

A TRIBUTE TO THE COMMONER

The Weatherford, Texas, Herald prints an interesting letter from Mr. J. M. Richards, an attorney of Weatherford. Mr. Richards was one of the delegates from Texas to the democratic national convention in 1896. His letter to the Weatherford Herald follows:

"Publishers of the Herald: I, as a democrat and advocate of the teachings of our great leaders, hereby endorse your efforts to increase the circulation of The Commoner, edited and published by the world's greatest leader and patriot. I have been a subscriber to Mr. Bryan's paper since he first began its publication and find therein discussed from time to time questions that underlie the safety and prosperity of our republican form of government. (No good loyal democrat should fail to read The Commoner. It should be in every family in the United States to teach justice, equality, morality, virtue and all the basic principles that constitute good citizenship. Besides its political department it weekly contains items of interest for each and every member of the household. If any intelligent democrat will subscribe for and regularly read The Commoner one year and then state on honor that it has not been worth the price I will give him the amount he paid. This paper is published by our great leader, who, though overcome by a debauching slush fund of the trust-ridden tariff-robbing republican party, aided by some weak-kneed, easily scared so-called democrats, who have not sufficient sense to know that the boss calamity howlers and false prophets of ruin and disorder, headed by 'Teddy the Terror,' were resorting to such 'pot-house' political tricks, to intimidate the ignorant and weak-minded voters. Of course every family should first subscribe for his county paper and then take The Commoner.

"Bryan is the livest patriotic corpse ever consigned to a political grave-yard. Democracy will live until our republic dies. We have not been defeated, only temporarily repulsed.

"On with the battle."

"J. M. RICHARDS."

A HUGE BRIBE

At a banquet given recently in his honor E. H. Harriman is alleged to have said: "If the state will cease to be antagonistic to the railroads in this state I will spend \$10,000,000 on the Georgia Central railroad."

Commenting upon this offer "Farm, Stock and Home," published at Minneapolis, says: "This is the biggest offered bribe of history; and not to an individual, but to a state; not secretly but openly, boldly; and probably Georgia will accept it openly, boldly. What is 'antagonistic' railway legislation, in the estimation of any railway magnate? Anything that prevents the railways doing their sweet will with the people. Where did Mr. Harriman's \$10,000,000 come from? The people. And now the people's money is to be used to bribe a people's one state to suffer practices through which the people will furnish the money to pay back the bribe, may be several times over. A neat game, isn't it?"

THE PRESIDENT'S LIBEL SUIT

The president has secured the indictment of Mr. Pulitzer of The New York World, and Mr. Smith of the Indianapolis News. They are accused of libeling the president, Elihu Root, then secretary of state; the president's brother-in-law, J. Pierpont Morgan, William Nelson Cromwell and Charles P. Taft.

This is the first effort that has been made in nearly a century to throttle the press by federal prosecution, and it ought to arouse enough indignation to make it the last attempt for another century. Congress ought to pass a law immediately withdrawing from federal courts authority to prosecute for criticism of governmental action. If every newspaper proprietor is to be threatened with bankruptcy by federal prosecution in case he dares to say a word

against the action of a federal official, we will have taken the first step toward despotism.

It will cost Mr. Pulitzer and Mr. Smith more than the fortune of the average man to defend themselves in the suits brought. What chance, therefore, would the average editor have in such a case? Our state laws are sufficient for the protection of the individual, for any person who is injured by a libel is at liberty to prosecute. It is not necessary that the entire machinery of the federal government should be turned upon a critic who happens to offend the powers that be. The president has done many good things, but all that he has done would not offset the evil influence which would be exerted by such a precedent as he is undertaking to establish.



MR. ROCKEFELLER'S "MEAN TRICK"

The state of Texas found the Standard Oil company guilty of violating the laws of that state, where it was doing business under the name of the Waters-Pierce Oil company. A fine of over a million dollars has been sustained by the supreme court of the United States. The state of Missouri has also found the Standard Oil company guilty of violating the laws of Missouri through the same subsidiary company, and yet there are those who still regard Mr. Rockefeller as a high-minded and moral representative of the business world. What will Mr. Rockefeller have to do, in the opinion of his worshippers, to lose his halo?

Again The Commoner begs to call attention to the fact that the president has not sent a message to congress denouncing Mr. Rockefeller for the "mean trick" he played upon the republican party by announcing his support of Mr. Taft. Instead of trying to indict the New York World for reflecting on the republican party in the Panama case, why not indict Mr. Rockefeller for libeling the government by announcing his support of the administration's candidate?

Letters From the People

H. A. Whetstone, McComb, Ohio.—We know that lack of democratic literature is one cause of the defeat of 1908. But I would suggest that a copy of the Congressional Record daily during the time congress is in session would enlighten the public that the scales would drop from their eyes, that they may see the between true democracy and supposed prosperity. I ask this question: Wouldn't it be better to place these many millions of dollars that are given to the state boards of agriculture for the free distribution of seeds into more copies of the Congressional Record that all legal voters who desire may have this paper sent to them at a rate of \$2 a year? We may know then what our representative is doing for us.

