

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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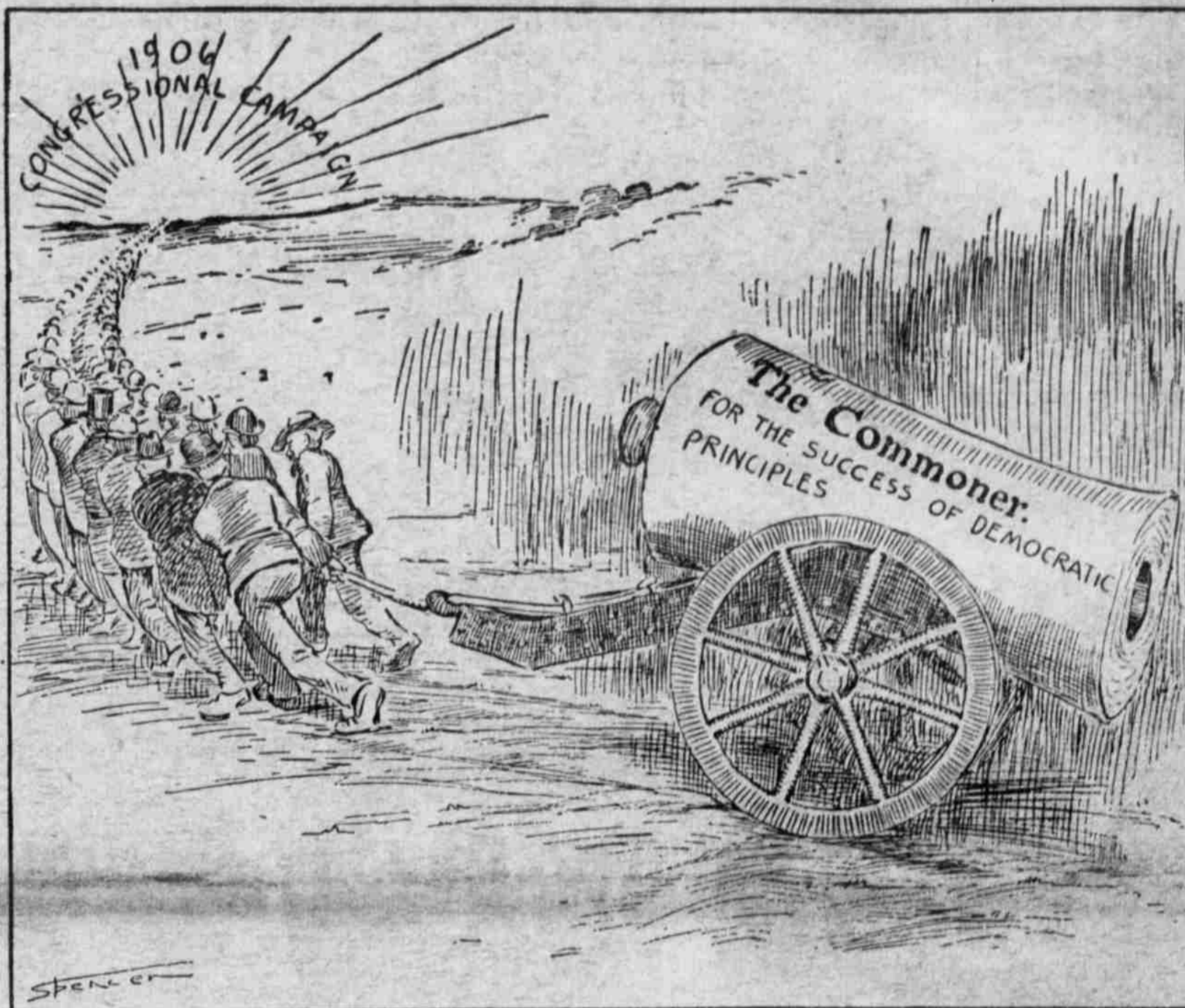
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THE COMMONER'S FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT



Seize the Towline and help get the artillery in position for the coming battle!

