

## Democratic Opinion Freely Expressed

(In publishing letters from readers it is hardly necessary to say that publication does not mean that The Commoner endorses the sentiments contained in the letters.)

### IN NEW JERSEY

Editor The Commoner: I noticed in a recent issue of the Commoner that one of your readers made the remark that out of the five democratic governors elected recently in the east that there did not seem to be one capable of progressive leadership. No greater mistake could have been made. To say nothing of those elected in our neighboring states, New Jersey has a man big enough and honest enough to satisfy all who have the interest of their country at heart. Note how he has defied the machine and forced a corporation candidate into the open. When he was nominated I, like many others, were apprehensive of the course he would pursue if elected. But now all doubt has been removed and the real democrats of this state recognize in Woodrow Wilson a great moral force, which will ultimately drive from the party the very interests which have brought the republican party to its present chaotic state. Give us a lift, Mr. Editor, through the columns of The Commoner, for New Jersey needs all the assistance available in her struggle for political freedom.

W. H. STEPHENS,  
Pres. Neptune Township Democratic Club.  
Asbury Park, N. J., December 17, 1910.

### NOT A CANDIDATE

Editor The Commoner: Will it be held amiss to ask why it is that many of the papers since election have heralded the results of the "passing of Bryan," and of Bryan, as a statesman and a power in the democratic party. Extremely noticeable among these is that reprinted in The Commoner of December 16, from the St. Louis Censor. Here, comparing Mr. Bryan to some of our great statesmen, we are informed that he "is not a statesman, neither is he a man of exceptional mental equipment." Then the writer goes on to show that the very principles which Mr. Bryan has advocated in the last decade are what our government should have adopted and are what must be adopted to restore the government to the hands of the people. Is it not an unconscious tribute to Mr. Bryan's breadth, both mentally and in statecraft to illustrate, as does the Censor, that his theories of government are being adopted by the progressives of both great parties, and will doubtless be the foundation of the platform of the winning side in our next presidential election? And incidentally, while the conservative democrats are so seriously (and ill-advisedly) looking for 1912 presidential timber among the second growth saplings, favorites of Wall Street, why not put the following query to the real democrats of both parties: Since the majority of the voters as shown by the returns of November 8, want real representation, a representation that will give them a government along lines always advocated by Mr. Bryan, who is better fitted to lead those voters to a victory in 1912 than the man who has always had the interests of the nation at heart and has ever stood for "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people?"

FRANK P. JESSUP.  
Minatare, Neb., December 20, 1910.

### IN WEST VIRGINIA

Some of the voters who supported the democratic ticket are not pleased at all, as they scan the editorial pages of the Wheeling Register and other papers of the state, while they boast some reactionary for the senate of the United States.

Is it still to be a matter of barter and sale to the highest bidder, just as Nathan Bay Scott appeared to think? Have the money bags subsidized these newspapers? The public may well become suspicious of the malefactors of wealth, in this howling across the political wilderness.

And these self-styled leaders did not organize and achieve this victory, but on the contrary it was a great surprise to them when the result was announced. They surely did not know beforehand that thousands of republicans would refuse to go to the polls, as a protest against selfish interests controlling their party organizations for purpose of public plunder.

There are reactionaries then in the democratic party as well as in the republican party, and the voters are to be mocked one other time,

How long, O, how long is this fraud to continue upon the dear people? Had the republican voters turned out they could have scored their usual triumph in the state. There was no sense in a change of parties if the interests are still to dictate.

All of this is complete demonstration that the Oregon plan of government will have to be adopted if justice for all interests is ever to be secured. And Oregon is a republican state. Why may not West Virginia learn?

The election of any corporation tool, or servant of monopoly, to the senate of the United States by the democratic legislature of West Virginia, will be the "parting of the ways" for a large number of democrats, independents and republicans who supported that ticket at the last election. The people desire only justice and equal opportunity for all classes. The interests are in opposition to this safe and patriotic purpose. They are determined to pile up wealth at the expense of the masses, by class legislation.

It was in the hope of making advance toward the achievement of public justice and fairness which induced the voters, regardless of past party affiliations to vote the democratic ticket. So the democratic legislature had best remember the frail tenure by which they hold temporary place. Also they will do well to not forget that party names are not so compelling of late with former partisans. The result of the election was a loud protest against the abuses practiced by the corporation domination of the party too long in power.

The United States senate needs thorough reformation. It is in that body that greed, graft and craft have long been securely entrenched. It is in the minds of vast numbers of all parties that this rotten citadel of the interests should be cleaned and made responsive to public interests.

The reactionaries are striving to get a strangle hold on the democratic party. If they succeed in their scheme it will probably result in the complete dissolution and disintegration of the party. For there is no excuse for the continued existence of that party if it does not champion the side of justice and the public interest in this great conflict.

