

# Beer vs. Democracy

The Douglas county (Omaha) democratic convention, held July 15th, adopted the following resolutions:

"The democrats of Douglas county, in convention assembled, send greetings to the loyal democrats of the state of Nebraska, about to assemble in delegate convention at Fremont. Standing on the adamant foundation of democracy that in the party councils the majority should rule, we deplore and condemn the action of William Jennings Bryan, who, having repeatedly received the loyal support of the democratic party of Nebraska, turned treacherously upon it in its hour of need and accomplished its defeat.

"The Douglas county democrats, believing in the principles of the national constitution and knowing the patriotism and loyalty of that great leader of democracy in the state of Ohio, and with profound belief in his ability, his integrity and his patriotism, send greetings to him and to the people of Ohio, who on his second election of governor gave him 150,000 majority over his opponent. With 'Harmon and Harmony' as the slogan the democratic host will march on to glorious victory in 1912."

This is an echo of the Nebraska campaign of last year. Mayor Dahlman was nominated for governor at an "open" primary by the aid of "wet" republicans. He did not receive a majority of the democratic votes cast at the primary; he repudiated an important plank of the platform adopted by the convention and announced that he would veto a county option bill if it was passed by the legislature, although the convention, by an overwhelming majority, rejected the demand made by the Douglas county delegation that county option be condemned. He ran his campaign on the liquor issue entirely and although he had the support of the liquor interests without regard to party he was not only defeated, but ran behind his ticket.

Mr. Bryan opposed him and has no apologies to offer for his conduct during the campaign. He is not willing to be a partner to the unholy alliance which the Douglas county democracy has made with the liquor interests. He feels complimented that they should recognize him as hostile to their purposes and methods.

Fortunately the real cause of the hatred expressed by the Omaha brewers through the Douglas county democracy is emphasized by the resolution endorsing Governor Harmon for the presidency. The brewers, speaking through the Douglas county democracy find fault with Mr. Bryan because he refused to support a democratic candidate for governor (he supported all the rest of the state ticket) and at the same time they indorse Governor Harmon who bolted the democratic national ticket in 1896. Mr. Bryan was the choice of the democratic convention and indorsed every plank of the democratic platform and yet Governor Harmon, then a cabinet officer, bolted and used his influence to help elect Mr. McKinley, the republican candidate. Now, the Douglas county democracy, speaking for the brewers, in a campaign in which tariff reform seems likely to be the paramount issue,

APPRECIATED IN WISCONSIN  
W. D. McDaniels, Wisconsin—Enclose find my check for \$2.80 in payment for the complete Commoner Condensed, which I hope to receive as soon as possible. May great strength be given to the arm of Mr. Bryan in his splendid fight on the agents of system and protection within the party. Tariff-wool democrats may plume themselves for the present on their momentary victory, but they have yet to face a disgusted and an indignant people, when doubtless they will discover that this is only the beginning of the conflict instead of the day of triumph. No thinly veiled excuse will answer for this unworthy surrender. It certainly merits the most hilarious "haw haws" of all republicans. Best wishes for the continued success of The Commoner.

favors the nomination of Governor Harmon who helped to elect the high priest of protection. Bolting does not seem to be so bad in national politics—it is only in a state campaign that it is an unpardonable sin.

It is a small matter, it seems, for a cabinet officer to go over to the enemy when the common people are engaged in a life and death struggle with Wall street, but if a Nebraska democrat protests against the debauching of his party by a non-partisan group of brewers he is denounced as a traitor.

Well, we shall see whether beer is the only thing in which the Nebraska democracy is interested.

No attack is made upon Mr. Bryan's views on national politics. What do national politics count for with those who put the pecuniary interests of brewers, distillers and liquor dealers above everything else?

There is not time to present the issue to the democratic voters before the primaries and conventions now being held, but there will be time before the primary of next April.

### "ART THOU DESERTED, O ISRAEL?"

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington credits Former Republican State Chairman Timothy L. Woodruff, of New York, with this dire prediction:

"If business conditions continue as bad as they are now the democratic party stands an excellent show to carry the state in the presidential campaign. That is due to the practice of business interests in blaming the party in power for famine, drouths and all other natural and unnatural disturbances."

Can it be possible that the republican party has been forsaken by its old reliable ally of prosperity, the sunshine and the rain? Truly, this is pitiable. A year from now all of these troubles will be laid at the doors of a democratic congress.

### MISTAKEN MOTIVES

There will be, The Commoner thinks, general agreement among Americans with the following from the Denver News: "The News is glad there will be a probing of the facts concerning Controller Bay, Alaska. Not that we have the slightest notion anything will be discovered to justify the charges against President Taft. Our president makes mistakes, he endures too much from the new nationalists, and listens too much to the 'interests.' But he is not a crook. Whether he did right about Controller Bay or not, we will bank that he acted from clean motives. They may be mistaken motives; but they were not dirty. Turn on the light. The country has a right to it, and the president has nothing to fear from it."

