

their politics as ward bosses would have done? Does he forget how a United States supreme court decided the income tax case according to their sympathies—five voting with the under-taxed rich and four with the overtaxed poor? Does he forget the most recent case—the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases—where eight justices of the United States supreme court went out of their way to repeal a criminal law which was objectionable to the trust magnates—a law that congress had repeatedly refused to repeal? Many other cases might be cited.

The trouble with President Taft is that he is constitutionally distrustful of the people. He has no fear of the tyranny of a minority—but becomes hysterical at the thought of the majority making a mistake. He is willing to retire to the secrecy of the white house and, WITHOUT GIVING THE PUBLIC ANY INFORMATION AS TO RECOMMENDATIONS RELIED UPON, appoint judges to nullify acts of congress, but he can not think of allowing the voters to sit in judgment upon the acts of a judge.

It is not strange that one who justifies our nation in governing the Filipinos without their consent and who favored the granting in the Philippines of PERPETUAL FRANCHISES under which foreigners could bind a helpless people forever—it is not strange that one holding these views should be willing to apply imperialistic doctrines to Americans and dispute the right of the voters to impeach their judges.

Every judge is now subject to impeachment at the hands of tribunals elected by the people, is it going to ruin our country to allow the sovereigns—the people themselves—to constitute the jury and impeach for cause?

President Taft has made grave mistakes in appointments and other grave mistakes in vetoing the bills reducing the tariff, but these may be attributed to errors of judgment. When, however, he refuses to allow Arizona to frame her constitution to suit herself—subject to the restrictions of the federal constitution—he shows leanings toward a centralized government, and when he becomes frightened at the recall he discloses A LACK OF FAITH IN THE CAPACITY OF THE PEOPLE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT—A LACK OF FAITH IN THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND PATRIOTISM.

The president says that the judge represents the minority rather than the majority. That is not a fair statement of the question. Courts are instituted because the whole people—not the minority only—desire justice. Race and religious questions are safe in proportion as governments are free. It is a reflection on the people to say that they would recall a judge because he protected the rights of the minority. The masses do not deserve the contempt which the president heaps upon them—their sense of justice is much more acute than the sense of justice in Mr. Taft's advisors. In the masses the truth has not been choked by "the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches."

The president's error is an honest one—his environment has biased him against the people. He is as suspicious of them as a king's courtier is of democracy. It does not alarm him to have a president force a nomination upon a party by the unscrupulous use of patronage. It does not arouse fears for his country to see the predatory interests coerce voters into supporting their presidential candidate—he can even bring himself to threaten a panic if he is not elected, but his nerves are unstrung at the thought of the people using the recall to rid themselves of a judge who prostitutes his office to the service of some corporate boss. It is hard to understand how as intelligent a man as the president can say so much about a judge being intimidated by the fear of the recall and nothing about a judge being warped by years of employment by a trust or of life-term judges being weaned away from the people by constant social association with the beneficiaries of privilege.

But the president's veto will serve a useful purpose—it will very forcibly call attention to the judiciary and to the method of selection. Some of our judges are appointed and some are elected; both systems can not be best and the contest which the chief executive has started will not stop until one system or the other wins a complete victory. Will the president's views be indorsed and all judges be given appointments for life? Or will Arizona's position prove the accepted one?

The Commoner stands with Arizona. In "a government of the people, by the people and for the people" judges should be elected by the people for limited terms and be subject to recall for improper conduct.

#### IN KENTUCKY

The county option plank adopted in the Kentucky state convention was as follows: "Temperance is essentially a moral, non-political and social question, and should not be made a partisan issue between political parties. We favor the extension of the present local option law, as applied to the sale of liquor, which has been upheld by our highest court as valid and constitutional, so that the citizens of each and every county in the state may determine for themselves whether spiritous, vinous or malt liquors may be sold therein."

The rejected plank offered by Henry Watterson and associates was as follows: "Substitute for Section 13 of majority report: The democratic party of Kentucky is, and has always been, a party of moderation and temperance. Every existing statute in restriction of the sale and use of intoxicants was enacted by a democratic legislature and approved by a democratic governor. Unalterably opposed to the principle of paternalism, and pledging the party to the rigorous enforcement of the laws, the democrats of Kentucky renew their allegiance to the time-honored principle of self-government and home-rule embodied by the local option clause of the state constitution and denounce the double-dealing and hypocrisy of the republican effort to drag into party politics a social, moral and religious question having no proper place therein."

The Kentucky platform, referring to national issues, said: "On national issues, we, the democrats of Kentucky, in delegate convention duly assembled and held in the city of Louisville, Ky., on August 15, 1911, do hereby pledge anew our faith in and devotion to the time honored and eternal principles of our party first promulgated in the Declaration of Independence and since reaffirmed in successive platforms of the party, and we especially reaffirm our faith in and devotion to the national democratic platform adopted at Denver, Colo., in the year 1908.

"We denounce the republican party and the present republican president, for their flagrant and willful betrayal of the trust reposed in them by the American people and call attention especially to the fact that they have wilfully disregarded their pre-election promises to the effect that they would revise downward the unjust tariff system and would relieve the masses of the people of the heavy burdens of unjust and unnecessary taxation.