Indeed it is a battle of mammon, that in its mad avarice is threatening the interest, the peace and the liberty of the country, and the very existence of our free form of government.

JAMES BASSEL.

Weston, W. Va., December 15, 1910.

### "THE PASSING"

Editor The Commoner: I have noticed in the Commoner lately a great deal about the "passing of Bryan." Why not let the people settle that? I have voted and worked for Mr. Bryan, and why not? He is nearer the hearts of the American people than any man. The common people can trust Mr. Bryan in 1912.

A. H. SIMPSON.

Brandon, Ore., December 15, 1910.

### IN NEW YORK

Jenksville, N. Y., December 17, 1910.—Editor Commoner: I am glad (with other democrats) to read your warning us to beware of the new leaders (?) of the "safe and conservative" party, born (according to the New York World) at the last election. Dozens of democrats in this state did not vote, giving as their reasons that candidates who were so warmly supported by the World, Brooklyn Eagle, New York Times, and others, were good candidates for real democrats to fight shy of. If these new leaders (?) shall select such men as Shephard and Sheehan in this state, Smith in New Jersey, McLean in Ohio for the senate the next election will see those leaders and their ticket buried by two million majority. It would seem as if the rank and file will not allow themselves to be led into the support of such men who have done their best for years to ruin the democratic party. I enclose a letter showing how one of the candidates in this state dodges every issue on which the election was won. J. A. BLANCHARD.

The Rural New-Yorker, New York.—December 7, 1910.—Mr. J. A. Blanchard, Jenksville, N. Y.—Dear Sir: I have just received your letter. There are many others who feel just as you do about the political situation. I have a letter from Mr. Shephard. I asked him a number of questions and he dodged every one of

them and even at that refuses to have his letter printed. The others seem to be very much like him. In fact I think the democrats are going to play politics and do all they can simply to keep things going so that they can elect their president in 1912, and as they have got the reins of power in their hands it will be very difficult now to shut them off. I regret very much the situation as it stands, but for two years to come, at least, the democrats will not be likely to listen to anything except party orders. Very truly yours,

H. W. COLLINGWOOD, Editor.

### JOHN J. LENTZ

Hon. John J. Lentz is a candidate for the United States senate before the Ohio legislature and in announcing his candidacy sets forth the following declaration of principles:

"1. A tariff for revenue on articles of luxury and not on articles of necessity; also a tariff commission.

"2. Graduated income and inheritance taxes that will put the burdens of the government equitably upon the backs of the people.

"3. A regulation that will regulate all trusts and monopolies, with attention first to those that have been dictating the financial and political policies of our republic.

"4. The selection of United States senators by the direct vote of the people.

"5. Insurance of bank deposits, guaranteeing immediate and full payment to depositors in the event of the bank's failure.

"6. A postal express for the million miles of rural routes such as will transport and deliver at a smaller cost, much larger packages than those now provided for by the parcels post.

"7. A postal telegraph or electric mail that will give the people of the United States the right to send a telegram of thirty words to any part of the country at a cost of five cents a message.

"8. The preservation and conservation of all our resources in Alaska and elsewhere for the benefit of the whole people.

"9. A law providing for the payment out of the public treasury of every legitimate and necessary expense incident to primary and general elections, thereby providing a more certain guaranty against corruption of voters than publishing the names of contributors and the amounts, either before or after the election, and also making it possible for a man of character and brains but without wealth, to have an equal chance with the millionaire or the representative of special interests.

"10. A law making it a crime to solicit, contribute or receive campaign contributions for either primary or general election purposes. This will prevent the corruption of voters and also prevent the undue influence of the interests in nominating and electing public officials.

"11. The initiative and referendum, and the right of recall.

"12. An immediate reduction of the cost of administering the government by the exercise of that economy and common honesty practiced by men in the conduct of ordinary business enterprises.

"In brief, let it be remembered that my pledge is to further the enactment of such laws as will promote that equality, honesty and liberty which was the inspiration of the life, work and public service of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln.

"And I challenge Senator Dick to a series of joint debates to discuss all the issues of the day, and particularly to give him an opportunity to explain why he has failed to introduce a bill for the improvement of our postal service by the use of the telegraph as was advocated by him ten years ago, before the postmasters' convention."

There are many good democrats in Ohio, actual residents, who would adorn the position and represent the masses, but it is no reflection on others to say that none of them would be more effective in debate or more steadfast in the advocacy of progressive democracy.

### EXACTLY

Concerning the president's judicial appointments the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal (republican) says: "Taking the nominations individually or as a group, the verdict can scarcely be other than that the president has discharged his task with a keen sense of the fitness of things."

Exactly. An administration chosen by the special interests would naturally be expected to select judges that are acceptable to the special interests.