

hoped such a bill would pass.—William H. Taft.

Lincoln, Neb., May 26, 1908.—Hon. W. H. Taft, Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.: Am very much gratified to receive your telegram and trust the publication of your letter will add the weight necessary to turn the scales in favor of the measure. Elections are public affairs, and publicity will help to purify politics.—W. J. Bryan.

Lincoln, Neb., May 26, 1908.—Senator Charles H. Culberson, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.: Please secure copies of my telegrams to Secretary Taft and his reply concerning campaign contributions. His letter to Senator Burrows may enable you to secure action on the bill.—W. J. Bryan.

Lincoln, Neb., May 26, 1908.—Hon. John Sharp Williams, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.: Please secure copies of my telegrams to Secretary Taft and his reply concerning campaign contributions. His letter to Senator Burrows may enable you to secure action on the bill.—W. J. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan made this proposition to Mr. Taft at the suggestion of Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.



#### THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The national democratic congressional campaign committee has begun active operations at its headquarters at Washington, D. C. In addition to its regular work, it is now preparing a campaign handbook, which it hopes to have ready for distribution by July 1—two or three months earlier than heretofore.

The committee is charged with the duty of assisting, in every way possible, the election of a democratic congress. We wish the active co-operation of every voter in the United States who believes, with us, that the election of a democratic congress would greatly benefit the country. We must rely upon the people to sustain our work by giving information as to local conditions and suggestions for our guidance.

Each individual can at least aid us by making a contribution. Will he not do so and interest others in helping us, too?

We wish our campaign handbook distributed as generally as possible, and we will furnish a copy, as soon as published, to everyone who contributes to our committee.

Send remittances to me at Washington, D. C.

JAMES T. LLOYD, Chairman.

## Washington Letter

Washington, June 1.—The effort of the republican party representatives in the house to stifle the bill providing for publicity of campaign contributions took a new form. From the very inception of this measure the democratic members have been earnestly and strenuously for it. The democratic members of the committee having the bill in charge voted for favorable report. John Sharp Williams, democratic leader on the floor of the house, not only spoke earnestly in favor of it, but prepared a petition to which he secured the signatures of every democratic member of the house, pleading with the speaker to permit it to be brought before that body. What happened? The publicity bill was so amended as to make it intolerable to the people of the south. It was amended in such a way as to prevent its acceptance by any democrat. There was put upon it what they call in congress a "rider" which had no relation to the real purpose of the bill, but which was planned wholly for its defeat. The rider provided for an investigation into the votes of the negroes of the south and the proportion that negro voters bear to southern representation. It was absolutely in no degree pertinent to the purpose of the bill. What the question of the contributions of the life insurance companies of New York, of the steel trust and the Standard Oil trust and the protected manufacturers throughout the nation may have to do with the effort of the southern states to prevent their government from being seized by illiterate and incompetent voters is not apparent. It appears that in order to collect a tremendous campaign fund this year the republican party is willing to go to the limit against every issue for which the people stand. No tariff revision until after election, but a tariff commission to collect campaign funds from the protected manufacturers. No financial legislation or currency legislation until after election,

but a commission which will sit through the summer and gather in funds from the bankers and the financial institutions of the United States. No measure providing for the publicity of contributions made until after those contributions have been paid in, the money expended and the election settled. This is the honesty, the integrity and the patriotism of the present rulers of the republican party. The entire session has been devoted to taking out of the pockets of the American people money in taxes, preventing any reduction in the drain of national revenues into the pockets of the handful of men who enjoy republican protection, and now at the last moment they destroy a bill which was intended to advance the cause of honest elections.

When this Sixtieth congress adjourns its appropriations will closely approach, if they do not exceed, two billion dollars. People still young remember the outcry which was made when the congress presided over by Tom Reed was called a "billion dollar congress." The profligacy of that session resulted in a democratic congress and a democratic president. Roughly speaking the increase in appropriations made or in contemplation by the present session of congress over those of the corresponding session last year approach \$125,000,000. This is just the increase over former appropriations, and it is interesting to note that of this increase the army, navy, pensions, fortifications practically amount to almost one-half. It is a matter of statistical fact that today past wars or imaginary wars in the future require nearly seventy per cent of our national revenues.

