

The Commoner.

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A College Education.

While The Commoner is published merely for the discussion of political, economic and sociological questions from a democratic standpoint, it is interested in all that is helpful and uplifting, and it has occurred to the publisher that it might be possible for the paper to both stimulate its young men readers to desire a college education, and at the same time enable them to secure it.

No young man can afford to begin life with less than the best equipment that is within his reach. As a wood-chopper can well afford to take the time necessary to sharpen his ax, and the carpenter his tools, so the man who intends to make the most of his life can afford to devote to education all the time required. With universities in every state and private colleges scattered throughout the country, no young man can have an excuse for growing up in ignorance or without collegiate instruction. No one can plead poverty of himself or family as an excuse because at every institution will be found young men who are making their own way without any outside aid whatever.

The Commoner ascertained the cost of tuition, cost of room rent, board, fire and lighting (these are the necessary expenses of college life) from a number of colleges, and is able to make an offer to readers of The Commoner that should interest any young man or young woman who desires to secure a college education.

There is not an ambitious boy or girl reader of The Commoner who cannot earn the money for a college course. The money can be earned this summer for next winter's course, and during each summer for the succeeding winter until the course is completed.

This offer is open to girls as well as boys, but it is emphasized in the case of boys because many parents prefer to send their daughters to a boarding school, and boarding schools are usually more expensive than the schools of day pupils.

The publisher will be gratified if this offer serves as an inducement to a large number of young men and young women to enter college. Every one interested in the reforms which The Commoner advocates should be anxious that those who believe in those reforms shall enter the contest of life under the most favorable circumstances and with the best preparation for great usefulness and influence. Further details will be given on application.

A Great Civil Service Reformer.

In its annual report the executive committee of the National Civil Service Reform league said:

"In its last annual report the committee criticised the appointment of James S. Clarkson, notorious as a spoilsman, as surveyor of the port of New York. Events during the past year have served to show the justness of this criticism. Mr. Clarkson has been reported by the press as a frequent absentee from his office, engaged in political work in other parts of the country; his department has once been the subject of investigation by the civil service commission, while in the only two important appointments he has made—those of deputy surveyors—he has requested, and through his insistence has received—in one case by the order of President Roosevelt—permission to ignore the rules governing promotions in the New York custom house."

This is a severe arraignment of Mr. Roosevelt, who for so many years prior to becoming president, claimed to be devoted to the principles of the civil service.

The appointment of Mr. Payne to be postmaster general was in keeping with the appointment of Mr. Clarkson. Mr. Roosevelt had the opportunity to learn that Mr. Payne's record was that of a spoilsman, and when the newspapers

directed public attention to Mr. Payne's record, there were many who did not believe that Mr. Roosevelt would repudiate all his old-time professions concerning the merit system by appointing Mr. Payne to the head of the postoffice department.

Just as the civil service commission finds reason to confirm its question as to the wisdom of Mr. Clarkson's appointment, so men generally have already obtained demonstrations of the fact that Mr. Payne should not have been appointed by a man who professed, as Mr. Roosevelt did, ardent devotion to the principles of the civil service.

Commenting upon the report made by the executive committee of the National Civil Service Reform league, the Indianapolis News, a newspaper that may usually be depended upon to support republican tickets, says: "Of course, there is nothing surprising in all this—it cannot even be called a matter of news. But it is well to have this censure of the president and his appointee from so authoritative a source. No one imagined that Mr. Roosevelt was thinking of fitness when he made the Clarkson appointment. No one for a moment thought that Mr. Clarkson would obey the civil service law except as he was compelled to do so. There seem to have been two reasons for his selection. It is said that the president wished to oblige Senator Allison who, it was reported at the time, felt that he ought to 'take care' of Clarkson. The other reason was the desire to enlist on behalf of the president, Clarkson's supposed influence with southern republicans. So there is a sort of fitness in the appointment after all—not a fitness from the civil service reformer's point of view, but a real fitness none the less. Clarkson was abundantly qualified, not for the work of the office to which he was appointed, but for the work which he was expected to do outside of the office. And he seems to have been doing that work."

MEN ARE NEEDED.

