

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 10, NO. 37

Lincoln, Nebraska, September 23, 1910

Whole Number 505

Ask Your Congressman

The time is past for sham battles and in order that a real victory may be won for the people every candidate for congress should be questioned on several particular subjects by the men whose votes he seeks.

Readers of The Commoner everywhere should ask their congressman:

(1) Do you believe: "A platform is a pledge, given by the candidate to the voters, and when ratified at the polls becomes a contract between the official and his constituents. To violate it, in letter or in spirit, is not only undemocratic, but repugnant to the principles of representative government, and constitutes an embezzlement of power."

Answer

(2) Will you vote for a change in the house rules, putting the selection of committees in the hands of party caucuses, each caucus selecting its own committee membership?

Answer

(3) Where do you stand on the tariff question? Do you believe in the principle of protection as interpreted by the republican party or do you favor tariff for revenue only?

Answer

(4) Do you endorse the democratic platform declaration that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable?

Answer

(5) Will you do your utmost to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist?

Answer

(6) Will you favor a bill requiring the publication of all campaign contributions prior to election day?

Answer

(7) Are you opposed to national incorporation—that is, the grant of corporation charters by the federal government instead of by the state government as at present?

Answer

(8) Are you in favor of the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people?

Answer

(9) Are you in favor of the income tax?

Answer

(10) Do you approve the democratic national platform for 1908?

Answer

[Note: It is suggested that voters cut out the above list of questions and send it to the candidate for congress in their district, asking him to fill in the answers and return the same to the voter. The voter may, if he desires, forward the same to The Commoner and it will be printed in this paper.]

A BIG TASK

Mr. Roosevelt, replying to Chairman Tim Woodruff says: "The progressives are emphatically in favor of taking a real step forward

CONTENTS

ASK YOUR CONGRESSMAN
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

A BIG TASK

MAINE, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS

WHERE THE BATTLE IS RAGING
LOSSES SUFFERED BY G. O. P. SINCE THE
BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

DEMOCRATIC LANDSLIDE
WHAT THE WILD WAVES ARE SAYING
THE "NEW NATIONALISM"

CURRENT TOPICS

IF THE PEOPLE RULE WHY DON'T THEY
GET WHAT THEY WANT?
HOME DEPARTMENT

WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK

about direct primaries, substantially on the lines of Governor Hughes' proposition, but this is not the main issue. The main issue is that we stand against bossism, big or little, and in favor of genuine popular rule, not only at the elections, but within the party organization, and, above all, that our war is ruthless against every species of corruption, big and little, and against the alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics, as to which it has been found that too often in the past the boss system has offered a peculiarly efficient and objectionable means of communication. We are against the domination of the party and the public by special interests, whether these special interests are political, business or a compound of the two."

Good, he now has a job that will last the remainder of his life. The driving of "corrupt business" out of republican politics is a task worthy of his abilities.

ILLINOIS!

The re-nomination of Browne and twenty-two other "Lorimer democrats" in Illinois can not be explained by any of the rules ordinarily applied. It will require an examination into the situation in each district to ascertain how the democrats of Illinois could have given an apparent endorsement to the democratic legislators who voted for Lorimer at the very time when the bribery charges were being investigated, but of all these, the re-nomination of Browne is the most remarkable. Did he receive a majority of all the democratic votes cast or was his nomination due to the fact that the opposition was divided? Did he receive republican votes or was his re-nomination due entirely to democrats? It is well to suspend judgment until the facts are obtained, but such a result at a primary election amazes one.

WHY NOT, INDEED?

Rudolph Kroll, Spearfish, South Dakota, writes: "Regarding the recall measure why not, if an official big or little turn traitor, let him take the same medicine given to that class in time of war. If that were the rule I think most men inclined to go wrong would think twice before violating a public trust."

Mr. Kroll's question ought to set some people to thinking. Public interests are paramount in peace as in war. The public official who, during a period of peace violates the trust given him need not be put to death as some traitors are during a war; he may at least be required to retire from the public office to whose obligations he is false.

SIGNS

William Warner, republican senator from Missouri, announces that he will not be a candidate for re-election, and Governor Hadley, who has long been suspected of nursing a senatorial boom, declares that he will not be a candidate to succeed Senator Warner as the republican nominee. It is very plain that in the opinion of republicans, as well as of democrats, this is not to be a republican year.

Plainly democrats have but to deserve success in the year 1910 in order to win it, and to deserve success they must give the people explicit pledges on all public questions and nominate men who may be depended upon to redeem those pledges.

WILL HE HELP LODGE?

Some time ago it was announced by Senator Lodge's literary bureau that Mr. Roosevelt had promised to help the Massachusetts senator in his efforts to secure re-nomination. It is likely that if Mr. Roosevelt made a promise to Senator Lodge he has learned something to his advantage since his western trip. It is very probable that Mr. Lodge will have to rely upon Vice President Sherman, Timothy Woodruff, and men of that wing of the party for whatever aid he must have in the effort to obtain re-election.

Who is Responsible?

The Wall Street Journal recently printed the following statement: "The Goodyear Tire and Rubber company, of Akron, Ohio, has increased its capitalization from \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000, the \$4,000,000 addition being entirely common stock. A cash disbursement of 12 per cent and a stock dividend of 100 per cent have been declared."

Referring to the Journal's article the Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Leader, a republican paper, says: "The above concern, and others like it in the rubber business, had no more need of an increase in the tariff duties on manufactured rubber articles than a man with enough to eat has of more to eat, except to gratify hoggishness. Yet, under the direction of the interested Senator Aldrich and others associated with him, the rate on rubber manufactures was raised from thirty to thirty-five per cent. When concerns like the above make such enormous profits that they can afford to pay a dividend of twelve per cent in cash and 100 per cent in stock, reductions in rates are needed, not increases. The case furnishes an illustration of the sort of tariff revision the republican national platform did not pledge the party to bring about."

But Aldrich was the acknowledged republican leader, and no less a personage than William H. Taft said that the people could depend upon him for faithful service. The republican party can not escape the responsibility for "rubber" any more than it can escape the responsibility for the many other evils which its representatives have foisted upon the people.

THE QUARREL OVER CONSERVATION

Why all this controversy over who shall "conserve?" Is there any private interest on the back ground that can account for this heated quarrel? The whole nation is interested in conservation but the states are interested in development. Why not allow the states to develop under limitations imposed by congress? Let congress fix the length of leases and otherwise safeguard the national interests and then let the states control within these limitations and police the reservations.

NO POP GUN BILLS NOW

The press dispatches say that President Taft will recommend the reduction of the tariff, not by a general bill, but by separate bills dealing with particular schedules. Does he forget that that was the plan adopted by the democrats in 1892? And does he forget that the republicans, in derision, called those bills pop-gun bills? If that plan is now adopted by the republicans another democratic policy will be elevated into respectability.

MAINE, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS

On September 12 Maine elected a democratic governor and two democratic congressmen. Arizona elected a democratic constitutional convention, and Arkansas endorsed the initiative and referendum. This is good enough for one day. The Commoner congratulates the three states upon the splendid showing made and rejoices at these signs of growth in democratic sentiment.

BETTER TAKE THE VETERAN

Because Senator Beveridge is now advocating a few of the many reforms that Candidate John W. Kern has been advocating for many years, he asks for re-election. Isn't that almost insubordination? To think that a recruit should attempt to out-rank a veteran!

Mr. Roosevelt is still harping on his former theory, namely, that we can scare the world into peace by building a big navy. Roosevelt is a great man, but even he is not large enough to overturn the moral law. "Thought is stronger than artillery parks," and "back of thought is love."