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

D. J. O'Connor, Brooklyn, N. Y.—"The plaudits of the gallery is not the voice of the people." Recalls a bit of Alabama history, 'way back in 1894. The Hon. Richard Clark, a popular congressman from the dear old state, suddenly became an acceptable person for a vice presidential nomination on the democratic ticket by the powers in Washington. He was born and grew to be a man over night in the great political field around the capital. At home in Alabama in the same year, 1894, he was rooted up by the voters and thrown with the rank weeds to decay. The same state kept the great John T. Morgan in Washington more than forty years. Morgan belonged to the people.

J. T. Cuppy, Cleveland, O.—As a regular subscriber to The Commoner, I note with pleasure the assaults made upon you. I am so glad of it in that they ignite into a blaze, the sparks of fight in you that will burn the rotten from the sound. A compromise with the devil is always fruitless of good, and places backward the hand of reform on the dial of progress. I am pained to admit, the democratic party is full of devils. I would go further than Roosevelt's publicity. I would eliminate them from our ranks. This must be done to attain practical permanent relief for the people. The democratic party must not again act as a "tout or capper" to the little pea, and three shell game—a confidence game to thimble rig the "dear" people. The rank and file of the democratic party is a unit in this thought, and a large per cent of its leaders are of honest intent, and all that is needed is to wake them up from their slumber and these devils of Wall street will take a hike. I am confident you will not be derelict in your duty.

N. B. Moore, Whitwell, Tenn.—I see from press reports that Mr. Underwood is for Mr. Harmon for president. He may be tentatively for Mr. Harmon, but I believe at heart he is for Mr. Taft, for the reason that the great corporation he has most of his worldly goods invested in, supported Mr. Taft, and I am unable to find anything in Mr. Taft's record that would change the corporation's views. I think Mr. Underwood has shown by his course on the ways and means committee that he is disposed to be for his own interests rather than for the interests of the great mass of the people. I brand Mr. Underwood a good Taft democrat and his course can have no other meaning than the decoration with flowers Taft's band wagon for next republican campaign.

Morris Gorin, Providence, R. I.—Just reminded me of the Underwood incident and believing in the statement issued by the greatest of American statesmen, W. J. Bryan, I want to make a few remarks in The Commoner. If Mr. Underwood, the chairman of the ways and means committee, thinks that he made himself great by denouncing the most beloved citizen of our present generation he is mistaken and if he did not find the same out until now he will very soon, for it is W. J. Bryan that brought success to the democratic party and it is Bryan's honesty that made thousands of citizens vote the democratic ticket, and this is a little more than Mr. Underwood and Senator Bailey could do. His or their attack recently on Bryan increases his popularity and I am positive that the people will, in 1912, follow Bryan's advice and not the

advice of such politicians as Underwood and Bailey that are trying to put up a candidate that will be worse than a republican. The voice of the voters are with Bryan and if the democrats of the country want to be successful they must recognize W. J. Bryan the leader and idol of the democracy for twenty years or more. W. J. Bryan expounded the democratic principles, speaking and appealing to the voters on behalf of democracy, and the reason that he was not elected our president is through the jealousy of such politicians as Underwood and Bailey and through the many millions spent by the trusts on behalf of the republican party to defeat Bryan. In concluding I wish Mr. W. J. Bryan the best health and that he live long to fight for the equal rights to all the people.

R. W. Heflin, Farmington, N. M.—In these strenuous days men of action are making history faster than ever before—save in times of war. This is no time for chameleon statesmen. They may deceive themselves, but not the people. To this end I submit editorials from the two leading democratic papers of northwestern New Mexico. The editorials are a true reflex of democratic sentiment on the Bryan-Underwood controversy. We still have Tories—and Tories still buy Hessians, but thanks to the wonderful leadership of Mr. Bryan they are being driven from cover. This is a fine time for patriots to get busy and do the right thing. Great leaders feel and need the support of the people. All can help—get busy.

J. McCarthy, Philadelphia—The voters count not anybody sent to congress and then betray them. The common people will never go back on a true and tried leader. If they do, goodbye to our independence. The press of Philadelphia roasts you at present, but honest people have always found you true and they will stick by you regardless of Underwood.

Hastings, (Neb.) Democrat—Mr. Bryan's worst enemies have been within the democratic party. They have always sought to block all reform and failing in that have sought to compromise and have consistently abused and opposed him. Mr. Bryan has been tricked so often by this kind of alleged democrats, that one can hardly blame him for being suspicious. He has his eyes on these tariff reformers in congress and out, who are protectionists under the skin. Mr. Bryan knows them; knows their connections, and knows how hard it is for these men to live up to campaign pledges. What seems now to be a great row with democrats in congress, will tend to focus public attention upon these democratic congressmen and they will be compelled to make good with the people and with campaign pledges or get into trouble at home. Mr. Bryan wants congress to make good not as compromisers but as having tried to do the things demanded in democratic national platforms. The people are with Mr. Bryan in this. The fellows who are trying to compromise with the special interests now in the hope of electing a Harmon president in 1912 will have a rude awakening. The people are not being fooled, either, by the dust that the eastern Harmon papers are kicking up. Mr. Bryan is not a candidate for office and was never known to unjustly criticize any man. The people are

not going to be fooled again if he can help it, even if he has to fight a majority of his own party in congress. When Mr. Bryan has done

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