

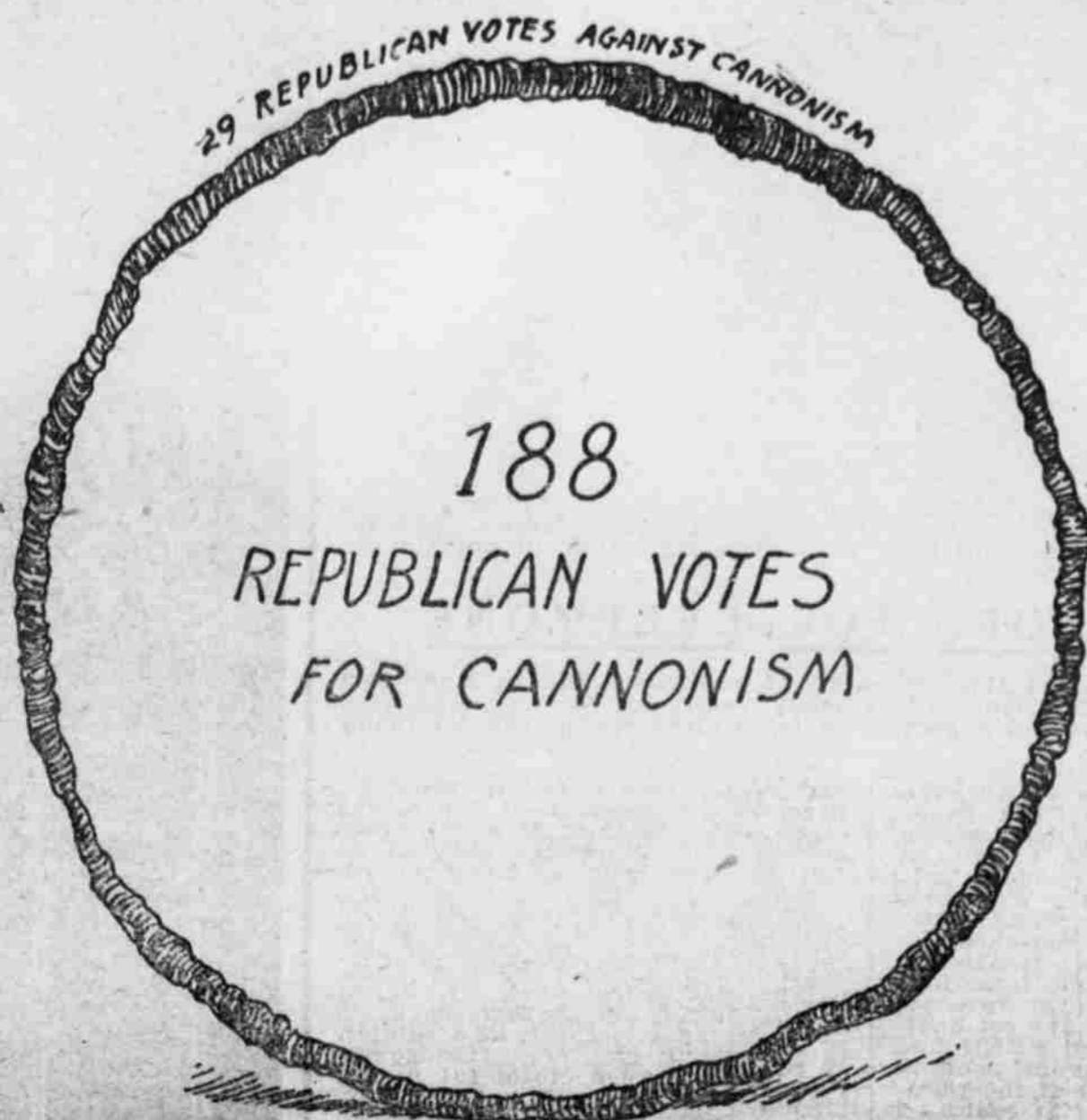
The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