This enormous increase in the federal expenditures comes at a time when the federal revenues are falling off. It means a tremendous increase in the burden of taxation upon the individual just at a time when twelve years of absolute republican domination of all branches of the federal government have plunged the country into a commercial depression and has reduced the income of every workingman and of every man who has not enjoyed the gifts of monopoly which that party has so widely distributed. The people who impose the taxation and thereby take the money out of the pockets of the ordinary people have been exceedingly liberal. They have not merely increased appropriations, but have provided for a deficit in the treasury which will narrowly approach \$150,000,000 for the fiscal year, and to offset this they have not passed one measure for the reduction of taxation, for the increase of the revenues or for the relief of the country from the commercial depression which now confronts it.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

#### THE "MILLION ARMY"

The Commoner will be sent to any one applying for it, from now until the close of the 1908 campaign, for 35 cents. It is hoped that through the million army plan, The Commoner may be placed in every precinct in every state in the union.

Cut out, sign and return the certificate printed on page 6 for your own membership. Or if you do not care to mutilate your copy of The Commoner, send in a request asking for a number of blank certificates and they will be forwarded to you, thus enabling you to give your acquaintances an opportunity to join in the work of building up the "army of a million plan" and enabling them also to secure The Commoner from now until November, 1908, for only 35 cents.

Brooke H. Weeks, Washington, D. C.—Enclosed find two certificates of membership and money order to pay for same. This makes eight campaigns and two yearly subscriptions. Please send me a few certificates and I will do all I can to get subscribers.

M. J. Hoppock, Frankfort, Mich.—Enclosed find three membership certificates with \$1.80 to pay for same. Please send me a dozen more certificates.

Wm. C. Hopkins, Charleston, W. Va.—I herewith enclose \$4.50 for which please send The Commoner to the persons whose names are on the enclosed certificates of membership. Send me fifteen or twenty more certificates.

Guy A. Bickwith, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Enclosed please find postoffice money order and certificates. Please send more certificates and some sample copies, about a dozen if possible.

Martin V. Sheldon, Denver, Colo.—Enclosed find 60 cents for The Commoner. Please send a few certificates.

I. E. Brenton, Revere, Minn.—Enclosed please find 60 cents; also certificate of membership. Please send me more certificates.

J. W. Jones, Grove City, Pa.—Please find

enclosed certificate and money order for 60 cents. If you will kindly send me a few more membership certificates I will try and have them filled out and sent in with necessary amount to pay for same.

Wyman C. Smith, Limerick, Me.—Find enclosed \$1.80 and kindly send The Commoner to the following addresses. Send me twenty-five more certificates.

E. J. Pugh, Arlington, O.—Please send me about fifty or one hundred certificates as we are organizing a Bryan club here.

John H. Allen, Farmersburg, Ind.—Enclosed please find two membership certificates and postoffice money order to pay for same. Please send me some more certificates, also printed by-laws for a "Bryan club" if you have them, as we wish to start one here.

B. F. Patterson, Osceola, Ia.—Enclosed please find a draft for \$3.60 for which send The Commoner one year to the following addresses. If you will send me twenty-five blanks I will do my best to get them signed up and return them to you. We will have our township primary election on the 2nd of June for nominating township and county officers and I am going to try and send you a nice list of subscribers by that time.

T. B. Jarvis, Kansas City, Mo.—Enclosed find \$1.20 for two subscriptions. Please send me twenty-five one million membership certificates as I would be glad to help The Commoner.

T. J. Griffin, Prescott, Wis.—Enclosed find \$5.40 for nine subscriptions. Send me some more certificates.

J. N. Bigelow, Bangor, Mich.—Please find enclosed postoffice money order for \$6 for ten subscriptions to The Commoner. Please send me ten more certificates and I will try and get them filled out.

