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CAUCUS PROCEEDINGS SECRET

Welch, W. Va., June 10, 1911.—Editor Commoner: From reading the account of the fight on the wool schedule in the democratic caucus in an issue of The Commoner, it occurs to me that, where it is practicable to do so, on important measures of this kind, whether in caucus or in the house, The Commoner should publish the names of those who voted for and against such a measure. The rank and file of the party ought to have information on this subject, so they will know what to do with their representatives when they come up for re-election, and I believe The Commoner is the best medium for distributing the information. It helps, of course, to know which side the leaders took, but most of the voters only get to vote for the smaller men. I hope you will give this your consideration and give us all the information you can whenever such measures arise. Very sincerely yours, CHARLES V. PRICE.

Caucus proceedings are secret and vote is not available. The secret caucus is an evil The Commoner is trying to have eliminated.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

Pace & Pace, Lawyers, Harrison, Ark., June 14.—The Commoner: As I am advised by Mr. J. R. Newman, editor and proprietor of the Harrison Times, a democratic newspaper, published at this place, his paper beginning with this week's issue will carry clippings from The Commoner. It was suggested by one of your correspondents that it would be well to induce country papers to carry articles from The Commoner. I commend the suggestion and shall be glad to see the day when the subscriber will, on receiving his home paper find something from the great teacher of democratic principles. Yours truly, W. F. PACE.

SENATOR HOKE SMITH

Hoke Smith, who was inaugurated governor of Georgia something more than two weeks ago, was elected to the United States senate by the Georgia legislature. Governor Smith received 127 votes, 115 being necessary to a choice.

Georgia has done well in sending Hoke Smith to the United States senate. He is needed in that body and the people may confidently count upon faithful service by Georgia's new senator.

Congratulations to Hoke Smith for the opportunity of rendering larger service to the people and congratulations to Georgia upon having a senator whose fidelity to democratic principles is unquestioned.

“ASK THE CANDIDATE”

Commoner readers everywhere are advised to submit to the various presidential candidates questions something like the following:

- 1 Question—Do you favor tariff for revenue only? 1 Answer ..... 2 Q—Do you favor free raw material and the placing of a revenue duty only on manufactured goods? 2 A ..... 3 Q—Do you believe that in the revision of the tariff the element of protection should be given consideration? 3 A ..... 4 Q—Do you believe that the three branches of government are co-ordinate and that each one should keep within its constitutional sphere? 4 A ..... 5 Q—Do you approve the recent Standard Oil decision wherein the United States supreme court legislated the word "unreasonable" into the Sherman anti-trust act? 5 A ..... 6 Q—Do you favor the repeal of the criminal clause of the anti-trust law or do you believe that in view of supreme court legislation congress should make it clear that all restraint of trade is unreasonable? 6 A ..... 7 Q—Do you favor the election of senators by the people? 7 A ..... 8 Q—Do you favor the income tax? 8 A ..... 9 Q—Do you believe that it is the duty of the American people to promise independence to the Filipinos immediately and to give it in the same way in which they gave independence to the Cubans? 9 A ..... 10 Q—Do you believe in the publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures both before and after election day in order that the people may know in advance the

character of support each party and candidate receives?

- 10 A ..... 11 Q—Are you willing that the source of every dollar of contribution made to your campaign fund either after your nomination or during the contest for the nomination shall be made public prior to election day? 11 A ..... 12 Q—Do you believe in the support of the state governments in all their rights? 12 A ..... 13 Q—Do you indorse the labor planks of the 1908 platform? 13 A ..... 14 Q—Do you believe in the strict regulation of railroads? 14 A ..... 15 Q—Do you indorse the democratic platform of 1908 respecting trusts wherein it declares that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable" and presents a remedy? 15 A ..... 16 Q—Do you approve the plan known as the Aldrich currency scheme? 16 A ..... 17 Q—Do you favor asset currency in any form? 17 A ..... 18 Q—Do you believe in the establishment of what is known as a central bank? 18 A ..... 19 Q—Do you favor legislation compelling banks to insure depositors? 19 A ..... Let democrats everywhere ask questions and secure answers, thus finding out just what every candidate stands for. In this way democrats may be able to determine with some degree of intelligence as to the available candidate. The Commoner will be glad to print the replies made to these questions by gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in connection with the democratic presidential nomination.

TIME TO ACT

Write to your senators and representatives—write at once—and tell them that it is time to act on the resolution submitting the amendment providing for popular election of senators. Both houses have by a large majority declared for the policy but the resolution is hung up in conference because the parties differ on the language. Each party is trying to secure a party advantage in connection with the reform. The people want the REFORM—they are much more interested in the reform than in any party advantage. The optional plan eliminates the party issue and insures the ratification of the amendment. Urge your senators and members to support this plan or some other plan that will give us popular election of senators immediately. The special session can not afford to adjourn without action.

THE LONESOME LEADER

A few months ago eleven democrats signed a telegram to the governor of Texas in which they declared Senator Bailey to be the "undisputed" leader of the democratic minority in the senate. He had just led TWO democrats in his fight against Arizona's admission. He has just given another sample of his "undisputed" leadership. He led TWO democrats over to the support of the Cummins amendment to the reciprocity agreement. Unless he is able to muster a larger following he will soon become known as the lonesome leader.

“COUNT UPON WASHINGTON”

Spokane, Wash., July 10.—Editor Commoner: Today's Commoner contains an article from the pen of Joseph W. Folk, ex-governor of Missouri. That article has the proper ring, it carries weight. It shows that the political differences in our country are not transitory but deep rooted. The lines are being drawn to determine whether this government shall champion the cause of privilege or the cause of the people, whether it is better for the government to defend the rights of dollars or the rights of men. The rights of both are conceded, but in the case of conflict, "Put the man above the dollar, not the dollar above the man." To this self-evident truth every honest American of whatever party can subscribe.

I heartily agree with Governor Folk on the tariff. It is a delusion and a fraud, a thief and a robber, reaching its mailed hands into the pockets of the poor, and robbing them of their substance. It parades in the false garb of the pauper, solicits alms upon the highway, and demands tribute from the state, while its coffers overflow with the unearned millions wrested from the toiling masses. A pauper is one who begs alms of the passers-by, or is supported by the state. So too is that industry which can not live without a tariff for protection, a pauper industry. The other self-supporting members of society must carry along this over-fed glut-ton of privilege.

The tariff is a delusion in that it teaches the