

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Publisher.
Editorial Rooms and Business
Office 224-250 South 12th Street.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class matter

One Year	\$1.00	Three Months	25c
Six Months	.50	Single Copy	5c
10 Clubs of Five or more, Per Year	.75	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Postage 25 Cents Extra.	

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Will the Chicago convention adopt a smokeless platform?

It is about time for the right hand to learn what the "Black Hand" is doing.

The Knox boom has reached the stage when it is necessary to put its fender on behind.

Easter hats are to be smaller, but this is not the hat information that interests father.

If the presidential boom of Pennsylvania's "favorite son" gets to first base it will be on balls.

The ulterior motive sought to be concealed in the Aldrich bill sticks out like a boy's sore thumb in base ball time.

The gentleman who has charge of the republican "full dinner pail parades" this year will have his work cut out for him.

Mr. Jerome of New York is assuming the what-are-you-going-to-do-about-it and the Commodore Vanderbilt to the public attitude.

Doubtless Pat Garrett's last regret was that he, such a wonderful "gun man," should have been caught napping by a mere farmer.

Now it is charged that there was congressional graft in the Holland submarine boat matter. Always trying to do something under cover, eh?

Mr. Gompers seemingly forgets that the tariff which protects steel does not protect labor. That's why the price of steel is kept up and the price of labor hammered down.

The marriage of a Gotham heiress to an American born gentleman was considered enough news importance to warrant a column of mention under a triple-decked slug head.

When the London and Paris papers describe the "Indian debate" between Senators Owen and Curtis they will picture all the grave and reverend senators as wearing war bonnets and blankets.

The statistician who figured out that congress costs the country \$120 a minute should have gone farther and told us what return we have secured for our money. For instance, the workmen of the country have been wonderfully benefited by the reduction of twenty per cent on the tariff on French champagnes.

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THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 9

"The Bryan Volunteers" are being organized in various sections. In Indiana, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois the work of organization is being entered upon in a systematic way. Following is the constitution of the Indiana Federation of Bryan Volunteers:

DECLARATION

The purpose of this organization is to secure the establishment of democratic clubs throughout the state of Indiana under the club name of "Bryan Volunteers," and to associate them for a more effective political work into a state federation.

ARTICLE 1

The officers of the federation of "Bryan Volunteers" clubs of Indiana shall be a president, secretary, treasurer, state organizer, first vice president, second vice president and a vice president from each congressional district, all of whom shall be elected at the first regular meeting each year, and shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE 2

Each club shall be entitled to delegate representation in the affairs of the federation at its regular or special meetings, each club to be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE 3

When possible it is purposed that a separate club shall be organized in each township of the state, and in the large cities in each ward thereof, to the end that meetings may be made convenient and the conditions of their immediate localities may be better looked after. Where country clubs have been or shall be formed, they shall at the earliest possible moment arrange for separate local organizations.

ARTICLE 4

The dues of members shall be determined by each club for itself, and such dues shall be held and used by the respective clubs, but each club shall pay the state organization a sum equal to fifty cents for each of its members, twenty-five cents to be paid when the member joins and twenty-five cents on September 1, 1908; the sum so paid to be held by the state treasurer and paid out upon proper vouchers for the expenses incident to the work of the state organization.

ARTICLE 5

The officers of all local clubs shall be such as each club may determine upon, but such officers shall upon request promptly report to the state president and secretary the work done by such local clubs and the conditions at any time in their locality.

In Nebraska Arthur Mullen is president and C. M. Gruenther secretary of the Bryan Volunteers. Like the officers in the other states mentioned these gentlemen are hard at work pushing the organization throughout the state. One leaflet issued by these gentlemen is entitled "Suggestions and helps for local club organizations." This leaflet may be of service in other states, and so it is given in full below:

SUGGESTIONS

The Bryan Volunteers of Nebraska do not wish to establish a set of rules for the government of local club organizations. In matters of this kind, the judgment of local organizers can always be trusted to draft a constitution and by-laws best suited to local conditions. However, in response to numerous inquiries, we submit the following brief suggestions:

1. Make your set of rules short. Lengthy declarations and complicated by-laws do not help to win elections.

2. The name of your organization is entirely a matter of taste and choice to be determined by the members.

3. Briefly state the object of the organization. Enumerate the officers and prescribe their duties.

4. The matter of dues is important and should be well considered. Usually, the necessary expenses are defrayed by voluntary contributions. The local club should enlist and welcome all comers, and no one should be barred on account of inability or indisposition to pay certain dues.

5. The card system is by far the best and most convenient method of securing members. Solicitors may conveniently carry these cards in their pocket and enlist members on all occasions. This system also offers the best opportunity of coming in direct contact with all classes of voters. The cards may be small and

the wording should be simple. The following form is suggested:

I, the undersigned, believing that the principles advocated by W. J. Bryan are for the best interests of the American people, and desiring his election to the presidency of the United States, hereby join..... Nebraska, and promise my support to that end.

Signed

..... Address.

Secured by.....

VOLUNTEER HELPS

Correspond with us.

Please answer all inquiries promptly.

Don't lose your temper in a political argument.

Urge the organization of local clubs everywhere.

Don't abuse the opposition. Vituperation is a vote loser.

Personal work counts. Get in touch with the voters of all classes.

Kindly report the names of your club officers, with address, to the secretary of the state volunteers.

Keep open house for all comers. If possible, provide a suitable meeting place for the club and urge regular weekly meetings.

The local club should subscribe for some newspapers and periodicals of our faith and keep them on file in the club room. Especially do we urge the loyal support of the friendly local press by our people. The country newspaper is our best friend and most potent aid in politics.

Write to us. Correspondence for local club officers and members will receive prompt attention. It will add to our pleasure to assist in the work of local organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

C. M. GRUENTHER, Secretary,

Address, Columbus, Nebraska.

In Iowa the officers of the volunteer organization are distributing throughout the state cards on one side of which appears the following:

Des Moines, Iowa.—I hereby agree to become a member of the Bryan Volunteers of Iowa, and pay to the treasurer of said organization the sum of \$5 on or before the first day of April, 1908. I further agree to secure at least one other person to join the Bryan Volunteers of Iowa who will sign an agreement similar to this.

Name

..... Address

Secured by.....

On the other side of this card is the following:

OBJECT OF ORGANIZATION

The object of this organization shall be to advance the principles of democracy, as taught by Thomas Jefferson, defended by Andrew Jackson, brought to the attention of the world by Abraham Lincoln, and advocated by W. J. Bryan. To that end, our aim is to form a state wide club of men who believe that those principles are fundamental to good government.

We invite all those who believe in the principles of W. J. Bryan and desire his election to the presidency of the United States, to unite with us in this movement, irrespective of their past political affiliations.

ALSO!

The East Liverpool (Ohio) Review says: "Most of the presidential aspirants, Bryan included, have discovered that a sure way to win applause is to quote Roosevelt approvingly." Well? And the president has discovered that a sure way to win public commendation is to follow democratic policies and principles.

IN THE WOODS

'Tis sweet to worship God when Love commands
In temples unadorned by human hands—
The grand cathedrals of the solemn woods,
Where no unworthy devotee intrudes;
At mossy altars and in cloister-bowers,
Where prayer is blended with the balm of flowers;

In leafy corridors and woodland ways,
Where all is resonant with hymns of praise;
In shady groves festooned by drooping vines,
Where bending bough with pendant branch entwines;
Where babbling brooks with liquid tongues proclaim

The glory and the greatness of His name.

—David Banks Sickels in New York Tribune.