Under this title the Columbus (O.) Press has an editorial calling attention to the importance of nominating strong, clean men for the legislature in Ohio. The Press is right. Only men of integrity and good standing should be selected as democratic candidates for the legislature. This is especially necessary in Ohio with Mr. Hanna as a candidate. Those who recollect the bribery resorted to at his former election will understand how necessary it is to have incorruptible democrats in the legislature this year.

But why should this caution be necessary? It ought to be apparent to every member of the party that the reputation of the party and its usefulness depend upon the selection of good men all the time. It is a great mistake to suppose that it is ever wise to nominate men who are either incompetent or dishonest. The party suffers every time one of its officials betrays a trust. If the democrats everywhere would take an interest in politics, nominate their best men and present the 'ghost party' ideals to the public the party would soon be irresistibly strong.

Eternal vigilance is not only the price of liberty, but it is the price of party success.

Democratic Clubs Organized.

Jeffersonian club, Manhattan, Kas.; membership, seventy; Arthur P. Williston, president; John Dougherty, secretary.

Old Hickory club of Manfortin precinct, Galatin county, Montana; charter members, twenty-one; John M. Robinson, president; A. C. Reeves, secretary.

Democratic club of O'Neill, Neb.; seventy members; Wm. Fallon, president; J. F. O'Donnell, secretary.

Mr. Bryan's Democracy.

The gold democrats, unable to make a successful attack upon the principles for which Mr. Bryan stood as the nominee of the party, and which he now defends, are attempting to question his right to membership in the democratic party. Three points are urged against him. First, he is quoted as saying at some time (the date is not fixed) prior to 1896, that he was not a democrat, but a bimetallist. Second, that he voted for General Weaver in 1892; and, third, that he advocated principles which are not democratic.

The first charge is entirely without foundation. Mr. Bryan never at any time or place denied his political affiliation with the democratic party or permitted it to be questioned. His parents were democrats before him, and he counted himself a democrat in his youth because his parents were, and after he was grown, was a democrat because of his belief in democratic principles and policies. He made democratic speeches in 1880, before he was old enough to vote, and has made democratic speeches in every campaign since. He has attended democratic conventions for about twenty years, and has never been a delegate to a convention of any other party. He has favored fusion with the populists in Nebraska for the reason that upon the questions immediately before the country the populists and democrats agree, their differences being as to questions not reached.

In 1890 Mr. Bryan was nominated for congress by a democratic convention and was elected, defeating both the republican candidate and the populist candidate. He was renominated for congress in 1892 and again elected, defeating this time also a populist as well as a republican. In 1894 he was the nominee of the democratic state convention for the United States senate, but was not endorsed by the populist state convention. While he would probably have received the votes of the populist members of the legislature if their votes could have elected him, just as Senator Allen had received the democratic votes in the legislature two years before, the republicans had a majority in the legislature elected in 1894—the year in which Mr. Cleveland's administration was so overwhelmingly condemned. Nearly all of the populists voted for a member of their own party.

At the close of the 53rd congress, in March, 1895, Mr. Bryan joined with Mr. Bland in preparing and circulating an appeal to the democratic believers in bimetalism to organize and secure control of the democratic organization. From that date on to the meeting of the Chicago convention, he visited all parts of the country, attending democratic meetings and conventions and giving whatever assistance he could to the democratic believers in bimetalism. There was never any question raised as to his party relations.

In 1894 a few democrats left the democratic state convention and nominated what they called "a straight democratic ticket." This ticket received about five thousand votes in the state. The bolting organization was maintained until after the election of 1896. In 1895 the organization secured for this ticket an unfair advantage by collusion with the republican judges. In 1896 both organizations sent delegates to Chicago, and the national committee, by a strict gold and silver vote, gave temporary credentials to the bolting organization. The credentials committee of the convention, however, after a full hearing, decided in favor of the regular delegation, headed by Mr. Bryan, and the testimony before this committee was so clear and convincing that the minority did not present a report.

During all this period it will be seen that Mr. Bryan was active in party work and gave no excuse for any one to doubt his party connections.

Congressman O'Farrall, afterwards governor