

The Commoner.

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...A WORD WITH DEMOCRATS...

Every man is responsible for his influence, be it small or great. Every democrat who votes for Parker votes to defeat Roosevelt. Every democrat who does not vote for Parker contributes toward the election of Roosevelt. On every question upon which Judge Parker's position is open to criticism, President Roosevelt's position is worse; where they differ, as they do on many important questions, Parker is right and Roosevelt is wrong.

Roosevelt favors a high tariff; Parker favors tariff reform. Roosevelt favors a standing army of 60,000 at the minimum; Parker favors a reduction of the army.

Roosevelt has brought the race issue into national politics; Parker would remove the race issue from politics.

Roosevelt stands for a colonial policy; Parker favors independence for the Filipinos and would make the promise now.

Roosevelt took into the white house a spirit of war; Judge Parker would substitute for it a spirit of peace.

Four years more of Roosevelt would make economic and industrial reform more difficult; Judge Parker's election would clear the way for economic issues. Let no democrat, by voting against Parker or by refusing to vote, take upon himself responsibility for four years more of Rooseveltism.

Watson's Letter of Acceptance

On another page will be found the letter of acceptance of Hon. Thomas E. Watson, the populist candidate for the presidency. Mr. Watson has discussed with great ability the issues as he sees them. He has called attention to the encroachments of organized wealth and vividly pictured the economic evils which must be remedied. He has, however, neglected to give to militarism, imperialism and the race issue the emphasis which they deserve. He thinks that the democratic party can not be relied upon for relief and that Mr. Bryan ought to join the populist party, or, at least, oppose Judge Parker. Mr. Bryan gave this subject careful consideration before he took a position and believes that he can better aid economic reform by supporting Judge Parker than he could by helping to elect Mr. Roosevelt, whether he gave the assistance directly by voting for the republican nominee or indirectly by voting for the populist nominee. Four years more of Roosevelt means four years more of a large army and an increasing navy; it means four years more of imperialism with danger of foreign complications and such domestic imitations as we are having in Colorado; it means four years more race issue accentuated and intensified; it means four years more of war spirit in the white house which may at any time involve the nation in unnecessary conflict with other nations. Mr. Bryan can not help his country or those with whom he has been associated by assuming responsibility for four years more of Rooseveltism. Whenever Judge Parker is open to criticism President Roosevelt is worse. While Judge Parker's election does not promise all that Mr. Bryan would desire, it does promise several things of value.

It promises a reduction of the army. This will reduce taxation and remove from the laboring class the menace of the present policy.

Judge Parker's election promises relief from the race issue and this will permit the democrats of the south to turn their thoughts again to economic questions. It will also rid the country of imperialism and insure a return to the sacred doctrine of self-government, and it will notify the world that the nation has returned to its former ideal and will seek to influence other nations by example rather than by force.

With these things accomplished the way will be open for the discussion of economic questions. Those who desire reform must consider not only the reforms but also the best means of reaching them. Mr. Watson, looking at the subject from his standpoint, thinks that the defeat of Judge Parker will accelerate reform even if it results in Mr. Roosevelt's election. Mr. Bryan believes that Judge Parker's election would hasten reforms by removing issues that now block the way. In 1894 Mr. Bryan advocated the endorsement of the populist candidate for governor in Nebraska because any other course would have given indirect aid to the republicans. He now supports the democratic candidate, though differing from him on some questions, and by so doing hopes to assist in defeating

the republican candidate who stands for the rule of money under a reign of force.

Rooseveltism

Now that it has been formally announced that in the event of Mr. Roosevelt's election, John Hay will continue as secretary of state, it is interesting to read in the Chicago Inter Ocean, a republican paper, the following editorial:

Secretary Hay's address before the international peace congress at Boston on Monday meant that Mr. Hay had another great project for meddling in other nations' business. Apparently he now proposes to have the United States lead a movement to interfere in the Orient, ostensibly for peace.

The war in the Orient is absolutely none of our business as a nation. Whatever may be our feelings and sympathies as individuals, as long as our own national interests are not impaired, we ought to stand aside and give no sign, whether the Japanese drive the Russians out of Asia or the Russians drive the Japanese into the Pacific ocean.

To endeavor to convince Mr. Hay of this fact is probably useless. By nature and education he has been disqualified to grasp it. However, Mr. Roosevelt must understand the perilousness of Mr. Hay's program. He must see that sooner or later Mr. Hay's attempt to play the part of special providence all around the earth will cause his administration to be regarded with alarm at home and the country to be viewed abroad as a professional busybody, of about the caliber of France under Napoleon III, and with about the same desire for trouble.

Before we are slapped in the face under circumstances that compel us to fight or crawl, can't we learn to mind our own business?

Does the Inter Ocean really imagine that if Mr. Hay has a great project for meddling in other nations' affairs and intends to have the United States lead a movement to interfere in the Orient, Mr. Roosevelt would discourage his efforts?

Mr. Roosevelt is very fond of war; we have his word for that. The disposition to meddle with the affairs of other nations ascribed to Mr. Hay by the Inter Ocean editor is distinctly the Roosevelt disposition. If the editor of the Inter Ocean hopes to impress Mr. Hay with the idea that we should "mind our own business" he will find it necessary to select as an instructor some one other than the present occupant of the white house.

"Bares Crime in Mines" is the staring headline the Chicago Record-Herald puts over its telegraphed story of the alleged confession of Robert Romaine, who said he exploded the powder at Independence station and killed fourteen men. Has the Record-Herald given similar prominence to the real facts about Romaine?

The Virus of War

It is announced that the "national board for the promotion of rifle practice" will meet at the war department Saturday, October 22. We are told "this board is composed of twenty-one members, including five members from the regular army and navy establishment, eight trustees of the National Rifle association and eight members from the country at large. It was authorized by congress in order that the army and navy, the militia and civilians interested in rifle practice might be drawn into closer communication and that ways and means might be devised by which the interest of the general public in rifle practice might be stimulated."

Congress appropriated funds for the purchase of a national trophy to be shot for annually under regulations prepared by the board. A statement issued under authority of the board says that at the coming meeting steps will be taken for the preparation of a bill to be submitted to congress early in December providing for the carrying out of the plans of the board. We are told that these plans are "very comprehensive" and "begin with the education of boys in military schools and provide for the encouragement of rifle practice for both civilians and members of the militia on a large and liberal scale."

The authorized statement says: "The board recommends the establishment of shooting galleries and field ranges; the distribution of arms and ammunition; supervision and instruction; inducement for practice, such as trophies, badges, etc.; and, the publication and distribution of literature bearing on this subject. As an initial step in this direction the board recommends an annual appropriation of one million dollars for five years to be expended in the purchase of equipment of ranges under the direction of the secretary of war."

The statement quotes Assistant Secretary of War Oliver as saying: "It is all important that the soldier should know how to shoot and to hit what he shoots at," also "a high degree of skill in rifle and revolver shooting and the confidence which a knowledge of this skill brings will make a timid man brave and a brave man more courageous."

This is Rooseveltism plain and simple.

Mr. Roosevelt once said that a soldier should not only be willing but anxious to fight; and here we have a board appealing to congress for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 each year for the purpose of impressing upon the youth of the land the idea that the important thing for the citizen to learn is to shoot and shoot well.

Does it not occur to the thoughtful citizen that in this matter of war and the training of our youth for war we are "spinning a web infernally fine?"

Would it not be better to train our boys in the arts of peace?

It is not the ability to discharge firearms with unerring aim that makes a timid man brave or a brave man more courageous. The knowledge that his cause is just, the consciousness that he has