

## The Commoner.

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### JABS AT THE COMMONER EDITOR

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, (rep.): "Mr. Bryan does not expect to be a candidate for office, but he reserves the right to be forced."

New York Tribune (rep.): "The Commoner says that it will be easy to reorganize the democratic party in Pennsylvania. Mr. Bryan tried it himself in 1908 when he catapulted Colonel 'Jim' Guffey out of the democratic national committee. But Guffey 'came back' a year later. It is as hard to 'reorganize' the colonel out of Pennsylvania politics as it is to foreclose on any one of a cat's nine lives."

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, (rep.): "Colonel Bryan has broken bread with Governor Wilson. This is what the colonel declined to do with Governor Harmon. As a consequence Governor Wilson's presidential stock goes up twenty points, although at the close of the dinner both the colonel and the governor declared they had not talked politics."

Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald: "Who have a fondness for oratory regret the opportunity was not given them to hear O'Connell, Phillips, Webster, Calhoun, Douglas, Lincoln or Gladstone. They were the orators of a day that is forever gone. There will be born millions whose wish will be that they might have heard Bryan, and for the boys and girls of today to have memory of his eloquence will be to enjoy it through all their days."

New York Tribune: "There is no reason for pessimism and every reason for optimism," said William J. Bryan to the members of the Twilight Club, of this city. That is a sentiment highly creditable to a statesman who has thrice been an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency. If Mr. Bryan can be optimistic no other American politician can afford to be downcast, even the Hon. Joseph W. Bailey or the Hon. Jonathan Bourne.

Nashville (Tennessee) Banner: "Mr. Bryan seems to have had difficulty in getting people to understand his attitude concerning the matter of candidacy for office. In Boston he was moved to explain his position with some care. Said he: 'I have stated that I am not a candidate and do not expect to be a candidate. I am not a candidate for any office. But lest the simple statement that I am not a candidate

for any office may be misconstrued I may explain that I do not intend to say that I have given any pledge not to become a candidate, for office. I say that I am not a candidate, that I have no intention of being a candidate for any political office and that I do not foresee now any circumstance or condition that would make me a candidate. I take great interest in every political and economic question before the American people. I shall always retain that interest and when I say I am not a candidate for office I do not mean that I shall relinquish my interest or activity."

### BRYAN BIRTHDAY DINNER

The democrats of Nebraska, assembling under the auspices of the Lincoln-Bryan Club, gave a Bryan birthday dinner on the evening of March 20, at the big auditorium in the city of Lincoln. Mr. Bryan was fifty-one years of age Sunday, March 19th.

The dinner was in every way a great success. An enormous crowd gathered and the toast list was perhaps the most notable ever offered in the history of Nebraska politics. Extracts from the speeches delivered will be printed in the next issue of The Commoner.

Dr. P. L. Hall, national committeeman for Nebraska, acted as toastmaster. The toast list was as follows:

Hon. E. B. Quackenbush, "Progressive Legislation in the Nebraska House of Representatives."

Hon. Charles M. Skiles, "Progressive Democracy in the Nebraska State Senate."

Hon. John A. Maguire, "Mr. Bryan at Home."

Hon. W. H. Thompson, "Mr. Bryan's Connection with Nebraska Politics."

Hon. A. C. Shallenberger, "The Guarantee of Bank Deposits."

Senator G. M. Hitchcock, "The Election of United States Senators by Popular Vote."

Mr. Richard L. Metcalfe, "Mr. Bryan vs. Special Interests."

Governor John Shafroth, Colorado, "The Initiative and Referendum."

Senator John W. Kern, Indiana, "The Tariff."

Senator Robert L. Owen, Oklahoma, "Arizona."

Hon. Champ Clark, Missouri, "The Overthrow of Cannonism."

William J. Bryan, Address.

### MR. BRYAN IN BOSTON

Boston, March 10.—To The Editor of The Commoner: I have been a supporter and admirer of William J. Bryan since 1896, when I won the only delegation pledged to him in Boston, and still believe in him. I was present at the meeting he addressed in Ford Hall here and at the lunch given in his honor by Governor Foss, and he has grown in my eyes. Thinking the enclosed clipping from the Globe, a conservative paper here in Boston, may make a good item in your next issue as my letter may, I send it to you. The clipping is from the Boston Globe, March 10, 1911. Yours,

JAMES A. WATSON, Roxby, Mass.