Each of the following persons has sent in five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner: Edgar L. Thompson, Grain Valley, Mo.; W. A. Richmond, Rural Retreat, Va.; L. B. Anway, Vashon, Wash.; J. W. McClellan, Grenola, Kan.; Jos. Morton, Camden, O.; L. P. Semones, Hillsville, Va.; E. W. Brown, San Marcial, N. M.; J. M. Winn, Corder, Mo.; W. F. Hooker, Wenasoga, Miss.; O. E. Smith, Givin, Ia.; A. L. Jordan, Jackson, Miss.; Paul C. Brown, Bradford, O.; Eugene C. Protzman, Portland, Ore.; J. H. Baker, Jr., Galatia, Ill.; A. W. Warren, Centerville, Tenn.; John K. Hawbaker, Rippey, Ia.; M. J. Gregory, Sour Lake, Texas; Thos. McCormick, Smith, Ore.; Edward N. Woodward, Jamison City, Pa.; Sam W. Michael, Albany, Ind.; Chas. Runkle, Muncie, Ind.; I. E. Buckles, LeRoy, Ill.; O. M. Kem, Montrose, Colo.; C. Howell, Jr., Port Byron, N. Y.; P. J. De Spelder, Greenville, Mich.; H. J. Klein, Zenda, Kan.; Alba Heywood, San Benito, Texas; Edgar L. Thompson, Grain Valley, Mo.; J. J. Troutt, Nashville, Ill.; R. H. Robinson, Geneva, N. Y.; Rev. Jno. Kraker, Munising, Mich.; J. M. Putnam, Lakefield, Minn.; J. H. Noygle, New Madison, O.; W. A. Kerby, M. D., Cottageville, S. C.; Chas. Van Ocker, Olivet, Mich.; R. G. Galbreath, W. Plains, Mo.; D. J. Baldwin, Hubbell, Neb.; A. P. Hanson, Elliott, Ill.; E. A. Chase, Bangor, Mich.; A. M. Elston, Woodland, Cal.; Fred J. Nunn, Upper Alton, Ill.; C. B. Fox, Winchester, Ky.; Orono P. Hobbs, W. Ossipee, N. H.; A. S. Marshall, Fowler, Col.; Jno. Mulvey, New Brunswick, N. J.; J. M. Putman, Lakefield, Minn.; Rev. E. G. Williams, Mt. Pleasant, N. C.; Ellis Mathis, Farmington, Ill.; G. W. Fritch, Fredonia, Kan.; A. T. Crim, Dighton, Kan.; G. W. Harshman, Nehawka, Neb.; Wm. Nowotny, Blanco, Texas; M. L. Rucker, Evangeline, La.; J. A. Bressler, Meadow Grove, Neb.; Thos. Baird, Arkansas City, Kan.; C. P. Humphrey, Denison, Kan.; L. C. Larsen, Penn Yan, N. Y.; H. C. White, Oroville, Cal.; M. M. Hanson, Wasta, S. D.; H. F. Adams, Gomez, Texas; Inslee Deaderick, Shooks, Tenn.; John C. Kear, Lincoln, Neb.; Earl Williams, Hiattville, Kan.; M. R. Farnsworth, Cresco, Ia.; Balies G. Walker, Brawley, Cal.; George A. Miller, Sr., Montclair, N. J.; W. M. McBride, Dubberly, La.; John McNicol, Hillsboro, O.; A. L. McIntosh, Bowesmont, N. D.; J. M. McCloy, Shenandoah, Ia.; A. J. Forgey, Flora, Ind.; R. B. Haughton, St. Louis, Mo.; H. F. Meyer, Whitemore, Ia.; H. E. Norman, Buffalo, N. Y.; L. A. Jennings, Star, Va.; B. Tarter, Airlie, Ore.; W. H. Saucer, Ackley, Ia.; Jno. Cooker, Jr., Findlay, O.; Ransom W. Cooper, P. M., Kehoe, Ky.; Wm. C. Fish, Wells, W. Va.; N. B. Early, Jr., Dawsonville, Va.; J. N. Clark, M. D., Columbus, O.; Chas. G. Barnard, Goffstown, N. H.; S. H. Rorick, Hobart, Okla.; Dwight S. Felton, Vermillion, O.; J. Laughawki, Spray, Ore.; Geo. W. Brubaker, Loudonville, O.; Wm. Looser, Greenville, Pa.; Ralph M. Hefner, Clarksburg, W. Va.