

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Vol. 5, No. 9.

Lincoln, Nebraska, March 17, 1905.

Whole Number 217

CONTENTS

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE—ORGANIZE
Now.

FILIPINO PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL

THERE IS A LAW

WHERE THE SENATE SCORED

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL

DISAPPOINTING

PERILS OF CONCENTRATION

DEMOCRATIC GROUND

JOHN S. REAGAN

NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK AT WASHINGTON

Filipino Progress Association

A number of persons, among whom are mentioned Andrew Carnegie, Cardinal Gibbons, President Schurman of Cornell, President Eliot of Harvard, President Jordan of Stanford, Prof. Van Dyke of Princeton, Horace White and others, have formed the "Filipino Progress Association," for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Filipinos with a view to their ultimate independence. Dr. Schurman is president of the association and Mr. White treasurer. It will be remembered that Dr. Schurman was one of the commissioners appointed by President McKinley to visit the islands soon after American occupation. The association is organized to continue the work begun by the anti-imperialist league, and will give voice to the growing sentiment in favor of Philippine independence.

THE RIVAL SHOWS



WHICH ONE IS THE FAKE?

The Primary Pledge—Organize Now

Mr. Bryan has been in receipt of a multitude of letters since the election urging organization for the campaign of 1908. The rank and file of the party are ready to begin the fight; they only await a plan of co-operation. This plan has been under consideration for some weeks and is herewith submitted.

Let each democrat pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

This plan does not involve the writing of a platform in advance of the primaries; it does not rest upon the paramount importance of any one issue. It recognizes the right of the democratic

voters to control the policy of the democratic party, and to determine its position upon public questions. It also recognizes the importance of honesty and sincerity in politics.

This proposition will appeal to all who believe in the rule of the people—to all who are willing that the majority shall govern in party management and in the nation. It does not mean that those who exert themselves to secure a good platform will be bound to support a bad platform—that is a question which each must determine for himself—but it does mean that the democratic platform shall give voice to the prevailing sentiment of the democratic party, and that the party shall take the country into its confidence. The pledge proposed is a primary pledge—because the people speak at the primaries. The national convention is attended by delegates and each delegate represents tens of thousands of democrats. The state convention is also attended by dele-

gates, and these represent thousands of democrats. The county conventions are, as a rule, attended by delegates, and these in turn represent hundreds of democrats. At the primary the voters speak for themselves; there democracy has its citadel.

When the work of organization is sufficiently advanced, a time can be set for the meeting of the members in their various localities. The members of this organization, while pledged to but one thing—namely, attendance upon the primaries—are urged to co-operate among themselves for the support of every effort put forth to eliminate corruption in politics. No cause can prosper permanently that does not appeal to the moral sense of the country, and the moral sense of the country is now being awakened to the importance of purifying politics.

The Commoner will do its part in aiding every movement that has for its object the ascertain-