

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Vol. 3. No. 33.

Lincoln, Nebraska, September 4, 1903.

Whole No. 137.

## Nebraska Convention

The democratic state convention held at Columbus, Neb., August 25, was an enthusiastic gathering. The Kansas City platform was reaffirmed and state issues were met and dealt with in true democratic spirit. Judge John J. Sullivan, now chief justice of the Nebraska supreme court, was renominated.

Judge Sullivan has made a good record and has adhered to the rule which in his speech of acceptance he laid down for the guidance of all judges that the one thing above all others that should characterize the conduct of a judge is "independence—absolute judicial independence."

The nominees for regents of the state university, William O. Jones of Adams county and Dr. E. O. Weber of Saunders county, are good men. Professor Jones is well known as an educator, although he is not now actively engaged in educational work. He is a man of large experience and an energetic student. Dr. Weber is a young man who stands high among his neighbors; and should these gentlemen be elected, it may be depended upon they will contribute materially to the welfare of Nebraska's great university.

Fusion between the two parties was accomplished without difficulty. Indeed, the populist convention had nominated Judge Sullivan before the democratic convention at Columbus had reached that order in the proceedings.

So far as the public welfare is concerned, no comparison is to be made between the ticket chosen at Grand Island and at Columbus and the ticket chosen by the republican party. Several weeks before the republican convention nominated Mr. Barnes, for judge of the supreme court, it was generally understood that Mr. Barnes was the choice of the railroad lobby. Judge Sullivan did not ask, indeed, did not desire a renomination; but he could not avoid the honor and it came to him because the democrats and populists of Nebraska recognize that it is important to the people of this state that Judge Sullivan be re-elected. He owes his renomination to the good record he has made during six years of faithful service on the supreme bench of the state, and if the people of Nebraska fail to indorse that record at the polls, the people will in the end be the losers.

### A Cheering Sign, Indeed.

In an address delivered July 24 before the Chautauqua assembly at Long Beach, Cal., Senator Dolliver, republican, of Iowa, said:

"Our two charters of liberty, the Declaration of Independence and the constitution, are more secure in the love of the world than they have ever been. Both have had to fight for mere existence through almost every year of national life. The strength of the nation today comes from the very fact that these fights have been made and they were well made. For years slavery put to shame the sublime declaration of human equality before law, and now our attitude toward the Chinese, the Indian and the negro puts it to a new shame. I cannot believe that the fathers intended to exclude any man or any race. To do so I must disparage their minds or hearts."

Commenting on and approving this statement, the Des Moines Register and Leader, a republican paper, declares that such sentiments "tend to elevate and broaden our conceptions of the future of the republic." The Register and Leader adds:

"Ten years ago such a sentiment as Senator Dolliver has voiced would have been a commonplace of American patriotism. It is a sign of the times that it is today a noteworthy utterance. There has been a tremendous retrograde movement in the democratic ideals of the country, and the old time 'rights of man' that has been a sort of American

shibboleth, is now a subject for debate. It is a cheering sign that a young and eloquent champion like Senator Dolliver does not hesitate in the midst of the present day clamor about 'inferior races,' to recall the people to the sturdy convictions of other days, and to raise without hesitation the standard of Abraham Lincoln."

When Senator Dolliver refers to the Declaration of Independence as "a charter of liberty," he challenges the attention of thoughtful citizens to the policies of the republican party with respect to "our new possessions."

When Senator Dolliver says he cannot believe that "the fathers intended to exclude any man or any race" from "the sublime declaration of human equality before law," then Senator Dolliver condemns the republican policies.

The Des Moines Register and Leader says that "there has been a tremendous retrograde movement in the democratic ideals of the country, and the old time 'rights of man' that has been a sort of American shibboleth, is now a subject for debate." And yet this Iowa republican paper must remember that the republican party is responsible for this situation.

This Iowa republican paper says that "It is a cheering sign that a young and eloquent champion like Senator Dolliver does not hesitate in the midst of the present day clamor about 'inferior races' to recall the people to the sturdy convictions of other days, and to raise without hesitation the standard of Abraham Lincoln." And yet democratic orators and democratic newspapers long ago reminded the people of the truths which Abraham Lincoln sought to impress upon the men of his time and recalled the principles to which the American fathers appealed in the struggle for their own liberties. And yet all over the land republican newspapers had nothing but sneers for these reminders and these suggestions.

