

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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It is difficult for the tariff organs to understand why anybody but a tariff baron should be interested in elections to the extent of contributing to the campaign fund.

The Indianapolis Star thinks it highly undignified for Mr. Bryan to ask the people for campaign contributions. The Star idea of dignity seems to be to make the protected interests cough up.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger grows humorous over Mr. Bryan's question, "Shall the people rule?" Perhaps the Public Ledger will go to the length of declaring that the people of Philadelphia rule that city.

Take notice, please, that it was not a labor organization that insisted that justice be made easier and cheaper for the poor. It was Mr. Taft, the candidate of the party that is the self-appointed guardian of the judiciary from attack and innuendo.

In his Virginia speech Mr. Taft said that one great need was to so improve the courts as to quicken and cheapen justice in order that both rich man and poor man may be put upon an equality. Is it possible that Mr. Taft is attacking the courts as they are at present constituted?

"Intelligent legislation, not subsidies, is the great need of our ocean carrying trade," says James J. Hill. But as Mr. Hill has made a study of the subject his word will have no weight against the words of the eminent gentlemen who want to get in on the subsidy grab and are running the party that is responsible for them.

"Won't somebody give thirty cents to the Bryan campaign?" sneers the New York Tribune. Several have already done so. Up to date, however, no one has been asked to raise a "hurry up" fund of \$240,000 from the Wall Street interests, and Mr. Harriman has not been requested to come in by way of the back door.

Brakeman Watts of the Great Northern railroad was fined \$800 by a federal judge for violation of the anti-pass law. It will take Watts longer to accumulate that \$800 from his wages than it would take Rockefeller to save up \$29,000,000 from his oil business. But where is the Grosscup who will fly to the rescue of Watts?

JOHN W. KERN'S ADDRESS

Chairman Norman E. Mack introduced John W. Kern, who was given an enthusiastic reception. Mr. Kern spoke as follows:

"While my friend, the chairman of the national committee, has been kind enough to announce me as the democratic candidate for the office of vice president, I as yet have no certain official announcement of that fact, and therefore I can not make a political speech on this occasion. I came here today to greet these western people and to join with them, without regard to political affiliation, in paying tribute to the citizen of Lincoln, whom you all love, to the foremost citizen of America, William J. Bryan. I have been deeply impressed with what I have seen in Lincoln. It was worth the trip from Indiana across the Mississippi and across the Missouri to witness that splendid neighborly spirit which has prompted this magnificent non-partisan demonstration in honor of the man who without regard to political affiliation, we all love, and that leads me to say that after all the great masses of the American people are not so far apart. Partisan spirit no longer runs so high that we can not now and then get out of the miasma of political partisanship, take a step up higher, and breathe the fresh, pure air of American patriotism and be a witness by our neighborly conduct that we recognize in spite of political differences, not only the fatherhood of God, but the brotherhood of man. It reminds me, although we may differ and differ widely, on questions of political economy, of finance, as to the best means of carrying on the complex affairs of this, the greatest government beneath the sun, while we may differ on all these things, and differ earnestly, yet when it comes to devotion to a common country and love for the grand old starry banner which is its emblem, we are as indivisible as the sea. For your kindly greetings to myself, I thank you."

CHAIRMAN CLAYTON'S ADDRESS

Congressman Henry D. Clayton of Alabama, chairman of the democratic national convention, formally notified Mr. Bryan of the convention's action, speaking as follows:

Mr. Bryan: The national democratic convention that assembled at Denver on July 7 was a representative body of the people of the United States. Harmony characterized its deliberations and all of its conclusions were reached with unanimity. It stood for the conservatism of government under a written constitution and for the application of democratic principles in public affairs to meet the requirements of progressive American civilization.

Without the intervention of a completed ballot you were nominated for the office of president of the United States. A committee composed of the permanent chairman and one delegate from each state and territory was appointed to inform you of your selection as the standard bearer of your party in the pending campaign. Therefore, in pursuance of the convention, this committee here present now brings to you this message from a united and aggressive democracy. Our great party is confident of the righteousness of its cause, and relying upon the support of the people, is determined to rescue the government of the republic from the hands of the despoilers who have exploited it for the benefit of favorites and to the injury of the masses of plain people.

We know that our party, platform and candidate stand for the best interests of all the people. We know that success is deserved. We believe that our party and candidate, animated by the wisest and most patriotic purposes, will achieve victory in November. On no political issue is the platform a straddle or evasion, and its every declaration squares with the principles of old-fashioned democracy. It is essentially a democratic instrument, preserving and applying the faith of the fathers to existing conditions.