"On the contrary the republicans enacted the odious Payne-Aldrich tariff law of 1909, pronounced by Mr. Taft to be "the best republican tariff law ever passed," which law was a gross breach of the promises of the republican president and his political party. This tariff law, in order to enrich the few, increased the burdens of the many, and authorized those favored few not only to continue, but to increase, their robbery of the many under the forms of law."

#### ANOTHER YARN

Following is a dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: Salem, Ill., August 13.—William J. Bryan, who visited Salem, his birthplace, today, was shown dispatches reporting that he intended entering the ministry.

"It provokes me very much to have such a story circulated," said Mr. Bryan. "I do not know whether to attribute it to over-zeal on the part of my friends or to the malice of enemies. I have never said or done anything to furnish a foundation for such a story, and I hope it will not be necessary for me to deny it again.

"I speak on religious subjects as I do on educational subjects, as well as on economic and political questions, but I have not had any thought of abandoning politics for the ministry or any other calling. I expect to make the study and discussion of public questions my chief business while I live; other things are incidental."

Mr. Bryan delivered an address tonight at the Methodist church on "The Old Religion."

#### JUST THE SAME

Mr. Underwood says that the company he is interested in can make pig iron more cheaply than it can be produced anywhere else in the world, but he does not say that his company sells it at a lower price than other companies charge. If his company sells at prices fixed by the steel trust it is just as much interested in the tariff as the trust is. A little more light on this subject would be acceptable.

Isn't it strange that some officials expect the people to trust them when they are unwilling to trust the people?

#### WHY THEY OBJECT

San Juan (New Mexico) Democrat: All the big guns of protected interests, democratic as well as republican, are turned just now on Bryan, yet the brave old commoner stands unflinchingly in the front rank, never faltering nor backing away from a principle once declared. When Bailey of the senate and Underwood of the house turned away from democratic policies Bryan promptly opposed them. The public now sees the plight they are in. Bailey has already got his and Underwood's is coming. And now to guard against official dishonesty Bryan, in the columns of The Commoner, has instituted a set of leading questions for prospective democratic candidates for the presidency. Governor Folk of Missouri and Governor Marshall have already responded, giving their views on all great questions of the day, and the others will soon follow suit or else be out of the running. They can not avoid the main issues, however much they would try.

An instance of this kind came up before Colorado people last election when Judge Gunter was asked a set of questions by T. M. Patterson and tried to ignore them, getting behind the dignity of his position, and later was glad to come out and say where he stood, but too late—his hesitancy had worked his defeat. The time is now here when seekers after public office must not be afraid to state publicly where they stand. No matter who the questioner. They can not sidestep just because they do not like the quizzer nor his methods. The questions may be personal, but the answers concern the public. Bryan is still a mighty power before the people and no amount of ridicule thrown at him by the corporationists can destroy the deadly aim of his marksmanship. Underwood, Bailey, Harmon and their kind may rant and cavort if they choose, but it is only an evidence that a coyote is hurt if he ki-yi's.

#### "DICTATORSHIP"

Editor The Commoner: We read and hear a great deal nowadays about the political dictatorship of Mr. Bryan.

This recalls an old story of Abraham Lincoln. When someone, during the civil war complained to him about the intemperate habits of General Grant, he inquired what brand of whisky Grant drank, stating that he wanted to know so that he could send a barrel or so to the other generals.

Now we think that several barrels each, of the particular brand of political dictatorship that inspires Mr. Bryan's utterances and writings would help his critics immensely.

Mr. Bryan is running a great paper, the subscription list of which is now increasing so rapidly that it soon will stand second to none, if indeed, it does not already occupy first place. This he is doing wholly with an eye single to the good of the common people. And so long as they understand and appreciate him as they now do he can well afford to snap his fingers at his critics. And we might further add, that today he stands not only at home, in the eyes of the masses, but abroad throughout the civilized world, beside his critics, as "hyperion to a wart."

D. D. WOLFF.  
Atlantic City, Wyo., Aug. 13, 1911.

#### HOLDING UP A PRESIDENT

Ex-President Roosevelt recently appeared before the committee investigating the steel trust and reiterated his statement that he permitted the steel trust to gobble up its largest rival in order to prevent a panic. He may console himself in that way but how does he explain his inaction afterward?

If the steel trust holds the industries of the nation in its hands and can create or cure panics at will why did Mr. Roosevelt do nothing to take the country out of the hands of the steel trust. If the steel trust is big enough to intimidate a president it is a menace to the nation's safety. If the country had had a Jackson in the white house, the steel trust could not have intimidated the executive, but since we have few presidents like Jackson we ought to have legislation which will protect timid presidents from the bulldozing methods employed by the trusts.

#### THE DOOR CLOSED

If any democrat has cherished the delusion that our party could nominate a candidate who could get nearer to Wall street than President Taft is, he now sees his mistake. The veto of Arizona's constitution gives Mr. Taft the undivided support of Wall street. Democracy must look elsewhere.