COMMONER DAY—SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Commoner feels that it owes to its readers an apology for having devoted in recent issues so much space to affairs directly relating to The Commoner itself. But it feels that "the end justifies the means."

General James B. Weaver, of Iowa, said, in effect, that the cause of democracy would be advanced by a material increase in The Commoner's circulation, and he therefore suggested that a certain day be set aside as "Commoner Day," on which day an extraordinary effort might be made by Commoner readers to increase the circulation of this publication.

Complying with that suggestion, Saturday, February 24, was designated as "Commoner Day." On that day any one may obtain one year's subscription to The Commoner for 60 cents, and Commoner readers everywhere are asked to devote at least a portion of that day to the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

While The Commoner was reluctant to devote a considerable portion of its space to anything that might be regarded as "a boom" for The Commoner, so many people have expressed their appreciation of The Commoner's efforts and their desire for an organized movement to increase its circulation that General Weaver's suggestion was acted upon and a special day was set aside for the co-operation of democrats who believe that it would be advantageous to the party and to the country if The Commoner's circulation could be materially increased.

We beg, therefore, that Commoner readers will understand that the considerable space which has recently been given toward "booming" this publication has been so used only because it was believed that with the enlarged circulation The Commoner would be able to render greater service to the principles which it has the honor to defend.

We take it for granted that this explanation is unnecessary to those who appreciate the difficulties under which the advocates of democracy labor in the effort to spread their principles before the public. Those who believe that The Commoner is doing good work must be impressed with the idea that The Commoner's circulation should be materially increased by way of preparation for the coming congressional campaign.

On "Commoner Day," Saturday, February 24, the subscription to The Commoner will be 60 cents—a sum as nearly at cost as it is possible to estimate.

Japan--Her Educational System And Her Religions

MR. BRYAN'S SIXTH LETTER

Back of Japan's astonishing progress along material lines lies her amazing educational development. Fifty years ago but few of her people could read or write, now considerably less than ten per cent would be classed as illiterate. It is difficult to conceive of such a transformation taking place almost within a generation. The prompt adoption of western methods and the rapid assimilation of western ideas give indubitable proof of the pre-existence of a vital national germ. A pebble dropped into soil, however rich, and cultivated no matter how carefully gives back no response to the rays of the springtime sun. Only the seed which has life within can be awakened and developed by light and warmth and care. Japan had within her the vital spark, and when the winter of her isolation was passed, her latent energies burst forth into strong and sturdy growth.

Her sons, ambitious to know the world, scattered themselves throughout Europe and America and having laden themselves with new ideas returned like bees to the hive. In this way Japan constantly gained from every quarter and her educational system is modeled after the best that the ages have produced. She has her primary schools for boys and girls, attendance being compulsory, and below these in many places there are kindergarten schools. The middle schools in which the boys and girls are separated take up the course of instruction where the primary schools leave off.

Then follow the universities, of which there are seven under the control of the government. Besides these there are in the cities institutions known as higher commercial schools which com-

bine general instruction with such special studies as are taught in our commercial colleges. There are also a number of normal schools for the training of teachers. In addition to the schools and colleges established and conducted by the government, there are a number founded by individuals and societies. The largest of these is Waseda college, founded and still maintained by Count Okuma, the leader of the progressive party. It is adjoining the home of the count and is built upon land which he donated. Dr. Hatoyama, at one-time speaker of the national house of representatives, who holds a degree from Yale college, is the official head of this institution; in all of its departments it has some five thousand students.

I have already referred in a former article to the Keio Gijuku, the college founded by Mr. Fukuzawa. The attendance here is not so large as at Waseda, but the institution has had an illustrious career and exerts a wide influence upon the country. I visited both of these colleges and never addressed more attentive or responsive audiences. As English is taught in all the middle schools, colleges and universities, the students are able to follow a speech in that language without an interpreter.

The state university at Tokyo includes six departments, law, medicine and engineering courses being provided as well as courses in literature, science and agriculture. The total number of students enrolled at this university is about thirty-five hundred. The national university at Kyoto has three faculties, law, medicine and science, the last named including engineering; the attendance at this university is between six and seven hundred. In the states of Choshu and Satsuma