

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### COERCING THE VOTERS

Every American Citizen Has the Right to Vote as  
He Thinks Best

We fear that in the event of Mr. Bryan's election on November 3, we may not be in position to give each one of you a pay envelope hereafter, for we feel that his election would certainly develop a lack of confidence and business depression with not enough work for all of us. The business world has faith in Mr. Taft's policies.

Your interests and ours are identical.  
THE AULT & WIBORG CO.

(Cincinnati, Ohio.)

The employers who sent the above notice to their employes used their influence as employers to frighten those who worked for them. If all employers valued citizenship at so low a price, our business would soon be done along political lines—no one daring to work for a member of another party, and no one willing to purchase of one belonging to another party. It might be well for our public instructors to spend a little time in emphasizing the right of each citizen to make his vote represent his own conscience and judgment, and in rebuking the effort of employers to use their influence as paymasters to control the politics of the country.

### FOR WHOM DOES IT SPEAK?

In its issue of November 28 the Outlook Magazine, edited by Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, says: "Neither Mr. Bryan's type of mind nor his policies are wanted by the people of the country."

For whom does the Outlook speak?

For the reverend gentleman who, until recent disclosures, was presumed to wield an unchained pen?

For Theodore Roosevelt, its new associate editor? Or—

For Mr. James Stillman, famous as a member of the Standard Oil group and destined to become even more famous as the benefactor of the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, and stockholder in the magazine of which Theodore Roosevelt is soon to become associate editor?

### SUPPLANTING PLATT

One of the quickest ways to accomplish postal reform and wipe out the constant recurring postal deficit will be to retire Thomas Collier Platt from the senate, and see to it that no more representatives of the express companies are elected to that body for the purpose of protecting the interests of the express companies at the expense of the people. But nothing is to be gained by supplanting Platt with an abler corporation agent.

### BY THE WAY—



DON'T FORGET THE LITTLE FELLOW

## THE GROWTH OF SOCIALISM

The returns so far tabulated indicate that the growth of socialism has not been as rapid during the last four years as during the four years preceding. Several causes have been given for this retarded growth. First, some democrats who voted the socialist ticket four years ago, voted the democratic this year. Second, President Roosevelt has stimulated the reform element in his party to hope for remedial legislation from the republican party. Mr. Taft's nomination was heralded as a triumph for the progressives and doubtless held within the republican party many who would have deserted it had the reactionary element selected the nominee. Third, the active support given by the labor leaders to the democratic ticket tended to reduce to a minimum the socialist gains from the ranks of labor. There were other reasons, but these have been mentioned as among the more influential ones.

Now what is to be the future of socialism? The small vote cast by the independent party and by the populist party is apt to turn men from both of these parties to the socialist party. The defeat of the democratic ticket is likely to discourage some of the democratic laboring men and turn them toward the socialist party. Some of the democrats, not laboring men, may be weakened in faith and made susceptible to the arguments of socialists, but much depends upon the character of Mr. Taft's administration. The arguments presented in his behalf were inconsistent—in the west he was represented as a reformer ready to put on the president's mantle. The president constantly offered him to the

party as the only man to "continue," to "complete" and to "clinch" the reforms upon which he, the president, had entered. In the east Mr. Taft was represented as a quiet and amiable candidate who would restore "peace" in the business centers, and, as Mr. Rockefeller put it, avoid "rash experiments" in legislation. Mr. Taft can not satisfy both sides. He may make an attempt at reforms, but he is quite sure to be thwarted by the standpat element of his party, and his failure to accomplish anything in the interest of the people—if he fails—will increase the socialist strength.

The socialist, as The Commoner views him, is an honest and earnest man, but a mistaken man. Seeing abuses that ought to be corrected, he seeks to overturn the entire industrial system. That there is injustice in the distribution of the rewards of labor, no one can deny, and starting with this admitted injustice, with the "known abuses," which even Mr. Taft concedes, the socialist makes them the basis of his protest against individualism. The scientific socialist presents a new system which he would substitute for individualism. There is no doubt that the theory of socialism appeals to a sentiment and yet the proposed system will not stand the test of analysis or reason. The socialist is as much mistaken in seeking to destroy competition as is the parent who imagines that his child can be made stronger and better by relieving him of the struggle that has developed the father. In the careers of the sons of the rich we find one of the strongest arguments against the elimination of competition. Children