

## Law or Lawlessness---Which?

Editorial in the Springfield (Mass.) Republican:

Mr. Bryan's Commoner this week contains an editorial from the editor's pen that may compel the serious attention of the president and congress of the United States. About half of this country now lives under local prohibition of the liquor traffic. One can travel from Cape Hatteras almost to the Rocky mountains, and not touch the soil of a state that allows liquor to be manufactured or sold. Many other states are half "wet" and half "dry," under local option. To that vast number of people who support state or local prohibition, Mr. Bryan's present attack upon the federal government for issuing federal licenses for the sale of liquor in places where state or local law prohibits it will strongly appeal as sound and just. Mr. Bryan thus states the case:

"In spite of the attempt of local authorities in these districts to prohibit the sale of liquor as a beverage, the federal government continues to issue licenses in contemptuous disregard of local sentiment and local law. The government receives \$25 for each license, and in receiving the money it must either intend to collect that sum without giving anything valuable in return (in case the one receiving the license does not sell liquor), or to encourage the one receiving the license to violate the local law, for he can not use his license without violating the law. Can the federal government afford to continue a partner with the lawbreakers? Can any party afford longer to legalize this partnership?"

The issue is put squarely up to congress and to the party controlling congress, now that Mr.

Bryan proposes "an amendment to the internal revenue part of the Payne bill prohibiting the issuing of federal licenses for the sale of liquor in states, counties or communities where the sale is locally prohibited." Why shouldn't his view be accepted as sound?

### MR. DE ARMOND'S BILL

On March 24 Representative De Armond of Missouri introduced house roll 4321. The bill was referred to the committee on ways and means and ordered printed. The bill is entitled "A bill concerning permits to sell intoxicating liquors." The bill follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no federal authorization or permit to sell any intoxicating liquor in a state shall be given until it shall be satisfactorily shown that the applicant therefor may sell such liquor at the place designated for the sale thereof without violating any law of such state applicable to such place and sale, and no such authorization or permit shall extend to any sale not made openly, at the designated place of business of the applicant, and every such authorization or permit hereafter given shall contain suitable recitals showing compliance with the requirements of this act, and shall at all times be subject to the inspection of any federal, state, county, or municipal officer; and every person guilty of a violation of this act shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

### THE SILVER CRAZE

Jetmore, Kan., April 29, 1909.—Now will some one kindly tell me what that means and what has been done to the silver dollar that men should be calling it "silver craze." If there has been anything done can some one tell me. I could buy 40 per cent more lumber with a silver dollar before the republican party fooled with it than I can with a gold dollar now. If they did anything with it why are they talking of having an international congress to fix it? Why did they not make it a forty cent dollar as they did the greenback and the United States senate and other corporations take it in as they did the greenback? They only raised the national debt in the greenback deal 60 per cent and nobody kicked. Now they could have done the same with silver. I don't think any one would kick.

E. H. WARDEN.

### CARNEGIE CANONIZES ROOT

The following curious dispatch was carried by the Associated Press:

"Utica, N. Y., April 9.—President M. W. Stryker of Hamilton college announced today that Andrew Carnegie had given \$200,000 to the college, the fund to be known as the Elihu Root peace fund, in recognition of the services of Senator Root for international peace. Senator Root is a graduate of Hamilton, a member of the board of trustees and his permanent home is within the shadow of the college buildings."

Is this the foundation for Mr. Root's presidential boom? It will be remembered that a former business partner of Mr. Carnegie recently gave out a statement in which he quoted Mr. Carnegie as saying: "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."

### THE COMMONER'S HIGH OFFICE

Sycamore, Wyo., April 16.—Editor Commoner: Like many others, I was badly disappointed in the election. May these four years of over prosperity be an eye opener to those who voted for it. The people need to be educated, but how this is to be accomplished is puzzling to me. The majority of the republican voters, who can read, refuse to read politics and the same old story they all tell is, "O, well, I never read politics and I know how I want to vote. I was raised a republican, but since studying the question I could not conscientiously support that ticket." It seems to me that every democratic voter ought to feel it their duty to do all in their power for democracy. And I

know of no better way than to get subscriptions for The Commoner, as it would help to educate the people better than any paper I know of.

—W. S.

### HE LOST PORK BY IT

From speech of Representative Ollie M. James of Kentucky, on the Payne tariff bill: I am by this tariff bill, and the position of the republican party declaring it to be a revision downward, like a fellow down in Metcalfe county, Ky., of whom I have often heard Mr. Eugene Newman, better known as "Savoyard," the most learned and gifted biographical and political sketch writer in the United States, speak.