It is safe to say, also, that while the paragraph quoted from the Des Moines Register and Leader may fairly serve as condemnation for the republican policies of today, if one were to ask the editor of the Register and Leader if he approves the war of conquest in the Philippines, if he approves the policy of imperialism, if he approves the un-American attitude which the republican administration has assumed toward the people of the Orient, the editor of that Iowa republican paper would promptly answer that he does approve of these things. And yet as a general proposition, he hails it as "a cheering sign that a young and eloquent champion like Senator Dolliver does not hesitate in the midst of the present day clamor about 'inferior races' to recall the people to the sturdy convictions of other days, and to raise, without hesitation, the standard of Abraham Lincoln!"

## Democratic Clubs Organized

Jefferson Democratic club, Philadelphia, Pa.; membership, 49; Jas. B. Byrne, president.

Democratic club, Buffalo, N. Y.; 100 charter members; Judson E. Brown, president; Fred M. Ferrow, secretary.

The Jefferson Democratic club of Cavanaugh, Ky.; membership, 17.

The Democratic club, Whitesboro, Tex.; 75 members; D. B. Steed, president; W. S. Buster, corresponding secretary.

W. R. Hearst Jefferson Democratic club, Fargo, Fla.; 46 members.

Cosmic Democratic society, New York, N. Y.; 50 members; Moses Siegel, president; Benjamin Siegel, corresponding secretary.

A college education is within the reach of every earnest and industrious young man and woman who will take advantage of The Commoner's educational offer. Those interested are cordially invited to write for particulars.

## The Ohio Convention

The Ohio democratic state convention met last week. The platform adopted will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The platform contains inherent evidence of the handiwork of Hon. Tom L. Johnson, the nominee of the convention for governor. It not only puts the party in that state squarely on record in favor of the Kansas City platform, but commits the party to the taxation reform measures which Mr. Johnson has been urging.

The convention nominated Mr. John H. Clark of Cleveland for the United States senate. Running on the platform adopted, he is pledged to the principles and policies indorsed at the last national convention.

While Mr. Johnson is the gubernatorial candidate he is even more interested in the election of a democratic legislature than in his own election because the next legislature will elect a successor to Senator Hanna and will also have to deal with important questions of taxation.

The McLean element endeavored both to defeat the nomination of Johnson and to make the platform colorless, and in the campaign that element will throw every possible obstacle in the way of success, but with a platform that is honest, definite and fearless the party can appeal to those honest republicans who are becoming tired of corporation rule in their own party. If the democratic party expects to win the confidence and support of earnest men it must show itself earnest.

Every reader of The Commoner will bid God-speed to Johnson and those on the ticket with him. A victory in Ohio this fall would not only accomplish wonderful good for the people of that state, but it would stimulate the party all over the country and give an auspicious beginning to the campaign of 1904.

### Playing For Trust Support.

Every republican who imagines that Mr. Roosevelt is really determined to "shackle cunning as in the past we have shackled force," and that he is willing to stand for the people's interests against the schemes of the financiers and the trust magnates, should read the interesting dispatch printed in the Chicago Record-Herald of Monday, August 24, from Walter Wellman, its Washington correspondent.

Mr. Wellman says: "The important point and the new point is that President Roosevelt is behind this currency reform scheme pushing as only he knows how to push. He organized and promoted the effort." And then Mr. Wellman asks: "Why is President Roosevelt so much interested in currency reform?"

Mr. Wellman's reply to his own question is so interesting that it deserves the widest possible publication. He says:

"Mr. Roosevelt's masterly skill as a politician has been employed so successfully that no one suspects he is a politician—the best test in the world. Having become the most popular man in the United States and having won the enthusiastic approval of the masses by his fight upon the trusts and the corporations, Mr. Roosevelt not long ago began to cast about for methods by which he might even up. He had the people with him, but the trusts, the corporations, the financial leaders, the bankers were hostile. This hostility was centered in New York. It chanced that in New York and among these very people there was a general and earnest desire for a reformation of our currency system. The president has gone in for that reformation with his accustomed ardor and energy, and it will not be his fault if the financial people of New York do not soon look on him with more favor."

It is generally understood that Mr. Wellman is