

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### GOODBYE TO THE CHRONICLE

Democrats everywhere will be interested in an Associated Press dispatch, dated Chicago, May 31. The dispatch follows: "The Chicago Chronicle this morning announces that it will cease publication with this issue owing to the fact that the paper has been unprofitable for some time. The official notice signed by the editor, H. W. Seymour, follows: 'As it has not been profitable of late, publication of the Chronicle will be suspended with this issue. All liabilities of the Chicago Chronicle company will be met in the regular course.' The Chronicle began publication on May 28, 1895, as the only democratic morning paper then in Chicago. John R. Walsh, one of the chief owners and formerly president of the Chicago National bank, refused the support of his paper to William J. Bryan during Bryan's candidacy for the presidency, and during the last national campaign the Chronicle came out as a republican newspaper. The last issue of the Chicago Chronicle was No. 4 of volume 13."

The Chronicle was an ably edited and handsomely printed newspaper, but it utterly failed as a democratic organ, because it used its great abilities in an effort to persuade its party to be undemocratic.

It was a good thing for the democratic party when the Chronicle deserted it and went over to the republicans. Neither the republican party nor the general public suffered when the Chronicle went out of business altogether, because it stood for special privilege and employed its great abilities to the detriment of the public interests in every serious contest between privilege and the general welfare.

