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MAJORITY RULE LEAGUE

The Illinois democrats, who were counted out of the last state convention, are organizing to insure the rule of the majority in the democratic conventions of the future. The name of the organization is the Democratic Majority Rule League of Illinois, and the officers are: President, Hon. M. F. Dunlap, of Jacksonville; secretary and treasurer, Hon. Theodore Nelson, room 715, 100 Washington street, Chicago. The declaration published by the league will be found on another page. It will be noticed that the object of the league is not to assist any candidate, but to insure majority rule. It is exactly in line with the primary pledge plan proposed by The Commoner. All Illinois readers of The Commoner should put themselves in communication with the league and co-operate with it. The last Illinois democratic convention was a disgrace and those who were in charge ought to go into retirement for a while. The majority must rule.

ROOSEVELT, PEACEMAKER

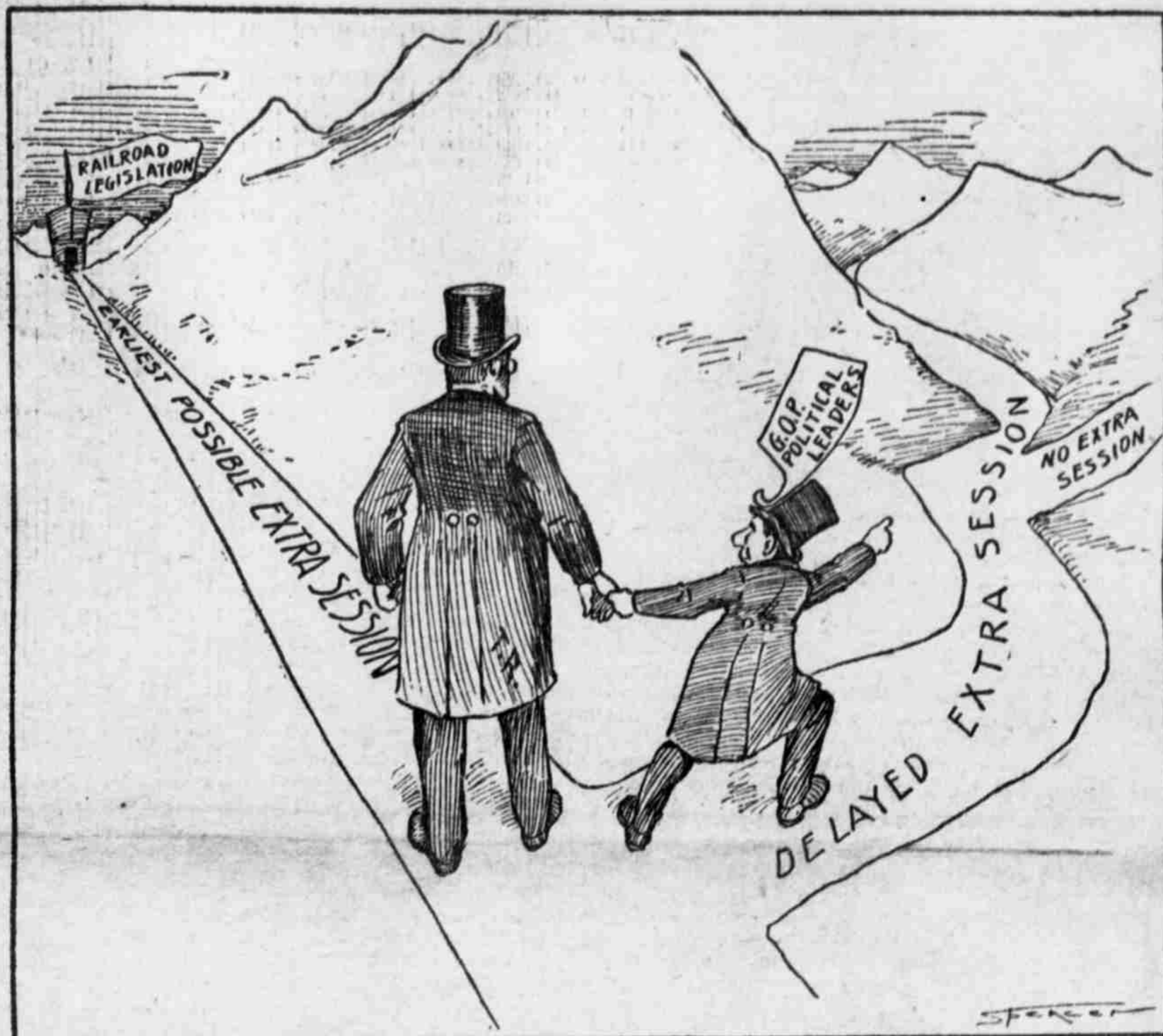
"Blessed are the peacemakers"—and all Americans should rejoice that it was an American president who proposed peace to Russia and Japan. It is sad to think that any international dispute can reach a point where bloodshed is demanded by either side, but it is gratifying that reason has at last been restored—its temporary dethronement was followed by an awful sacrifice.

