

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Gov. James B. Frazier.

Governor James B. Frazier, of Tennessee, was born in that state forty-five years ago, and is a descendant of an old revolutionary family. One of his ancestors fought at King's Mountain and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1796. He is of Scotch-Irish descent, and learned something of the responsibilities of public position from his father, who was a man of high standing and one of the judges of Tennessee.

Governor Frazier completed his education at the University of Tennessee in 1878 and after two years of study was admitted to the bar. While in active practice since that time he has often been called upon to act as a special judge under the laws of the state. He is a Jeffersonian democrat by inheritance and by conviction and is able to give a reason for the faith that is in him. He has taken part in all of the campaigns since he was old enough to make a political speech, and was especially active in the campaign of 1896. Four years later he was an elector-at-large on the democratic ticket. In 1902 he was unanimously nominated for governor, and was elected by nearly 50,000 majority, this being the largest majority, with possibly one exception, given to a candidate for governor in that state since the civil war.

Mr. Frazier is not an aspirant for the presidency, but his name is mentioned as one of the democrats whose political experience and official record entitle him to consideration among those worthy to be mentioned in connection with the office of chief executive.

Revealing Party Secrets.

Walter Wellman sends to his paper, the Chicago Record-Herald, a very interesting discussion of campaign funds. It gives what purports to be the opinion of some inside republicans in regard to the alleged friction between the financiers and President Roosevelt. Without indorsing Mr. Wellman's conclusions, it is instructive as showing that Mr. Wellman and his informants agree about the enormous campaign funds which have been collected and used by the republican leaders.

The Commoner has insisted all the time that it is impossible to raise and use the amount of money disbursed by the republicans in 1896 and 1900 without debauching voters and, what is scarcely less vicious, mortgaging the party to Wall street. Mr. Wellman has underestimated rather than overestimated the amount spent by republicans. The use of such campaign funds has indeed become a national scandal, and the republican readers of The Commoner are invited to give the matter serious consideration. What will such a use of money lead to? What can be its inevitable result except the weakening of our government and the paralyzing of the administration that is elected by such funds? Presenting as it does a republican view of the subject, Mr. Wellman's article is certainly of more than passing significance.

If the financiers are dissatisfied with what Mr. Roosevelt has done, they are certainly very exacting in their demands. Has he not resisted all reform of the tariff? Has he not protected even the trusts, in the enjoyment of the monopoly which high import duties give them? Has he not supported every proposition that the financiers have asked? Has he not only failed, but

refused to enforce the criminal law against trust magnates? Has he not even affixed his signature to the Elkins bill, that relieves railroad officials of the fear of imprisonment? What is the sum of his offending? His supporters do him scant honor when they suggest that he has been restrained from action by the fear of those whom he should have prosecuted. It is suggested that if he is re-elected he will throw off all restraint, and become a reformer, but how can he throw off restraint unless he is under restraint now? Why not give the country some practical evidence of his purpose at once? Why leave the imagination to picture what he is going to do when he has such a splendid opportunity to do something now?

Mr. Wellman's paper is a western paper, and it is possible that he is just using the pretended opposition of Wall street to solidify western republicans. He is a witness for the administration and we can use his testimony to prove that the administration is indebted to the corporations for its existence, even though we are not compelled to accept his testimony where it helps his side of the case.

The American Commons.

(Poem Read by Hon. Howard S. Taylor at the Fourth of July Celebration at Fairview under the Auspices of the Fairview Jefferson Club.)

When Liberty, wounded, betrayed and oppressed
By the insolent, tyrannous kings of the world,
Fled over the sea to the ultimate West
And, here, in her refuge her banner unfurled;
When the hopes of mankind in the balances lay,
And the unborn, wondering centuries stood
To witness America's Passover Day
And the sign of her door-lintels sprinkled with blood,
Then Liberty, menaced by envy and hate,
From the seats of the mighty, the thrones of the great;
With tocsin and summons
Called forward her commons
And marshaled and made them her Pillars of State.