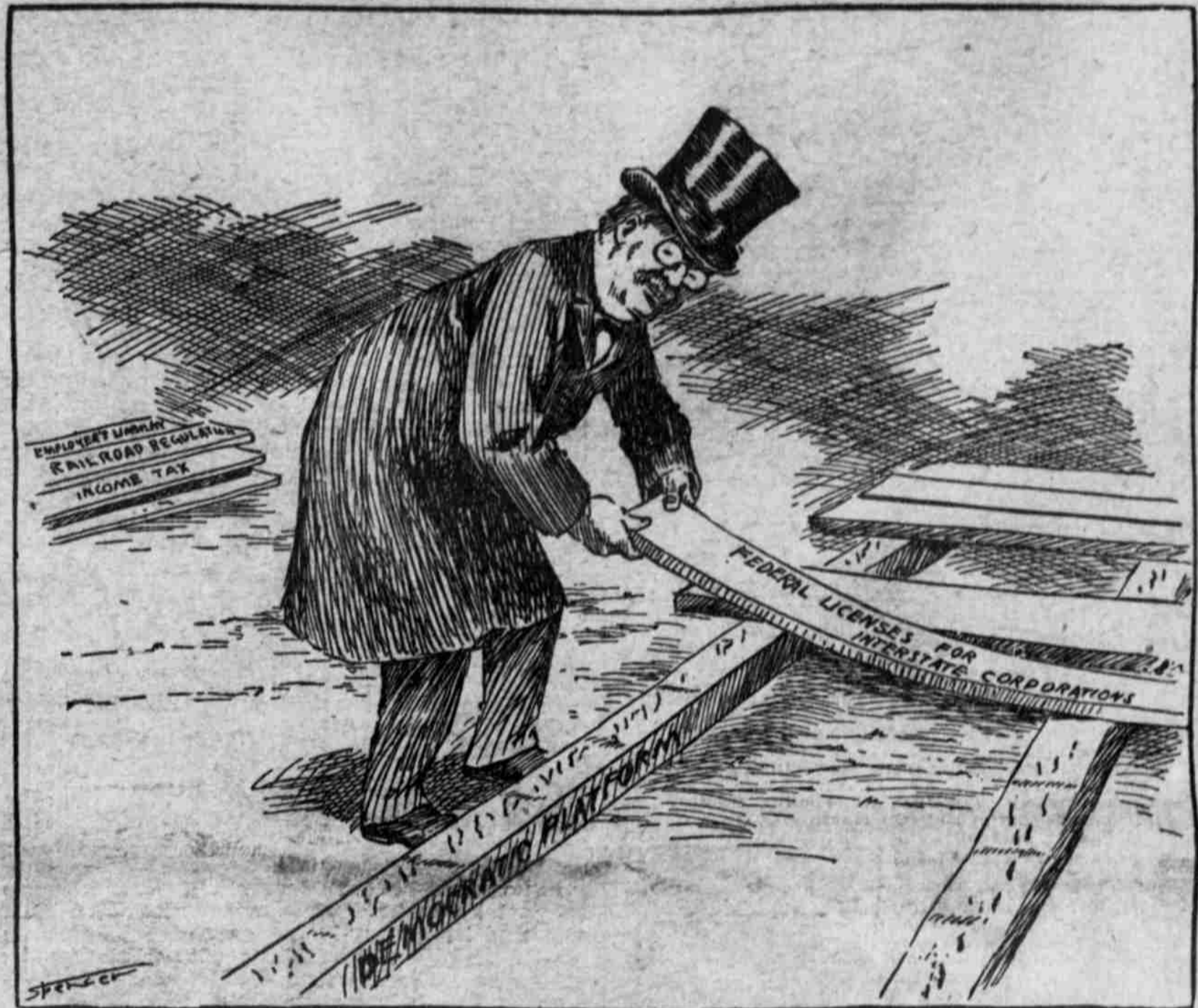
### ◇◇◇◇◇ RADICALISM

A New York newspaper that printed an editorial entitled, "The Drift to Radicalism," is given this valuable bit of reminder by one of its readers: "And what is there in radicalism to fear? Only this: that the people in their haste and earnestness for reform shall confuse capital with privilege, legitimate business methods with monopoly. There should be no war against capital as such; but privilege—the legal power to levy tribute without rendering an equivalent—must be abolished root and branch. This is the true radicalism which should be promoted by every real conservative."

### ◇◇◇◇◇ NOT FOR TAFT

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, republican, says: "Before the national conventions meet next year a new congress will have completed its long session. Cold storage is the best place for political predictions." Evidently the Globe-Democrat is not inclined to fall into line for William H. Taft.

## THE PRESIDENT AT INDIANAPOLIS



Mr. Roosevelt Adds Another to His Collection

## Judge Gaynor on Tainted Money

Judge W. J. Gaynor of the appellate division of the supreme court of New York addressed the Knife and Fork club of Kansas City May 23. Judge Gaynor spoke on freight rate abuses. The Associated Press gives extracts from Judge Gaynor's speech as follows:

"There is no prejudice in this country against honestly acquired wealth, however large. It is wealth acquired infamously which is under the ban of the splendid intelligence and integrity of the people of this country. The prime object of government is to promote distributive justice to all. Without this object being fulfilled there can be no true prosperity. Prosperity is the highest production which a community is capable of consistent with the physical and mental welfare of its members, accompanied by a just distribution of the total product among the producers. This does not mean share and share alike, but according to the productive capacity, physical or mental, or both, of each. If a few are getting each year, and constantly, by hook or by crook, the total product of all who work, then the condition is not one of prosperity.

"If certain individuals in a short lifetime become possessed of so much property that they can make abnormal gifts to charity; if one man can give away, for instance, the vast sum of \$32,000,000 in one gift without feeling it any more than you would miss \$5, we make a fatal mistake if we ascribe such a condition to prosperity. If we find the railroads being used to allow a few to acquire such fortunes at the expense of their fellowmen by having their freight carried at a rate lower than others have to pay, so that they are able to create monopolies in themselves, our condition is not one of

prosperity, but it is dangerous to the perpetuity of our free government.

"From the beginning of the world the public highways always had been built by the government. In the same way the government could have built our iron highways—the railroads. And even though privately built, the railroads of the country are still public highways.

"This is the decision of all the courts in the land. The corporations, nor the individuals who control them, can not do with them as they will. They are mere trustees, or agencies of the government, to run them as public highways for the benefit of all, and without any favoritism or discrimination to anyone. Every free pass issued, every favor in freight rates granted, is in defiance of the law. Some people are under the delusion that recent statutes made these things unlawful. Not at all; they were unlawful from the beginning. We only needed statutes to make it a criminal offense to grant them, and to jail those who should grant them. That these public highways should be used to enable a few men to destroy their business rivals is the basest crime of our day and generation.

"If I give an illustration, it is not for holding any one man up for reproach above others. In 1870 I went through the oil regions of Pennsylvania and saw a wilderness of derricks spread out over the country over engines pumping oil from wells. Hundreds of people owned such wells, and were producing oil. Five years later all these wells had passed into the control of one man, or set of men. All the other producers had failed and joined those unfortunates who fall by the wayside in the struggle for exist-