It is hardly worth while to say, sir, that in the judgment of your party associates and our countrymen generally, you, as our candidate, fit our platform. And it is equally gratifying that there is nothing in the platform calling for apology. There is nothing that you would avoid or run away from. There is nothing omitted that you need supply by giving your individual views. In these respects you have a tremendous advantage of your republican opponent. Standing on such a platform, possessed of an abiding conviction that our cause is just, you will draw the keen blade of righteousness in truth, throwing away the scabbard, and fight for the principle of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Your party has emphatically refused to form any alliances with special interests that enjoy special privileges under republican ad-

ministration. You have always refused to compromise with those who prostitute the functions of government for the lust of greed. It was your lofty statesmanship, your unwavering fidelity, your Jefferson standard of democracy that reduced the representatives of millions of American freemen, unanimously, to choose you as their candidate for the highest office in the world.

It would be inappropriate for me to detain this splendid audience that has met here today to listen to your patriotic and eloquent words. Therefore, I now hand you an authenticated copy of the platform adopted by the democratic convention at Denver, and request the secretary to read the formal letter of notification signed by the committee.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S LETTER

The letter from the notification committee was read by Humphrey O'Sullivan of Massachusetts, who was the committee secretary. The letter is as follows:

Hon. William J. Bryan—Sir: You were unanimously nominated for president of the United States by the national democratic convention, which assembled at Denver on July 7. The convention directed us to convey to you this formal notice of your nomination.

The duties of the delegates to this convention were made plain and easy by the fact that the people who sent them there desired that the banner of democracy be entrusted to your hands. No federal officeholders conspired to bring about your nomination. Nor did predatory wealth and its allied interests contribute to that end. Your selection came spontaneously, from the hearts of your fellow citizens. The proceedings of the convention show that with zeal and enthusiasm the plain duty of the delegates was accomplished.

The platform adopted is a bold and frank declaration of the time-honored principles of the democratic party, in their application to conditions confronting the country. It was unanimously reported by the committee and adopted by the convention without a dissenting vote. A copy of this platform has been handed to you. This declaration expressed the faith that animates the united democracy. Of these principles it is known of all men that for the past twelve years you have been the bravest, ablest and most eloquent advocate. Although in two campaigns you have failed to attain the presidency, you enjoy the unique distinction of having lived to see your ideals accepted by a great majority of the American people, and many of your policies adopted by the party that has most strenuously opposed them, and that has most bitterly assailed you.

We esteem it a privilege to have been selected to participate in the ceremonies of this day, when you are informed that you have been nominated for the foremost place in the world. We doubt not that the people will, in November next, declare you to be their choice for president of the United States. The triumph of the principles for which you stand will redound to the best interests of the republic and to the welfare of all the American people.

Signed:

HENRY D. CLAYTON, Chairman.

HUMPHREY O'SULLIVAN, Secretary.

R. H. Walker, Alabama; Gustave Jones, Arkansas; Charles Edelman, California; Elmer F. Beckwith, Colorado; H. C. Ney, Connecticut; Peter J. Ford, Delaware; W. S. Jennings, Florida; Crawford Wheatley, Georgia; Harvey L. Day, Idaho; E. F. Dunne, Illinois; Percy McCarty, Indiana; John P. O'Malley, Iowa; Charles M. Sawyer, Kansas; W. B. Haldeman, Kentucky; John Puleston, Louisiana; Frank W. Morse, Maine; S. S. Field, Maryland; A. C. Drinkwater, Massachusetts; John T. Winship, Michigan; J. W. Pauley, Minnesota; J. H. Wynn, Mississippi; J. W. Farris, Missouri; W. D. George, Montana; John H. Morehead, Nebraska; Charles R. Evans, Nevada; John S. Hutchins, New Hampshire; Robert Davis, New Jersey; Louis Nixon, New York; E. J. Hale, North Carolina; Frank Lish, North Dakota; T. S. Arnold, Ohio; D. M. Halley, Oklahoma; L. M. Travis, Oregon; Howard Mutchley, Pennsylvania; Patrick H. Quinn, Rhode Island; Thomas T. Brantley, South Carolina; F. M. Zeibach, South Dakota; K. D. McKellar, Tennessee; William Masterson, Texas; T. H. Fitzgerald, Utah; James E. Burke, Vermont; J. Hoge Tyler, Virginia; George F. Christenson, Washington; C. W. Ossenton, West Virginia; Byron Barwig, Wisconsin; W. H. Holliday, Wyoming; H. W. Mellin, Alaska; A. W. Forbes, Arizona; Sam DeNedry, District of Columbia; Allen Herbert, Hawaii; John Morrow, New Mexico; D. Collazo, Porto Rico.