

nual report to be laid before congress in December Mr. Hitchcock will recommend the establishment of a parcels post service on rural mail routes; the crystallization into law of proposed increases in second class mail rates and the enactment of the proposed law providing for a radical change in the system of compensating the railways for transporting the mails. Mr. Hitchcock explained that it was his idea first to establish parcels posts on the rural routes in order that the administrative details of the system might be worked without disadvantage to the postal service generally. Gradually, he said, he would extend the parcels service to urban communities, so that packages and parcels might be delivered totally by city carriers. Subsequently the service would be extended to include railway transportation.

Government finances for August will not compare favorably with those of the same month in 1910. A deficit of \$22,000,000 on ordinary amounts already is shown in comparison with a deficit of \$14,000,000 last year. Customs receipts show a decrease of \$4,000,000, as compared with a year ago. The government's total expenditures for the same period are more than \$2,000,000 greater.

**THE STATEHOOD VETO**

(Continued from Page 12.)

truth and justice. (Applause on the democratic side.) The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Mann) quotes Aesop's Fables. Aesop was, perhaps, the greatest writer of fables that ever lived; but nobody ever rated him as an authority on economics till the gentleman from Illinois arose today. We have no desire to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, as the gentleman seems to think. What we do desire is that a few shall not monopolize the golden eggs, but that they shall be distributed more equitably among the people of the land.

The Globe-Democrat said that I had come around to a tariff on wool because I had heard the bleating of 134,000 sheep in my district. I tell you what I did hear. I heard the cry of 93,000,000 American citizens for cheaper and better clothing. The great desire of my heart is to give them some relief from their burden of taxation which they have borne for lo! these many years. (Loud and prolonged applause on the democratic side.)

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**"Don't Mistake the Cheers of the Politicians for the Votes of the People"**

Douglas Hewitt, Deer Park, Ala.—The enclosed letter from the pen of Mr. Bellangee of Fairhope, Ala., so faithfully represents the attitude of the majority of the democratic voters of Alabama that I think it should be reproduced in The Commoner for the benefit of progressive democracy. The statement that "the democratic opposition to Bryan never had a respectable backing" is as true as truth itself.

**MR. BRYAN AND MR. UNDERWOOD**

To the Editor of the Register: Permit me to offer a word of warning and dissent against the methods that are being employed to promote the political aspirations of Alabama's able leader in the national house of representatives.

I fully agree with the Register that it is time that the south should be permitted to aspire to the highest honors that may be bestowed upon ability and patriotism. There can no longer be excuse for furnishing the rising generation with the imputation of disloyalty.

But in times like these no local interest should be allowed to have weight either way. Such considerations are senseless at any time and doubly so in the present struggle between entrenched monopoly and the interests of the common people.

In the few brief months that Chairman Underwood has been in the public eye I have watched his course with the hopeful appreciation that comes from a sincere desire to see a southern man show the ability and patriotism that would prove obsolete the mistrust and animosity that were generated during the war period.

But I am disappointed with his attitude and that of his friends, if he and they are correctly reported in continually fretting and whining concerning the views and utterances of W. J. Bryan.

If Mr. Underwood is a leader worthy for us to follow he should have the ability to put himself in such a light as to leave no room for misunderstanding by Mr. Bryan or the rest of us.

If by some unfortunate inadvertence he is misunderstood he should have the courage to set himself right beyond question and the magnanimity to do it without becoming peevish.

No doubt that many democrats voted for Mr. Bryan solely through party fealty but the fact remains that traitors within his own camp have persistently fought him in the interests of the forces that have been corrupting our government since the war. The opposition to Bryan has never had a respectable backing.

The fact also remains that there is no man in the United States today not excepting Mr. Roosevelt, in the popularity of his successes, who has such a large and devoted following as W. J. Bryan in his defeats. He represents the incorruptible non-conquerable masses more nearly than any other man.

No man can succeed as the candidate of the democratic party for president who either belittles or condemns him.

The common people trust him because they know by his unequivocal loyalty to principle and the courage and magnanimity with which he meets his foes; that he is an honest man who can be fully trusted. The whisky Dahlmans, the Standard Oil Guffeys and all other predatory interests war upon him for selfish

reasons. This is the conviction of the masses of his followers.

It is an old saying that the democrats can be trusted to ruin their chances for victory by some needless foolishness and in the present situation there can be nothing more needless or more foolish than to alienate the millions of brave men who have repeatedly followed him to defeat on the skirmish line, of the battle that is now ready for a decisive victory.

The democratic party today has no issue on which Mr. Bryan does not stand as loyally as any leader they can put forward. He does not ask to lead them himself, but he does insist that they who would lead the democratic party should be in the van and leading in the direction the people are anxious to go.

Mr. Bryan represents more men in America today than any other man and they will personally resent any insult to him and they will not see him silenced for he is their spokesman. They will follow any leader he approves and will not support any one whom he suspects whether north or south of Mason's and Dixon's line. He is the greatest asset so far as leaders is concerned that the democratic party has today.

The politicians are trying to shape the issue to suit their ambitions; the

people are shaping them to suit their needs. They demand recognition of righteous principles rather than fine spun theories of expediency. Many of our officials are going to lose out in the future because of their present attitude on the principles of direct legislation, especially the recall of judges. Reactionaries had better get out of politics for a while and honest patriots must show themselves above suspicion of selfishness or timidity.

J. BELLANGEE.

Fairhope, Ala., Aug. 12, 1911.

From the Times-Hustler, Farmington, N. M.—Mr. Underwood comes from an iron and steel district. His money, we hear, is invested in these industries. The way for him to prove his devotion to the cause of tariff reform is to take the duty off all trust made goods in the iron and steel line. Until he does this his attacks on Bryan will not hurt the latter nor will it help the former.

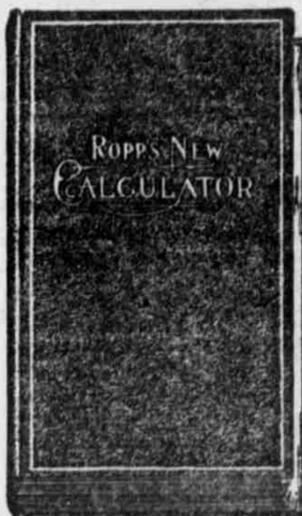
William P. Gregg, Port Jervis, N. Y.—Wish to assure you that your friends in the east are with you. The Underwoods can not discredit you. The congressmen who are with him will find on their return to their districts that the great majority of the democrats are still loyal Bryan men. We are glad that there is one man who is great enough to insist upon a square deal from our democratic representatives at all times. Success to you.

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