He said down in Barren County, Ky., there lived a man after the order of Black George in Fielding's immortal novel. He was a squatter-sovereignty person and his domicile was on the southwestern slope of Pilot Knob, near the Green county line. His name was Creedall—Bluford Creedall. He was a noted character and, like Ancient Pistol, he held to the creed "Base is the slave that pays." A heavy forest extended from his very door clear down into the Devil's Half Acre and far into Lick Swamp. There were the giant white oak, the prolific post oak, the fruitful beech, the productive chestnut. The undergrowth was thick with hazelnut. It was a hunter's paradise and in autumn a fine "range for swine." The title to the soil was in Waddy Thompson, a prosperous farmer who dwelt some miles off. Every fall Thompson drove some fifty score thrifty shoats to the forest, where they fed on the mast, grew and developed into fine porkers. One bright October morn Thompson rode up to Mr. Creedall's cabin and a dialogue like this began:

"Good morning, Blufe."

"Good morning, Wad."

"Blufe, I have just brought over a bunch of hogs to take the mast on the range, and have chosen you to look after them. You know there is a mighty shackling set around here, and some of them don't mind stealing a hog when they are not watched. Now, Blufe, if you will keep an eye on my hogs and take care of them for me, I'll make you a present of the pick of the lot at killing time. You may have five of the very best, your own pick."

"Wad, that seems reasonable; we have always been the best of friends in the world, you have done me a heap of favors, and I guess I'll have to accommodate you; but I'll be d—d if I don't lose pork by it."

### CLASS IN ARITHMETIC

T. M. Hess, Marcella, Ark.—I have tried to solve the problem "for the class in arithmetic," contained in your issue of the 9th inst. relative

to the tariff. I am not a republican boy, and am not trying for the prize or reward, for I am already taking The Commoner and have been ever since the first issue. If the present rate is 45.72 per cent and is raised 1.56 per cent every session of congress, if the sessions are two years apart, it will take thirty-five sessions or seventy years to raise it to 100.32 per cent; or the exact time it will take to reach 100 per cent will be 69 years, 7 months, 2 days, 7 hours, 23 minutes and 48-13 seconds. I send this solution merely as a matter of curiosity.

A. M. Jones, Alton, Ill.—In answer to how long will it take the republican party to raise the tariff 100 per cent, if it raises it 1.56 per cent each revision. In the first place the republican party haven't revised the tariff either down or up yet, and regardless of the fact that in their last platform they promised unequivocally to revise the tariff immediately after election, in the light of their past record it is incomprehensible how anyone can be so credulous as to believe the republican party would revise the tariff downward in two years or any other number of years I take no pleasure in figuring on anything so uncertain as republican promises. But if any so uncertain should occur I think Johnny Gause is not far out of the way.

### REPUBLICAN ADVICE

The Kansas City Journal, the most boldly plutocratic of all the papers west of Chicago—if not west of New York—devoted two editorials to Mr. Bryan in one issue recently. The Journal is not content to put the corporation on a level with officials not obligated to the corporation—it puts them ABOVE all others. Its reference to "the unthinking masses" shows the standpoint from which it views public measures and public men.

In the other editorial it commends the bolt-ing democrats who followed the lead of Speaker Cannon. It exultingly predicts that "the old fashioned but still vigorous conservative democrats" will break away from "Bryanism." It describes Bryan democracy as "a ship without a rudder." From its praise of conservative democracy one would suppose it a ship with a republican rudder.

### THE DELUSION OF MILITARISM

Under the title, "The Delusion of Militarism," Charles Edward Jefferson writes for the March number of the Atlantic Monthly a strong condemnation of the military spirit which is hurrying our nation into ever increasing expenditures in preparation for wars that ought never to come. Every reader of The Commoner ought to read Mr. Jefferson's article, and then show it to his friends. It is the most powerful presentation of the folly of the big navy program that has yet appeared. It is needed just now to answer the un-American, un-Christian and inhuman tendencies of imperialism. Read Mr. Jefferson's article and give circulation to it.

### GIFTS UNSULLIED

I would not like to know, my love, that the jewel in your hair  
Was the lifetime taken from that broken woman there.

I would not like to know, my love, that you were rich and great  
With the riches wrung from sorrow and corruption of the state.

I would not like to know, my love, that I had wronged you so,  
That the rubles on your bosom from a baby's heart did grow;  
That your lovely brow was blazing with the wealth that I had wrung  
From the hunger-driven mothers and their homeless, helpless young.

I would not like to know, my love, that the silken dress you wore  
Cost the bread that I had taken from the tables of the poor;  
That the soft and weblike laces on your white and stainless breast  
Were the heart-strings of the mothers who had died to save their nest.

I would not like to know, my love, that any deed of mine  
Cast a shadow on the being that I hold to be divine;  
I would not like to know, my love, that I had done one thing  
That would black a single feather in your white soul's stainless wing.  
—Covington Hall in New Orleans Times-Democrat.