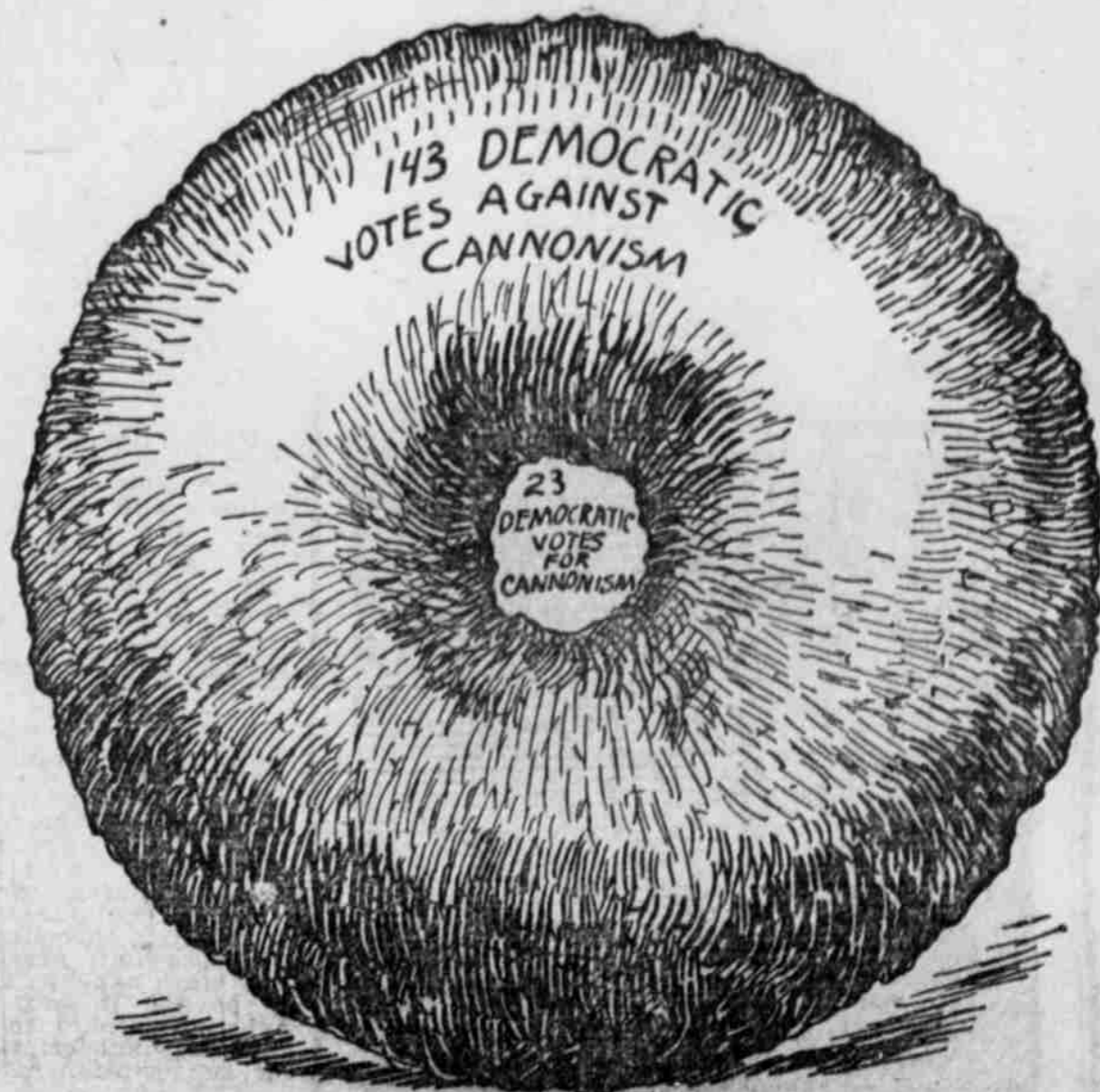
VOL. 9, NO. 12

Lincoln, Nebraska, April 2, 1909

Whole Number 428



THE REPUBLICAN DOUGHNUT



THE DEMOCRATIC DOUGHNUT

"Look at the Doughnut, Not at the Hole"—With Apologies to "Judge."