M. B. Chase, Marion, O.—I have just read the McVicker bill, as appears in last week's Commoner. What a strange condition a republican government must be in to require such a bill to remedy impurity in the election of its rulers. One dropping in here from another country, imbued with the thory which rules in a republic, would suppose and expect that all the people in their governmental capacity would provide and pay for the expenses of the nomination and election of its rulers and servants of the body politic, instead of those who are seeking the offices for themselves or their friends for themselves, or the comparative few who are seeking to be rulers to better the condition of the masses. The idea of voluntary contributions to pay the expenses of the government! This is the leading and main cause why our elections are corrupt. All citizens should be prohibited from contributing voluntarily and individually in a single or collective capacity (natural and artificial), and these like all other legitimate costs and expenses incidental or otherwise to good government should be paid out of the state and United States treasuries respectively. The idea, again, of a government of money and self, for money for self, by money and buy self (or trusts and private combines) instead of a government of, for and by the people and the whole people is no just government at all. There is little security in it, for others than they for whom, of whom and by whom it is constituted. I believe in a government that is decidedly impartial in its administration. Knows no favorites, has no favorite, but secures and protects and maintains the just and equal rights without fear, favor or affection, or any reward or hope

thereof, but nevertheless a government based upon and carried on by unselfish love of all, black, white, high, low, poor, or rich. Individuals do; but the government can not, ought not, must not, make any distinctions between her citizens. All are her citizens and all must feel the love of her protecting arm, and her correcting power. When it becomes necessary for a people to cover their state houses with long drawn out legislative acts, to correct abuses of greed and graft, there is the time for a few clean cut, root and butt cutting acts instead of topping off the tops and branches to grow out again. Uncle Sam, you and your several sons can't drive the boys, who are stealing your apples, out of the trees with grass. Let and compel the government to pay its legitimate expenses, but individuals and trust as such, never!

A. U. Riffle, Waterloo, W. Va.—We can not expect to elect our man and act honestly with everybody in all parts of the country. By acting dishonestly the republicans gain their victory and elect their candidates. This is the way they get the voters to endorse their administration.

David Roche, Atchison, Kan.—The honest moral sense of the American lives with the democratic party. If it should disband schemers would seize it and play for a side show for the benefit of the g. o. p.

R. Derby, Jr., Milan, O.—The people could rule, but they choose to be ridden. With many of the common people lined up with the interests, it is purely ignorance. We must say, "forgive them, they know not what they do." Let the rich fatten and the poor suffer. May be God has decreed it so. May be the devil has. So we leave it. Let us fight on. I have faith in humanity; they will triumph yet. If we can not win with W. J. Bryan as our standard bearer we can not win with any other. When the people want a president who will scorn at a big graft as well as a little one, one who will not raise a whirlwind in the face of the people against predatory wealth and then go into a closet and laugh with the interests how he fooled the people without injury to them, then and not till then I want to vote for W. J. Bryan again for president.

V. C. Yantis, Carthage, Mo.—I believe Mr. Mack's determination to maintain during the interval between campaigns official headquarters from which a continuous dissemination of authoritative facts and arguments may be made by responsible and recognized leaders of our party is as good a course as any to adopt. It goes without saying that this reply assumes that the democratic party is "the reformers." Judging from the recent elections alone, the following facts are true: Excluding the negroes, the remaining vote—the white vote—is quite equally divided between the two great parties on national issues; and this is and ought to be the white man's government. Excluding from the white vote the recently naturalized element a clear majority of the remainder (the white native Americans) are democrats, using the word in its party sense. That is to say, a clear majority of the sons of the sires who established our government and who have made this country what it is today, believe in and hold to the Jeffersonian rather than the Hamiltonian theory of government. So long as that statement remains true no democrat should lose heart. The story of the ups and downs of the parties representing those antagonistic theories of government from the days of George Washington to this good hour contains a cheering and comforting lesson, which our young men would do well to read; but it is too long to come within the first rule laid down to govern these replies. So sure as the mass of the American people can be depended upon to eventually adopt the right of a matter may we expect victory; because we are right. Therefore am I cheerfully and hopefully yours.

S. E. Morgan, Burlington, Ia.—Many men were afraid of losing their position. Coercion was successfully used. Keep up the fight along educational lines. Organize now. Give the loyal a chance to contribute from now on until 1912. Use a portion of this fund to get out literature. Keep the voters ever in touch with the movements of the present incoming administrations.

Martin Hemmy, Kenosha, Wis.—Misrepresentation, ridicule, appeal to prejudice and reliance upon the ignorance of voters together with the brutal money power and persistent cultivation of fear that Bryanism meant ruin caused our defeat. The hope of the future lies in direct union primary elections. The democratic party can never win in a national contest until the people are enabled to rule in primary contests.