

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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A STATEMENT FROM MR. BRYAN

Lincoln, Neb., July 23.

To the Readers of The Commoner:

My candidacy makes it necessary for me to suspend editorial work, and I desire to have it known that I should not be held personally responsible for matter appearing in The Commoner during the campaign, except that which appears over my signature.

My brother, Mr. Charles W. Bryan, who has had charge of the publication since its establishment, will assume control until November, and the associate editor, Mr. Richard L. Metcalfe, will, during that time, be editor.

The Commoner will publish such speeches, letters, etc., as I may prepare for the general public and the readers of The Commoner will have full and accurate information as to the issues discussed. I bespeak for the paper, the cordial support which, from the beginning, has made my connection with it so pleasant.

All profits from The Commoner, over and above actual expenses, from now until election will be turned over to the democratic national committee for the benefit of the campaign.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

TO COMMONER READERS

The necessity for Mr. William J. Bryan's retirement from active participation in The Commoner's editorial work, will be readily understood by every one who appreciates the vast amount of work devolving upon a candidate for the presidency. The change, while relieving Mr. Bryan of responsibility he should not bear, and of work which, with his other important duties, should not be required of him, will leave The Commoner free to discharge its duty in the large field it occupies.

Free from the embarrassments which, with Mr. Bryan as editor, would be manifold in a campaign where he is the candidate, The Commoner will be able to fight the battles of democracy with all due vigor. The readers of The Commoner may depend upon it, that the paper will faithfully adhere to the great principles to which it has ever been devoted. The editorial staff will remain unchanged and no opportunity

to improve the paper and to make it a powerful agent for popular government will be ignored.

The Commoner will keep its readers informed as to Mr. Bryan's movements; will print his speeches and letters and will occasionally have signed articles from his pen.

The lack of democratic dailies must be supplied through the weekly press and The Commoner will be in a position to contribute materially to the voter's fund of information. Commoner readers may depend upon it that this paper will discharge its duty during the campaign of 1908, meeting every reasonable expectation so far as honest, energetic effort is concerned.

It is desired that The Commoner keep in touch with the members of the democratic organization and officers of democratic clubs throughout the country, and the co-operation of these officials, as well as the assistance of every reader who may have some point which promises to be helpful in the fight, is earnestly solicited.

The subscription price of The Commoner during the campaign will be 25 cents. Those who believe that The Commoner is doing a good work are invited to aid in the effort to increase its circulation.

THE INCOME TAX

In its issue of July 14, the New York World prints an editorial entitled, "Abandoning the Income Tax." The World editorial follows:

"The World can understand the silence of the republican platform in regard to an income tax. The republican party represents the plutocratic elements opposed to such a tax. The men who would contribute most to the support of government under such a system of taxation are republicans. Most of the men who own franchises, who have special privileges and constitute the real capitalist class are republicans. Men like Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Harriman, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Schiff are naturally against an income tax, and the republican platform, with fine disregard of all Mr. Roosevelt's shrieks about swollen fortunes, expresses by its silence their disapprobation of such a system of raising revenue. But why should the democratic party have thrown it over? Mr. Bryan himself voted for an income tax while a member of congress. He always professed to believe that a law could be drawn which the supreme court would sustain, just as it twice sustained previous acts providing for an income tax. To wait for a constitutional amendment is to wait for years, perhaps for a generation. A tax on the hundreds of millions of annual income of the wealthy would go far toward relieving the burden of taxation now borne by people with small incomes or almost no incomes at all. There is no more just or equitable way of raising public revenue. The democratic party ought to have taken a strong position on this question. What excuse can it make for surrender?"

One of the planks in the democratic platform is as follows:

"We favor an income tax as part of our revenue system, and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing congress to levy and collect tax upon individual and corporate incomes, to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burdens of the federal government."

When, in 1896, the democratic platform favored income tax legislation without waiting for an amendment it was charged that the party intended to pack the court. Now when an amendment is asked for, the World calls it an abandonment of the income tax. It is hard to please some people.

THE NOTIFICATIONS MEETINGS

The formal notification meeting for Mr. Bryan will take place at his home, Fairview, on August 12.

Mr. Kern will be notified at Indianapolis early in September. Mr. Bryan will attend the Kern notification meeting.

"OLD 1808"

On Saturday, July 11, the St. Louis Republic celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its establishment. As the Missouri Gazette it was founded in 1808, and to the older generation now passing from the stage it was affectionately known as "Old 1808." During the century of its existence the Republic has aimed high and accomplished much, and it enters upon its second century stronger and better than ever before. Its history has been full of stirring incidents. It has chronicled four

wars in which American arms took part; it has been burned out, gone through floods and conquered many obstacles, and yet it has never missed an issue. Its centennial number was a triumph of the art of making newspapers. The Commoner congratulates "Old 1808" upon its rounding out of a century of success, financial and social, and wishes for it added centuries of usefulness.

LOOK OUT, MR. SPEAKER

Hon. H. C. Bell is going to contest the election of Speaker Cannon in the Danville district. Mr. Bell is a Simon pure democrat and a great campaigner. As his platform will probably endorse all of the reforms that were turned down in the republican convention, he is likely to give "Uncle Joe" a sure enough race, and if he is elected, that district will have a brand of unadulterated democracy.

CLEARLY NON-PARTISAN

The Philadelphia North American (rep.) says: "Whatever the shortcomings of the republican platform they can not be charged to Taft * * * but whatever the democratic platform lacks is chargeable directly to Bryan."

Clearly the North American's always admirable and somewhat famous non-partisan editor is off on a vacation.

Men, not dollars.

The voice is the voice of Sherman, but the hand is the hand of the trusts.

The Washington man who was treed by a dead bear might find some consolation by addressing Mr. Harriman.

The solution of the slum question does not lie in the free distribution of milk and ice. The abolition of the slum is the only solution.

It seems that Chairman Burrows forgot to tell the convention about the "publicity letter" he received from Mr. Taft.

"You have a beautiful country," said Cardinal Logue to Mr. Rockefeller. The cardinal not only has an eye for the beautiful, but a rare discernment as to ownership.

"When Mr. Sherman is elected he will be the tenth vice president from New York," says the Milwaukee Sentinel. The Sentinel is much better in dealing in futures than it is in chronicling the present.

A Philadelphia man rocked the boat and the young lady accompanying him promptly knocked him into the river with a spare oar. The Carnegie hero commission is respectfully asked to take notice.

The g. o. p. platform refers to the emergency currency bill as a "temporary enactment." O, yes; so temporary that it will be replaced about the time the tariff is revised by its friends in the interest of its victims.

The Milwaukee Sentinel notes that Uncle Sam is going to provide immigrant labor to farmers and adds: "Wise Uncle!" But how about providing jobs for some hundreds of thousands who are not immigrants?

Mme. Gould-de-Castellane de-Sagan says we are lacking much on this side of the ocean that foreign society possesses. Every once in a while somebody says something about this country that makes us prouder than ever that we are permitted to live in it.

Will the Roosevelt admirers who are supporting Mr. Taft be deceived, or will the Wall Street supporters of Mr. Taft be deceived? The answer to this may be found by carefully studying and finding out how often Wall Street has been deceived in the candidate it supported.

The republican leaders are now engaged in fixing their speakers' list so the ones who point to Taft as the man to carry out the Roosevelt policies will be dated for the west, while those who will point out that Taft's election means the "end of Rooseveltism" will be dated in the east.