President Roosevelt deserves credit for seizing upon an early moment to tender the good offices of the nation and it is fortunate that our country's attitude toward both of the belligerents is so friendly as to make it proper for us to take the initiative. It is to be hoped that the negotiations will be conducted in such a spirit of fairness as to make the peace a permanent one. In the meantime, the people of Russia are likely to find the time ripe for the securing of governmental reforms and if the czar's embarrassment results in the granting of constitutional government the nation will gain rather than lose by Japan's victory, whatever the terms agreed upon by the peace commissioners.

THE NEVER ENDING RIVALRY

The fact that Germany has just ordered six more torpedo boats, will give the large navy advocates in this country an excuse to clamor for more boats, and this clamor, if yielded to, can be used in Germany to justify still further purchases and so on ad infinitum.

DON'T BE LED ASTRAY.



The straight and narrow path is the only SURE road to the goal, Mr. President.

"MAN"

This address was delivered by Mr. Bryan at the commencement exercises of the Nebraska State University at the Auditorium in Lincoln, June 15, 1905, and also at the commencement exercises of his Alma Mater, Illinois College.

The Psalmist asks of Jehovah "What is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" And answering his own question he adds: "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor."

Man, in the sense in which the term describes the human being to whom the Creator has given dominion over earth, and air and sea, and upon whom He has imposed responsibilities commensurate with capabilities and possibilities—man, as thus defined, is an appropriate theme for an occasion like this, and its consideration is worthy not only of those who, having completed the course of study prescribed by this institution go forth to meet life's problems, but worthy also of the thought of those of us who are older.

Miracle of miracles is man! Most helpless of all God's creatures in infancy; most powerful when fully developed, and interesting always. What unfathomed possibilities are wrapped within the swaddling cloths that enfold a babe! Before its tongue can lisp a word it has brought to one woman the sweet consciousness of motherhood, and to one man the added strength that responsibility imposes. Before its tiny hands can lift a feather's weight; they have drawn two hearts closer together, and its innocent prattle echoes through two lives. Receiving impressions from all about it, it likewise leaves its impress upon all with whom it comes into contact. Not a day, not an hour, not a moment in all its life but is replete with power to give joy or sor-

row, help or harm. There is an infinite space between a statue, however flawless the marble, however faultless the workmanship, and a human being "afame with the passion of eternity."

If the statue can not, like a human being, bring the gray hairs of a parent "in sorrow to the grave," or devastate a nation, or with murderous hand extinguish the vital spark in a fellow being, neither can it, like a human being, minister to suffering mankind, nor scatter gladness "o'er a smiling land," nor yet claim the blessings promised in the Sermon on the Mount. Only to man, made in the divine likeness, is given the awful power to choose between measureless success and immeasurable woe.

Man shares with the animal a physical nature—he has a body, the citadel of the mind, the temporary tenement of the soul. It is necessary that this link in the endless chain that connects the generations past with the generations yet to come shall be made as strong as conditions, heredity and environment will permit. Infinitely varied are the physical capabilities bequeathed to us by our ancestors. Some of us are heirs to virtuous estates with which no courts can interfere; some of us bear in our bodies the evidence of ancestral sins and are living proof of the fact that the iniquities of the parents are visited upon the children. All of us inherit both weaknesses and elements of strength. It is within our power to conserve and to increase the strength that has come down to us, and it is also within our power to dissipate the physical fortune which we have