House of representatives, 1900-'01. Delegate Kansas City, 1900.

No wonder Mr. Bryan marks the man. Everyone can recall Bryan's appreciative references to George D. Prentiss of Louisville, his absorption of the spirits of Lincoln and Jefferson, and in a reverse order, his light touches on the figure at Oyster Bay.

It is this closeness of touch with his own countrymen, past and present and their best thought, that constitutes one element of Mr. Bryan's great power to speak and to sway.

And let not this be forgotten: He knows his scripture from Genesis to Revelation and no man, woman or child who listens to Mr. Bryan for an hour, doubts his sincerity as to that or will ever accuse him of using that knowledge other than wisely and well.—Boston Globe.

### SENATOR MYERS OF MONTANA

Senator Henry L. Myers of Montana will be a valuable addition to the United States senate. Senator Myers began the practice of law fifteen years ago. He served the people faithfully in the state senate and for the past four years held the office of district judge, winning the confidence and respect of all parties. Senator Myers is a student of public questions and a thorough going democrat. A very modest man, he is as courageous as he is conscientious and his fine character will soon make itself felt in public life at Washington. If New York and Colorado would only do as well as Montana has done the democratic party and the country would have reason to rejoice.

### DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE

The El Paso Times says that the people of Arizona will yet learn that Senator Bailey rendered them a great service when he fought the constitution they had adopted by a large majority. The Times says that Mr. Bailey's objection was based largely to the recall as applied to the judiciary. In support of Mr. Bailey's position the Times quotes a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to Chancellor Wythe of Virginia, as follows:

"The dignity and stability of government in all its branches, the morals of the people, and every blessing of society, depended as much upon an upright and skillful administration of justice, that the judicial power ought to be distinct from both the legislature and executive, and independent upon both, so that it may be a check upon both as both should be checks upon that. The judges, therefore, should always be men of learning and experience in the laws, of exemplary morals, great patience, calmness and attention; their minds should not be distracted with jarring interests; they should not be dependent upon any man or body of men. To these ends they should hold estates for life in their offices, or, in other words, their commissions should be during good behavior, and their salaries ascertained and established by law.

"For misbehavior, the grand inquest of the colony, the house of representatives, should impeach them before the governor and council, when they should have time and opportunity to make their defense; but if convicted to such other punishment as shall be thought proper."

But the Times could have secured a Jefferson opinion more directly fitting the question under discussion had it gone a little deeper into Jefferson's writings.

In the first place Jefferson believed in the inalienable right of the people to frame their own constitution. "The people themselves," said Jefferson, "are its (the government's) only safe depositories."

He would believe, as we are warranted in thinking by innumerable letters, that it would have been better to adopt the Arizona constitution with whatever defects it may have contained trusting the people to cure those defects according to experience. He believed, too, that the people should keep a firm hold on the judiciary for in a letter to Arnon, he said: "Were I called upon to decide whether the people had best be omitted in the legislative or judiciary department, I would say it is better to leave them out of the legislative. The execution of the laws is more important than the making of them. However, it is best to have the people in all three departments where that is possible."

At another time he said: "As for the safety of society we commit honest maniacs to Bedlam, so judges should be withdrawn from their bench, whose erroneous biases are leading us to dissolution. It may, indeed, injure them in fame or in fortune, but it saves the republic which is the first and supreme law."

Now if judges were to be withdrawn by individual authority appointing them, why might they not be withdrawn by the people electing them.

He advocated the appointment of federal judges "for life, or, in other words, during good behavior," and the recall is not to be used during good behavior.

In another letter, he said: "Do not be frightened by the alarms of the timid or the croakings of wealth against the ascendancy of the people. If experience be called for, appeal to that of our fifteen or twenty governments for forty years, and show me where the people have done half the mischief in these forty years, that a single despot would have done in a single year; or show half the riots and rebellions, the crimes and the punishments, which have taken place in any single nation, under kingly government, during the same period."

In another letter he said: "Unless the mass retains sufficient control over those intrusted with the powers of their government, these will be perverted to their own oppression, and to the perpetuation of wealth and power in the individuals and their families selected for the trust. Whether our constitution has hit on the exact degree of control necessary, is yet under experiment."

It is also of some moment that when Jefferson was asked to frame a constitution for an European colony he declined on the ground that they were better judges of what they wanted than he was. Certainly the people of Arizona know what they want and no student of government has any reason to doubt that they will, in time, secure it.