

limiting the hours of labor, abolishing the sweat shop and prohibiting the employment of children.

Just as we recognize that air, which is essential to our existence, may become disastrous when it takes the form of a tornado; that water, although necessary to life, may destroy life when it becomes a flood, and that fire, which saves us from the cold may, if unchecked, consume us, so we recognize that competition, a vital principle and essential for the development of the race, may under some conditions defeat the ends of justice and humanity. But there is as much difference between an honest effort to regulate competition and make it productive of good, and an effort to exterminate it, as there is between the labors of a physician and a hangman.

Other phases of this subject will be discussed in a subsequent issue of *The Commoner*. It is sufficient for the present to point out that the democrats, instead of being properly described as socialists, are in fact the truest friends of individualism. The corporation papers and the reorganizers who delight in applying the name "socialism" to Kansas City platform democracy, are in reality the ones who are advancing the cause of socialism by their servile defense of organized wealth.

### Praise From the Chronicle.

Those who read the *Chicago Chronicle* today and who remember how much like its present editorials were its editorials of 1896, will turn with pleasure to the following editorial which appeared on Friday morning, July 6, 1900. To some this may seem an oasis in the desert of abuse, but to those who are well informed it will only show that what the *Chronicle* says is governed by the interests that it has to serve, and not by any principles or convictions. In 1900 it was trying to get back the subscribers lost in 1896 and it regarded Mr. Bryan as a "sincere" man and as an "honest" man. Now, although Mr. Bryan is defending the same platform upon which he ran in 1900, he is, according to the *Chicago Chronicle*, anything but honest and sincere. It thought that the party would go forth "with steadfast loyalty to the leader thus chosen;" it declared that "the reunited democracy should go forth to a certain and merited triumph." Now the very suggestion of that same platform, according to the *Chronicle*, rends the party in twain and insures certain and deserved defeat.

The editorial reads as follows:

#### NOMINATION OF MR. BRYAN.

"In obedience to the practically unanimous voice of a reunited party the democratic national convention has again placed William J. Bryan in nomination for the presidency.

"The honor is a distinguished one from whatever point of view it may be regarded.

Four years ago Mr. Bryan, who was not then an avowed candidate, was called to party leadership in a moment of great excitement, not to say of passion, on the part of the convention. This year he is summoned with deliberation and with unanimity to the same high place.

"In 1896 his unexpected elevation, for which neither the party nor the country was fully prepared, caused dissensions among democrats which soon led to open and apparently hopeless rupture.

"Today Mr. Bryan reappears as the democratic candidate with no evidence anywhere in the organization of protest or opposition. It is true that here and there democrats may be found who would have preferred another nominee, but it may be stated with emphasis that never in the history of the party has a presidential candidate been placed in the field with greater unanimity or with more genuine cordiality on the part of his supporters.

"It is plain, therefore, that during these four years Mr. Bryan has been a growing man. He has impressed himself upon his party and upon the country. His energy, his zeal, his sincerity, have not been and cannot be questioned, even by his most implacable foes. An honest man, whose honesty is recognized and admitted, is a power in himself, and Mr. Bryan is an honest man.

"The campaign which is about to open promises to be one of the most momentous in the history of the republic. It is a good omen that the democracy is able to enter upon the contest with harmony and enthusiasm and with a leader whose ability, courage and candor are admitted by all.

"There is not much doubt that democrats constitute a majority of the electorate today. To harmonize, to inspire and to urge that majority to the polls and make it effective in the election of Mr. Bryan is now the duty of all democrats who have contributed to his splendid indorsement by the Kansas City convention.

"With this end in view, with toleration for

honest differences of opinion on non-essentials, with kindly oblivion for past quarrels and with steadfast loyalty to the leader thus chosen, the reunited democracy should go forth to a certain and a merited triumph."

### Judges are Human.

*Collier's Weekly* takes exception to Mr. Bryan's statement at Chicago to the effect that "it is as important to have judges who sympathize with the people as to have judges earned in the law." It says:

"When sympathy takes the place of fidelity to the law, the basis of our civilization will be endangered. The 'people' in this country are supposed to be all the people, and it is not for judges to make class discriminations. There are wrongs to be remedied—some by legislation, some by the executive departments, but the courts are to have an eye singly to what is law, if we are to succeed in government as England has succeeded."

If the editor of *Collier's Weekly* knows so little about human nature as to believe that the elevation of a man to the bench makes him wholly impartial on questions that involve great interests, his criticism of Mr. Bryan's statement can be attributed to his lack of information. If, however, as is very probable, he understands the influence that sympathy exerts upon the courts, his criticism merely proves that his own sympathies are with the corporations that are today controlling some of our judges, as well as the executive, the senate and congress.

It is a beautiful theory that the judge, when he takes his place upon the bench, purges himself of all previously formed opinions and impressions, but the decision of the Hayes-Tilden electoral commission showed that judges are as liable to bias as senators and congressmen. Will the editor of *Collier's Weekly* argue that the five judges on that commission who divided on political lines each had an "eye singly to what is law?" Will he say that the nine judges who divided five to four on the income tax each had "an eye singly to what is law?" Will he say that the nine judges who divided five to four on the question of imperialism each had "an eye singly to what is law?" Will he say that the nine judges who divided five to four on the merger case each had "an eye singly to what is law?"

