

# The Commoner.

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## "Harmony" Means to Halt

Some good democrats have been deceived by the "harmony" cry. They want harmony. Wall street is bribing the corruptible, fooling the gullible and frightening the timid. Strange that any can be misled! Harmony means to halt. When there is harmony the slowest man sets the pace. As soon as the rear guard stops the harmony army goes into camp. The men who are now preaching harmony should understand that harmony will cost the party its chances of success. We have not had harmony in the party for fifteen years but we have seen the progressive element of the party dominating the political thought of the country and it is ready to sweep the country. Shall we turn over the fighting to the progressive republicans? The harmony program has already cost the party dearly. A few protectionist democrats threatened to vote with the republicans if a free wool bill was reported, so harmony was purchased by

the surrender of the doctrine of free raw material. A few men who do not want the election of senators by the people in any form are keeping up a sham battle over the question of federal or state control of elections and harmony will have to be disturbed if the amendment is submitted. The corporation democrats are opposed to any effective legislation on the trust question, and harmony will have to be disturbed if anything is done to protect the public. The banking interests are fighting any and all protection to depositors and harmony must be disturbed if the rights of depositors are to secure any recognition. The Wall street crowd will be at the next convention, as usual, ready to sell harmony at wholesale at the regular price, namely, the betrayal of the public. What we need is not harmony, but a straightforward fight for principle in behalf of the public—such a fight will win.

## Those Questions

Some of the papers are awfully indignant about those questions put to candidates. Why? Who, unless he favors dark lantern methods, can object to answering questions? If any of the questions asked are irrelevant let the candidate say so, and let the court—the people—decide whether it should be answered. Mr. Bryan has in every campaign refused to answer questions which he has regarded as irrelevant. Then there is another answer—"I have no opinion myself on any question and am willing to run on any platform the convention writes." That is one way of disposing of the questions, if any candidate wants to risk that method. And then there is a third way of escape, the candidate can refuse to answer on the ground that the answer would incriminate him. That is a good answer in court. Who wants to try it in a presidential campaign? If any one objects to Mr. Bryan's asking the questions let him wait until some one else puts the questions.

### THE PROGRESSIVES ARE FIGHTING

Those democrats who put "harmony" above everything else will find it to their advantage to watch the progressive republicans. The progressives are out FIGHTING and they are gaining ground.

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### RESPECTING THE JUDGES

James Manahan, a Minneapolis lawyer, delivered an address before the recent session of the Minnesota Bar association. Several speeches preceding that of Mr. Manahan had reference to "the threatened destruction of the independence of the judiciary." Mr. Manahan said:

"It is urged that the recall of the judges would subject the judiciary to the clamor of the mob. \* \* \* The man who believes the people are a mob does not believe in a republican form of government. He should leave this country. He has no place here; his spirit is treasonable."

"Respect the judges, of course; the same as we respect men in other offices who do their duty; no more, no less. We can not respect them if they are arrogant or tyrannical or despotic. And if they are not held responsible they become to a greater or less degree arrogant, tyrannical and despotic. They are entitled to the respect earned by the justice and wisdom of their judgment, and this should be measured not by them, but by that sovereignty that creates them. Let their work be done in the light of the power they serve. The more direct and severe the light, the greater will shine the glory of their work well done."

Mr. Manahan's words ought to be posted upon every highway in America.

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### WHERE NEBRASKA STANDS

Replying to an inquiry made by the Omaha World-Herald, Governor Aldrich, republican, of Nebraska, says: "In Nebraska 90 per cent of us are progressives and I can assure you that no one is friendly to Taft; he has evidently learned nothing during the three years he has been in office. La Follette is the choice of the people of our state. His name is mentioned favorably on all sides and he could undoubtedly carry the state."

Nebraska republicans were among the most enthusiastic supporters of Mr. Taft in 1908.

Speaker Clark says that it is all over but the shouting. That sounds familiar—we have heard it in several campaigns, but when the predatory interests got their thumbscrews to work the shouting was postponed. The chances are bright but we must not be over-confident—an alliance with Wall street in the interest of harmony would ruin us.

## Gambling

The following items, appearing the same day in two New York papers, show how social gambling among women is on the increase. The New York Times publishes a dispatch from Minneapolis:

"Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 3.—(Special to the New York Times.)—An ultra-fashionable gambling house, like those conducted here in frontier days, has been closed by the police after running for several weeks, during which time hundreds of women have squandered their money in the place. A society woman ran it. "The street in front of the house on Nicollet avenue was constantly lined with limousines and town cars of the rich women of Minneapolis. All sorts of games were played, so the police

MUST BE A REAL DEMOCRAT

The campaign of 1912 will be a plain, unmistakable, clear-cut discussion and decision between two lines of national policy, involving radical differences upon fundamental points not alone of national legislation, but of the attitude and temperament of the federal executive and federal judiciary as well.

The national conscience, not less than the national intelligence, demand a thorough change, a reversal as well as a revision of the national policy in many important particulars.

The democratic candidate for president next year must be distinctively democratic. He must be not merely non-republican, but he must be positively anti-republican. He must stand for the things that Taft does not stand for. He must represent, individually and personally, without chance of question or doubt, all the principles and policies of progressive democracy.

The success of 1912, now seemingly assured, can only be consummated along the lines of progressive democracy, which is true democracy, and with a candidate who shall be in all essential particulars the apostle and representative of those progressive principles.—Denver News.