

"ASK THE CANDIDATE"

measures are not the kind to select to enact and enforce them. When that times comes, Mr. Bryan, who is yet a young man, will loom up larger than ever. Although he may never be president, the trend of public sentiment is so decidedly in favor of the reforms he advocates the time may yet come when the public will want to see the man who made the reforms possible in a position to make them secure.

SEARCHING QUESTIONS, OF COURSE

Senator Bailey's comment on Mr. Bryan's "catechism" of prospective democratic presidential candidates is delicious. He declares that the Nebraskan's list of interrogatives is "impudent."

Mr. Bryan's catechism is not addressed directly to the candidates. He printed it in The Commoner in the form of a suggestion to his subscribers. Assuming that as American citizens they were interested in the political opinions of the various men whom they may be called to vote for or against in the next presidential election he wrote out a list of questions which he supposed would bring them into the light.

There seems to be more or less ground for the belief that Mr. Bailey belongs to a little group, as influential as it is quiet, which prefers to name the next democratic candidate for president. They assert the right to do this by virtue of their wealth and their powerful connections, and naturally they resent the intrusion of Mr. Bryan into a field which they have pre-empted and to which they feel that they have a sacred and exclusive property right.

Mr. Bryan's proposition is that the only chance for democratic success lies in heeding the popular desires which have already given the party control of the house of representatives. The questions which he has formulated relate directly to these wishes of the people.

It is pretty searching. We do not wonder that it excites the ire of shady politicians. There are nineteen of the interrogatories and each one of them goes to the heart of a vital issue. Take the first one, for example, "Do you favor a tariff for revenue only?" Imagine Mr. Bailey's plight

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.

were he compelled to answer yes or no. The slippery Texan has devised a most ingenious tariff theory for the express purpose of evading questions of this sort. Ask him whether he wants a revenue tariff or not and he will answer that he is constitutionally opposed to abating the duties on raw materials until we have free manufactures.

Or take the tenth question, "Do you believe in publicity of campaign contributions?" Now there is no "practical politician" on earth who does not in his secret heart abhor publicity of campaign contributions. Mr. Bailey especially abhors it because his financial refreshments are drawn from singularly malodorous refrigerators.

Searching as Mr. Bryan's questions are, they

ask for nothing which any honest statesman ought to wish to keep secret about his opinions. The election of a president is a very important act for the voters. It is perfectly right for them to learn as much as possible about any man who asks for their suffrages.

The innuendo that Mr. Bryan is by this catechism preparing the way for his own candidacy, a fourth candidacy after three failures, is absurd. Like every other intelligent American, he takes a lively interest in public affairs and tries by a number of perfectly legitimate methods to make his opinions count.

THE UNDERWOOD BOOM

At a conference of Birmingham, Ala., citizens recently, a boom was launched for Congressman O. W. Underwood for president. Steps were taken to have the organization spread over the entire country, first attention of course to be given to the south. If this committee is truly representative of southern democracy, the sooner they get over into the republican ranks the better it will be for the democratic party at large.—South Bend (Ind.) New Era.