

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 6. No. 48.

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 14, 1906.

Whole Number 308.

## CONTENTS

DEMOCRACY MUST MOVE FORWARD  
THE MONEY QUESTION  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND  
MADISON SQUARE SPEECH  
GOVERNOR DAVIS' PROGRAM  
A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT  
DOWN WITH THE SILVER TRUST  
DISCHARGE OF THE NEGRO TROOPS  
WASHINGTON NEWS  
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS  
HOME DEPARTMENT  
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT  
NEWS OF THE WEEK

### ARE THEY "DONE" WITH IT?

The New York Press, a republican paper, says: "The American people are done with this system of unrestrained corporations depriving a whole nation of its rights and liberties while the corporate powers declare that their privileges are sacred as their protection in them by the constitution is indefeasible. And if the corporations and their legal retainers can not see what every one else sees blazoned in the skies, the American people are also done arguing with them. They have only the answer of Napoleon to the stupid Archduke of Austria who, slave of worn-out formalities, could not comprehend the fact of the French republic. 'France,' said Napoleon, just at the moment he was crushing the shell of Austrian pretensions under his irresistible heel, 'is like the sun; so much the worse for him who can not see it!'"

If the American people are really anxious to be "done with this system of unrestrained corporations depriving a whole nation of its rights and liberties" then they will remove from power the party which habitually derives its campaign fund from these same corporations and habitually legislates in their favor.

### CONSTITUTION FOLLOWING THE FLAG

On another page will be found the message of the president just sent to congress relative to Porto Rico. It will be gratifying to democrats to know that the constitution is at last following the flag. The position taken by the president in favor of conferring full citizenship upon the Porto Ricans will be approved except that it ought not to be described as the conferring of citizenship. The bill ought to simply recognize that the Porto Ricans now possess full citizenship by virtue of the fact that they are a part of the United States. In 1900 the democrats insisted that the constitution keep company with our flag wherever that flag floated over American territory. The democrats insisted then and insist now that we can not properly have different kinds of citizenship—full citizenship in the United States, semi-citizenship in Porto Rico and vassalage in the Philippines. There is no twilight zone between citizenship and the condition of the subject. Democrats will rejoice in this new recognition of the correctness of the democratic position.

Porto Rico ought to have a territorial government, reserving the right to add to the territory from time to time as conditions may require. When Porto Rico became a part of the United States she had representation in the Spanish legislature, and while it will be some time before the people of Porto Rico are ready for statehood, they ought to have the territorial form of government and a delegate in congress.

## WELCOME TO THEM



Democracy—"There are a few left, Mr. President; you might as well get clear off your old platform and take 'em."

## Democracy Must Move Forward

There are increasing evidences that the democrats who call themselves conservative are quietly laying their plans for the capture of the next democratic convention. Attention is called to the matter, not that there is much danger of the plan succeeding, but that the readers of The Commoner may know what is going on. The argument made two years ago by the friends of Judge Parker was that President Roosevelt was unsatisfactory to the business element and that a conservative democrat like Judge Parker would be able to poll a large republican vote. It ought to have been plain to the party leaders that a candidate conservative enough to draw corporation republicans to his support would not be radical enough to hold the democratic voters, but it was thought that liberal campaign contributions could more than make up for defection among the rank and file. As unreasonable as were the arguments made, they were successful, and the democratic party made an experiment that will not be repeated, at least for some years. After the election the conservative element seemed to be entirely satisfied to allow the organization of the party to pass into the hands of those who believe in positive and aggressive democracy. As the campaign approaches, however, there are indications that some of the conservatives would rather keep the party in a minority than for it to take a position on the side of the people.

The Brooklyn Citizen has an editorial based upon the possibility of Mr. Roosevelt being a candidate again, which suggests that the next democratic convention may take the conservative side against the radicalism of the president. The democrats may as well recognize the situation and prepare for it. In the first place, there is no

probability or prospect of the president being a candidate again. He has so announced, and it is only fair to him to take him at his word. Even if he desired to be nominated, he would have difficulty in securing a nomination. There is a division in the republican party, and that division extends from the top of the party to the bottom. Mr. Roosevelt's radicalism has displeased the republican leaders, and his last message has very much aggravated the situation. The republicans who do not favor the president's policies, when supported by the republicans who earnestly oppose a third term, would be strong enough to prevent a renomination, so the thought of his nomination can safely be put aside.

Even if he were nominated, it would not be good policy for the democrats to plan a conservative campaign. If Mr. Roosevelt were a candidate, it would not only be wise but necessary for the democrats to make a radical fight. If the democratic party were to attempt to attack the president for endorsing democratic ideas, it would lose more democrats than it could gain republicans. If, on the other hand, it were to remain steadfast to democratic ideas and use the president's arguments to strengthen the democratic position, it would hold the democratic vote and the conservative republicans would be left to put up a candidate of their own and thus divide the republican strength to the advantage of the democrats.

But let us consider what is probable. There is no radical republican to succeed the president. Senator LaFollette would be his natural successor if Mr. Roosevelt's ideas controlled the republican convention, but the republican party is not yet ready to nominate a man like LaFollette. The