoner fund has been kept by itself and held in trust for the benefit of the subscribers. The only reductions made from it have been made to pay running expenses, and there is now enough in this fund to guarantee that each subscriber will receive the paper for the time during which he has paid it. I draw no salary from the paper myself, and have taken out for my personal use on an average of less than five thousand per year during the two years of the paper's existence.

If the reader is surprised that the paper has not made the fabulous sums reported, he must remember that the subscription price was fixed at \$1.00 per year in the beginning and has not been increased even though the paper has been doubled in size. He must also remember that agents' commissions must be paid out of the dollar, and that when the paper is furnished at clubbing rates the amount realized is considerably less than a dollar for each annual subscription.

In the effort to get the paper before as large a number of readers as possible, combination rates have been made which still further reduce the amount realized from each subscription. While, on the one hand, the paper has been furnished at a low price, the advertisements, on the other hand, have been restricted far below the amount that most papers of similar circulation carry. There are three reasons for this: First, no trust advertisements are accepted—this excludes an increasing number of advertisements; second, a great many advertisements which appear in some less discriminating papers have been rejected because not suitable for a paper that goes into the household and is read by all the members of the family. Third, the paper had to encounter the prejudice of many large concerns, managed by republicans, who carry their politics into their business and object to a paper that persistently exposes and opposes the plans of organized wealth.

The care, however, taken in the selection of advertising matter, while it has lessened the receipts of the paper for the time being, has given it standing with those advertisers who are admitted to its columns.



RESIDENCE OF MR. BRYAN.

acquaintance and notoriety given me by the presidential campaigns largely augmented my earning power as well as largely increased my expenses and the demands upon my purse. In 1897 I received \$17,000 as royalty from my book, "The First Battle," an equal amount, the remaining half of the royalty, being distributed among the various committees that were carrying on the campaign for the restoration of bimetallism. Since that time, except when in the army, I have derived my income from lectures and from articles written for newspapers and periodicals. Since 1896 I have contributed to the advancement of political reforms more than twenty thousand dollars, and that the reader may know that all my thoughts have not been centered on politics it may be added that donations for educational, religious and charitable purposes have in that time amounted to nearly half as much as my political contributions.

As I write editorials when on the road my lecturing has not interfered with my editorial work, but I expect to do less lecturing in the future than I have in the past, because I desire to spend more time with my family and to do more book-reading than I have had opportunity for in