The Fight is On

A democratic caucus at Washington has adopted a statement setting forth the position of the majority and exposing the perfidy of the handful of democrats who joined the republicans in support of Cannonism. The following statement was issued:

"The democratic members of the house of representatives of the Sixty-first congress in caucus assembled declare:

"We deplore the action of those democrats who supported the Fitzgerald plan of saving Cannonism. This action was in conflict with the caucus action of the party, in violation of its platform pledge, and, as we believe, in conflict with an overwhelming democratic sentiment. The democratic party of the house disavows their action and disclaims all responsibility therefor.

"Under the guise of giving to the democracy of the house representation on the rules committee and on the ways and means committee, Speaker Cannon appointed on the rules committee, as a democratic member, the proponent of the house in its fight to reform the rules and is in accord with the speaker, he appointed on the ways and means committee as a democratic member, a gentleman known to be wholly opposed to the democratic tariff view and shown by his vote to be opposed to any change in the Cannon rules.

"We condemn the false pretense of the speaker in these appointments he has granted to the democracy on these committees and we hereby declare that in neither of these appointments is the democracy of the house or of the country represented and we decline to recognize such appointees as representatives of our party on said committees.

"This arbitrary and unjust conduct of the speaker demonstrates anew the urgent need for a thorough and real revision of the rules and a better spirit of their application so as to curb the speaker, protect the members and free legis-

lation and legislative procedure from bossism.

"The issue is too great to be confined within party lines. Of nation-wide importance, it challenges the consideration of every American voter whose neck is free from the collar of a boss and whose back knows not the machine driver's lash."

The action of Speaker Cannon in selecting Congressman Fitzgerald as the minority member of the committee on rules was a gross violation of the rules and usages of the house of representatives. If anyone is appointed to a committee as a democrat, he ought to be representative of his party, and Speaker Cannon knew that Mr. Fitzgerald was not only not a representative of his party, but that he openly and notoriously betrayed his party into the hands of the republicans. If Mr. Fitzgerald's services to the republican party entitled him to a place on the committee on rules, he ought to have been put on in the place of a republican, and not as a democrat. It is adding insult to injury to put him on the committee over the protest of the democrats and then use his appointment to deny to the democrats any representation. If Mr. Fitzgerald had any respect for his party he would refuse to act as a representative of an organization which repudiates his conduct, but his association with Mr. Cannon seems to have demoralized his sense of propriety as effectively as it has his democracy.

THE DOUGHNUT

The cartoon on this page, taken from the Omaha World-Herald, hits off the situation exactly. The democratic doughnut is all right, and the hole in the center is small, but what of the hole in the republican doughnut. The rim would hardly satisfy anyone who needed food, and the public needs food just now.

The situation has been illustrated in another way. The two parties might be likened to two apples, one all sound but a little bit, and the other all rotten but a little bit. While it can not be said that either apple is all sound or all rotten, yet when one wants an apple to eat, he takes the soundest one.

"Ablest Adjuster"

Thomas N. Miller, former business partner of Andrew Carnegie, visited Mr. Carnegie recently in Florida and returning to Pittsburg gave to the newspapers an interview in which he said:

"Mr. Carnegie thinks that Mr. Taft will prove to be a good, solid, common sense president, but Mr. Carnegie's favorite is Elihu Root, who has just been made a senator from New York state to succeed Thomas C. Platt. Mr. Carnegie says, 'if I were to name the next president of the United States it would be Elihu Root. He is the ablest and most successful adjuster of difficulties that I have ever met in council.'"

By "the ablest and most successful adjuster of difficulties that I have ever met in council," Mr. Carnegie means that Mr. Root is the ablest and most successful of trust lawyers. Mr. Carnegie is doubtless correct on this point and it is to that very fact that Mr. Root owes his present day prominence in the republican party.

ANDREW IS DE-LIGHTED

According to a Cincinnati "medium" Andrew Jackson has sent a communication to the American people. In this document "Old Hickory" pays a high compliment to the Taft administration and says that it will be "the most wonderful in the history of our country."

"Old Hickory" must be greatly impressed with the promise, so far as concerns popular government, of an administration that begins with the selection as cabinet officers of a number of gentlemen whose activities in recent years have been closely identified with great corporations.

Here is a question put by the New York World and rank and file republicans will do well to think it over: "A tariff on gloves of from 184 to 390 per cent for Congressman Littauer? But why? Is Littauer so valuable as a public institution that he must be supported at such heavy cost?"