They were men from the mines, from the shops, from the farms;
They were hunters and herdsmen and fishermen, bold;
They were homespun minute-men, springing to arms,
With a faith that could neither be bought nor be sold—
And these were the paladins, nobles and knights
Who conquered King George and his hireling host;
Who penned with their weapons our charter of rights,
And made our republic humanity's boast.
Who gave to posterity riches untold—
A heritage greater than mountains of gold.
It is no man's nor woman's.
It was won by the commons,
For them and their children to have and to hold.

A blend of all races, in many creeds bred,
They were fused in the white-heated furnace of war.
United, they followed where Liberty led
As the wise men once followed the Bethlehem star.
Go question the flag—it will tell in a breath
How its tri-color hues by their spirit were planned;
That the white is their honor, the blue is their faith,
And the red is their valor on ocean and land.
Go search through the myths of the ancients in quest
Of their builders of empire, their bravest and best;
But Grecians and Romans
Are dwarfed by the commons
Who founded the Great Commonwealth of the West.

The fathers are gone—has their faith perished, too?
Has the spirit that moved them declined and decayed?
Have their lofty ideals grown dim and untrue
In the hurrying scramble of pleasure and trade?
Have the fanes of our patriot altars and graves
Sunken downward to mix with insensible clods?
Are we parting our race into masters and slaves
With only fierce Mammon and Moloch for gods?
Ah, no. By our bells and our jubilant guns,
By the stars and the stripes where our proud story runs
By a score of good omens
We still have our commons!
And the hearts of our Fathers still throb in their Son's

Iowa Democratic Platform

The Iowa democratic convention was not referred to last week because the editor of The Commoner had not secured the information necessary for an intelligent discussion of the situation. He is now in position to say that the convention was controlled by the reactionary elements of the party and that the refusal of the convention to reaffirm the Kansas City platform was due principally to the influence exerted by the representatives of corporations, but partly to neglect on the part of the friends of the platform.

The corporation democrats are in politics as a matter of business; they assume that their salaries cover their political services and they can attend conventions at little expense, while the ordinary democrat must pay his way. The cost of railroad fare sometimes affects the selection of delegates and still more often affects the number who actually attend. If, for instance, a county harmonizes by sending five corporation democrats and ten Kansas City platform democrats to a state convention and fails to instruct, the five who can get passes may go and six of the others may not feel able to attend. Then the county stands 5 to 4 against the Kansas City platform; if they are instructed to vote as a unit the five may by out-voting the four cast the fifteen votes against reaffirmation.

To this advantage the corporation democrats add the advantage which they derive from the fact that they are unscrupulous in method. They are not only willing to betray constituents, but they consider it smart to deal unfairly with their party associates.

In the recent Iowa convention the delegates from Wapello county were chosen by a convention which indorsed the Kansas City platform, but the reorganizers, chosen by courtesy, were on hand and in the absence of some of the Kansas City platform democrats cast a majority of the votes of the county against the platform. According to the American, of Creston, Mills county indorsed the Kansas City platform, but was misrepresented in the state convention.

How can an honest platform be expected from men who deal dishonestly with their constituents? On another page will be found an extract from the American, showing how the convention was manipulated.

The Iowa platform contains many good planks, but without improving upon the last national platform in any respect it shows weakness where it departs from that document.

The plank against imperialism is not clear. The coupling of Porto Rico with the Philippine islands leaves it in doubt whether the self-government mentioned is self-government in an independent republic, as demanded by the Kansas City platform, or self-government as a part of our nation, as a few republicans favor.

Nothing is said in the platform about arbitration, notwithstanding the increasing necessity for some just and peaceable settlement of differences between labor and capital.

The money plank was written to deceive. It has the flavor of the platforms written by Wall street representatives for both the leading parties before 1896 and for the republican party since.

"We insist that the integrity of the money of the nation be guarded with zealous care." That looks reasonable enough, but it will be found on investigation to be intended by its framers to mean the gold standard, although not one of them would dare to indorse the gold standard openly