

Letters from the People

S. J. Oslin, Enterprise, Okla.—Our democratic principles are all right. Let us stand by them and keep pegging away. True, we lost heavily last year, but we had to combat the money powers of the world. Let us continue our efforts to induce legislation against money influences in elections. Then, again, we must elect men to office who will carry out and exemplify democratic principles and serve the interests of the masses and not the classes. Take a glancing look at our map and see how county lines were gerrymandered to fit certain towns for county seat sites, and you will find one source of a loss of votes. And, again, take a look at our code of laws. Some of them are good and wholesome, but some of them are worse than child-like. Here you will find another source of our lost votes. The

third source will be found in the fact that so many of our officers are not doing their duty. Peace officers in some instances are lawless themselves.

T. J. Vandergriff, Woodsfield, O.—While not dismayed it is very discouraging to work for the cause of the people when the majority of them will make no sacrifice to sustain their own cause and higher principles. I have labored more or less for a long time from purely patriotic motives, and without any thought of personal reward, and the defeat of yourself and the high principles you represented as against a flood of chicanery and corruption does not speak well for, or of the people. Perhaps their interests can be guarded and their minds and morals improved by the democratic party until the republican party commits suicide, but if the democratic party is to win directly it will have to satisfy the selfish and material interests of the voter, the loaves and fishes are what he is after—prosperity and 'possum first, and principles afterward. I was with you in 1896, 1900, 1908 and am with you yet.

A. A. Warren, Beaumont, Texas.—Will the democrats ever win? Yes. Let the democrats and every one seeking reform keep right on supporting and extending The Commoner. Give it, as it deserves, the largest circulation that a paper ever had. The democratic vote was, I believe, 6,500,000 besides perhaps 2,000,000 that would have liked to have voted the democratic ticket, but for various reasons dared not. But they can support The Commoner and help to get it before all the people. The democrats have, in Mr. Bryan, the most unselfish, self-sacrificing and the noblest leader that any party ever had. There never was a private citizen in the United States that

wielded the influence that Mr. Bryan does. There is no great national question comes up but he is called in to counsel, notably the panic in 1907, and how nobly he responded, and through The Commoner did more than any other one man in quieting the fears of the people. If the people give The Commoner their support Mr. Bryan will have a great influence in the future legislation. So let every one seeking reform support Mr. Bryan and The Commoner and right will prevail.

Daniel H. Simmons, San Diego, Cal.—The true democracy has a great work before it and you seem to avail, and outline that herculean task, and I believe and hope that you are the man to worthily complete the full share of her expectations, even to recognition in the next presidency, as now the most popular with the masses and properly so. I believe in the opinions and principles of our government as enunciated and practiced by Andrew Jackson and ever elucidated through the great commoner of Nebraska.

J. H. Cloud, Chester, Pa.—Some one has suggested that the Jefferson and Lincoln party be organized. These two men are revered for the policies they defended. They are dead but the principles live. Democracy is older than any man, then why should the party be called after any individual? I say continue the name democratic, stand by the policies and fight for the principles. The American people will yet awaken to their true interests.

Benjamin J. Stoddard, Waupun, Wis.—I am one of those that have the pleasure of reading The Commoner. I believe it is one of the best papers published on reform government in this nation. The democratic party has the best chance for victory on principles that it ever had in the history of this nation. The republican party can not bring reform for the whole people without stealing the velvet of the Denver platform. Will this not vindicate the democratic reformer and make Mr. Bryan stronger than ever? If the republican party fails to bring reform for the whole people, will not Mr. Bryan and his army of reformers become stronger than ever? The course for the future is to encourage The Commoner and all other reform papers that can be established in every county and state. Let them be placed in every home possible so the people can get the true knowledge of reform government.

Edward T. Shelton, Keeling, Va.—Mr. Bryan has a proud consciousness of knowing he has done his duty nobly and he will, we trust be able to accomplish as much good as if he were president. He had the support of the honest, intelligent voters of our land. He is, in my opinion, the greatest man in our country and his influence for good will be felt in every walk of life, so long as he can utter a word or wield a pen.

A. L. Edwards, Alexis, Ill.—I fear there is danger ahead for our country. I hope we will have W. J. Bryan in the White House yet. We will have to work to gain the victory. The greatest trouble is that the people are afraid to vote against the republican party. As long as I live I will vote for Mr. Bryan whenever he is a candidate.

Conway Kelly, Marshall, Mo.—The future of the democratic party does not look good to me. Mr. Bryan can undoubtedly poll a larger vote than any member of his party, but the republicans have always been able to make a deal to defeat him.

H. D. Wagnon, Portland, Ore.—When some of the democratic states make conditions better for the people by some genuine reforms like direct legislation, or the taxation of land values, then, and not till then, may we expect to see the tide set towards genuine democracy. Oklahoma is

democratic and has made a splendid start, but Oregon has done somewhat better under republican rule and at the next election will leave the other "O" state far in the rear unless it goes to using direct legislation. Oregon will build and own her own railroads and throw them open as public highways, thereby breaking the railroad monopoly. And that will put the railways out of politics and when the railways are out of politics then the whole country as a nation will be democratic.

E. H. Kennedy, Scio, O.—Public sentiment is hard to cultivate. Ignorance and prejudice hard to overcome, but we remember what Mr. Lincoln said about fooling all the people part of the time, etc., and that explains the situation. The common people are being fooled, have been fooled,

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