There is no known way in which judicial sympathy can be entirely extracted, and as some will necessarily remain, it is important that the judge shall sympathize with the masses of the people who ask only equal rights, and not with the few who are always claiming special privileges. If the trusts make a man rich with big fees and then make him a supreme judge by the aid of a president elected by trust funds, may he not lean toward the trusts? What does *Collier's Weekly* say?

### As to Bolting.

The men who bolted in 1896 are very solicitous just now lest some who were loyal in 1896 intend to bolt in 1904 if the party is made to represent Wall street ideas. Several statements have been made in regard to Mr. Bryan's purpose. A statement has been going the rounds to the effect that Mr. Bryan asked a citizen of Lincoln if he (the citizen) would bolt with him (Mr. Bryan) in case the Kansas City platform was not reaffirmed. The dispatch further said that the said citizen declined to make a promise to bolt, and that Mr. Bryan then had him defeated for delegate to the national convention. The story is entirely without foundation. No such conversation ever occurred, and Mr. Bryan took no part in the selection of the delegate from his home county.

This false report is only referred to to show the extremity to which the reorganizers are driven. Not being able to make their fight on honest grounds, they are constantly resorting to misrepresentation.

Mr. Bryan has refused to discuss the subject of bolting, because he believes that each individual must decide his political duty for himself, according to his conscience and his judgment, and that this decision cannot be intelligently made until the issues and candidates are presented and the citizen is able to judge the purposes and plans of the various parties.

Mr. Bryan received a letter recently from a citizen of a western state asking him to state whether he proposed to bolt or would vote the ticket "no matter what platform was adopted and no matter who was nominated." His answer will be found below, and it states his views upon

the subject. Whenever a reader of *The Commoner* sees a statement at variance with these views he may know that it is without foundation.

"My Dear Sir: Your favor at hand. While a democrat presumes that his convention will write a platform and nominate a ticket that he can conscientiously support, it is not a conclusive presumption and I do not believe that any one ought to be asked or expected to say that no matter what a convention does, he will support the ticket. For that reason I defer until the convention has acted a decision upon the course that I will pursue.

"If the rule suggested by you were the correct one—namely, that whatever the platform and whoever the candidate, the ticket should be supported at the polls, then there would be no need of a campaign, because no rule is a sound one that does not answer as well for republicans as for democrats. There is no more reason why every democrat should pledge himself in advance than there is that every republican should, and if all did, campaigns would not change a vote. If that is a correct rule, then when a party is once in power it is useless to attempt to dislodge it, because it can only be dislodged by a change in political affiliations. And then, too, you will notice that the eastern democrats never pledge themselves to support the ticket, and there is no reason why western democrats should hold at a lower value their duty to give to their country their best conscience and their best judgment at the time when action is required.

"Because eastern democrats refuse to make promises and assert their right to independent action after the convention, their opinions are now being consulted, while it is not thought necessary to consult the opinions of those who vociferously announce that neither their convictions nor their interests need be considered, but that they can be counted upon to hurrah for anything in the platform and to change their own opinions whenever the eastern democrats decide that the time has come to change. Yours truly,

"W. J. BRYAN."

### Governor Villada of Mexico.

In the death of Jose Vincente Villada, governor of the state of Mexico, the republic of Mexico loses one of its ablest, purest and most progressive public men. Governor Villada distinguished himself in the wars of Mexico, but has won even greater renown as an executive. Modest, unassuming, and passionately devoted to the interests of his people, he has been an example in private life and a model in official conduct.

When the editor of *The Commoner* visited Toluca, the capital of the state of Mexico, the governor was able to report an increase of an hundred per cent both in the attendance and in the number of schools during the previous ten years. The city had just completed a large, free hospital, equipped with all the modern conveniences and appliances, and had also established public laundries, with kindergartens near by, where the children could be taught while the mothers were at work. Recently he established a permanent exposition in the capital of his state for the encouragement and diversification of industry. He has taken a great interest in the Mexican exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, and was one of the Mexican commissioners. While actively identified with every interest of his state, he was especially considerate of the wage-earners, and was immensely popular with the masses.

Besides his public work he distributed largely in unostentatious charity, many a poor child being indebted to him for care and education.

The *Mexican Herald*, in speaking of the governor, says: "Governor Villada was one of the most progressive men of Mexico and one of the best state governors. His love for the working classes is well known, he having largely contributed to improve their condition. Recently the state congress approved a bill sent by him, to the effect that workmen injured while at work receive an indemnity from their employers. No such beneficent law exists in any other state of the republic."

### Democratic Opportunity in Wisconsin.

The split in the republican party in Wisconsin gives the democratic party its opportunity. Governor La Follette is making a courageous fight for two state reforms—primaries and more equitable taxation—but he is indorsing republican national policies that are just as bad as the local