### HOW DOES IT HAPPEN

The fact that with a multitude of available men to select from any democrats should advocate Governor Harmon when his lack of availability is so apparent recalls a story. A stranger stopped a stuttering man on the street and asked him the distance to the union depot. The man replied: "A-a-a-b-b-bout t-t-ten b-b-blocks—but w-w-why d-d-d-d-did y-y-y-you h-h-hap-p-pen t-to a-a-ask m-me wh-when t-t-there a-a-a-are a-a-hun-hun-dred t-t-thous-a-a-and pe-pe-ple i-in t-t-the cit-city."

Ex-President Eliot of Harvard seems to have as little confidence in the Declaration of Independence as he has in the Bible, possibly it is because he misinterprets it. Men are created equal in natural rights and these natural rights are inalienable. To say that a man can forfeit certain rights by misconduct is not a denial of natural and inalienable rights.

When the Virginia democrats read that Georgia had sent Hoke Smith to the senate it ought to suggest to them the propriety of retiring Senator Martin. It will be humiliating to Virginia to see her senator measured up against such a man as Smith—and it may suggest to North Carolina the propriety of retiring Senator Simmons.

The election of Governor Hoke Smith to the senate will give Georgia a conspicuous place in that body. Smith is not only an anti-monopoly democrat, but he is able to hold his own against all comers. He will NOT be a follower of Senator Bailey.

Again attention is called to the fact that nothing is being done to overcome the evil effects of the supreme court decision on the Standard Oil or Tobacco case. Delay is dangerous.

### ANTI-TRUST LEAGUE'S WORK

Washington, D. C., July 8, 1911.—Editor Commoner: Enclosed we send you report of the action of the national executive committee of the Anti-Trust league on the matter of the "International Steel Trust," which we hope you will find space for in The Commoner.

This is a matter which is of vital interest to all the people, and is intended to defeat the enforcement of the anti-trust law against the steel trust and to prevent the success of the efforts of the democratic party to reduce the cost to the consumers of steel and iron products through a reduction of the tariff. Very truly yours,

C. T. BRIDE,  
National Treasurer.  
H. B. MARTIN,  
National Secretary.

Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C.

### INCUBATION OF INTERNATIONAL STEEL TRUST

The organization yesterday at Brussels of the International Iron and Steel institute with E. H. Gary the official head of the United States Steel corporation as its chairman, has aroused the interest of a good many people on this side of the water.

Today at a special meeting of the national executive committee of the Anti-Trust league, a sub-committee consisting of the National Treasurer Cotter T. Bride, of the District of Columbia, and National Secretary Henry B. Martin of New York, were appointed to confer with President Taft and the state department with a view to having the agents of the United States government in Europe keep close watch on the proceedings at Brussels.

The members of the Anti-Trust league are firmly convinced that the Brussels meeting is plainly shown by the dispatches in today's papers to be nothing more nor less than the formation of a world-wide international steel trust.

The officers of the league intend to make a request for action not only by the president and state department, but they will also bring the matter to the attention of the committees on the judiciary and foreign affairs of the senate and the house of representatives. The league considers the action of the heads of the United States Steel trust in proceeding to the organization of this international trust as being an especially brazen defiance of our government occurring as it does at this very time when they are being investigated by congress through the Stanley committee, and their officials are being indicted by the federal grand jury for violating the anti-trust law.

It is considered a significant fact that on the very day when Gary is organizing the international steel trust at Brussels, J. P. Morgan, the real king of the steel trust is in close conference with Emperor William who is a leading factor in the German steel trust, and when it is recalled that the king of England and other foreign princes and potentates are heavily interested in one or more of the steel trusts of England and the continent, members of the Anti-Trust league are of the opinion that not only are Gary, Morgan and others of the steel trust officials guilty of gross violation of the anti-trust law but that they may be held liable for far graver offences against the United States than violations of the Sherman law.

The United States Steel corporation and the foreign steel trusts have already had in full operation for several years past, an international armor trust by which the steel trust expects to defeat the purpose of the Rainey amendment to the last naval bill which authorizes the secretary of the United States navy department to purchase armor abroad in case the trust prices are exorbitant.

The Anti-Trust leaguers believe that the Gary International Steel Trust should receive prompt attention by congress at this session, for the reason that the international combine is clearly intended to anticipate and nullify the efforts of congress to reduce the cost of steel and steel products, wire, farm machinery, etc., by reducing the tariff on steel and iron.

### THERE ARE OTHERS

Have Senator Martin, of Virginia and Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, read of Senator Paynter's withdrawal? Why not follow so good an example?

The democrats are certainly "going some" when they select James and Smith for the senate within a month. A few more such promotions and the democratic party in the senate will become democratic.