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THE CENTER OF LIFE

The night has a thousand eyes
 The day but one,
 Yet the life of the bright world dies
 With the dying sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes
 The heart but one,
 Yet the light of a whole life dies
 When the day is done.

—Francis W. Bourdillon.

"Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." This is commended to those who are tempted to throw away the party's splendid chance of victory merely to please Wall street.

Is thirteen an unlucky number? The thirteen democrats who voted against the Cullop amendment are apt to think so before they get through explaining.

The democratic party would have a better chance to carry Missouri if Mr. Clark's friends had consented to a division of the delegation, but the contest may give us results more important than the carrying of a state—who knows?

Can President Roosevelt's official career be called a success when in seven and a half years as president he failed to develop a reformer worthy to take his place? How many years will he require to produce a fitting successor?

Before Speaker Clark accepts the support of the Harmon men in Missouri he should inquire about the price. They may come too high. If Mr. Clark becomes instrumental in turning the state over to Harmon he will have to settle the account later with the voters—and it will not be easy to settle.

Reformers ought to be able to recognize each other and this fact suggests a question. Why does Mr. Roosevelt fail to recognize the splendid services rendered by Senator La Follette? The senator from Wisconsin began before Mr. Roosevelt and has reformed with more energy and along more lines.

"FOR THE ENEMIES HE HAS MADE"

The people are not likely to be deceived by the attacks just now made upon Governor Wilson of New Jersey. They know the source of those attacks. Every little corporation paper in the country echoes and re-echoes these attacks upon the New Jersey governor. It is possible that these people can not see that Governor Wilson has been helped by every attack made upon him by the New York Sun, recognized organ of plutocracy. Now if Harper's Weekly will only confirm the suspicion that it has turned against Governor Wilson his chances for nomination will be greatly improved among those who are in the habit of scrutinizing the list of a candidate's enthusiastic supporters.

A CHINESE REPUBLIC?

The readers of The Commoner will be interested in an interview recently given out by Dr. Wu Ting Fang, formerly Chinese minister at Washington. The prospects seem bright for a republic when the movement is strong enough to enlist such men as Wu Ting Fang. It will be noticed that he expresses a preference for a limited monarchy but recognizes that his people demand a republic. It is a great tribute to America and a direct result of her fair dealing with China when in making a change China prefers a republic to a monarchy. Example is, after all, the great influence in the world. In proportion as our nation lives up to its ideals it will become more and more the pattern for other nations. The United States ought to be glad to welcome China into the sisterhood of republics as soon as conditions there will justify it. The following is the Wu Ting Fang interview:

"Shanghai—Dr. Wu Ting Fang, who has been chosen director of foreign affairs in the reform government established by the revolutionists in the province of Kiang Su, gave a statement to the Associated Press, in which he announced his adherence to the movement designed to be a republican form of government in China.

"Dr. Wu Ting Fang has twice occupied the office of Chinese minister to the United States, in which duty he became widely known. In August, 1910, he was made councillor to the Chinese foreign office. His advanced ideas have not always harmonized with the imperial policy and it has been no secret that recently, he has not wholly sympathized with the throne. He is the most important figure that has appeared on the revolutionary stage during the last few days. Rumors that he has espoused the rebel cause were received with incredulity.

"When the revolutionists proclaimed a provisional government at Shanghai he was made head of the foreign bureau, but the appointment was not taken seriously and he declined to acknowledge any participation in the revolutionary administration.

"His attitude, as formally announced, is expected to have a far-reaching influence.

"At his residence within the foreign settlement of Shanghai, Dr. Wu outlined the plans and hopes of the reformers in China. Wen Tsung Yao, formerly imperial resident at L'Hasa, Tibet, who has been appointed assistant director of foreign affairs in the new government, was present when the statement was made.

"Dr. Wu said that while he was loath to accept office and refrained because of his former close connection with the Manchu government, he was now practically forced to aid the cause of China. He announced that Cheng Te-Chuan, the governor of Soo Chow and formerly governor at Mukden, who was the first governor to come over to the reformers, had been elected governor of the entire province of Kiang Su.

"Cheng Te-Chuan, he said, was a strong man and would be able to control the revolutionists and guarantee order and the safety of foreigners. Ninety per cent of the population, he said, was supporting the present status. Dr. Wu continued:

"Personally, I favored a limited monarchy, retaining the emperor as a figurehead, with a strong Chinese cabinet and constitution, but the sentiment seems to favor a republic.

"In each province a governor will be selected, each city and town giving its allegiance to the new government. The whole people of China, north and south, are united against Manchu supremacy and the government at Peking, which is corrupt and prone to be oppressive.

"I admit there are tremendous difficulties before us, but we must win. We guarantee an adherence to foreign treaties, whether they were made unfairly or fairly. We will pay our obligations to foreign nations and open up all the ports of China to foreign trade. Thus will be guaranteed an enormous advantage to all foreigners, as well as to China.

"I believe the institution of a republic is feasible," he said. "If the young emperor were allowed to remain on the throne a short time perhaps it would be better, but the selection of a new dynastic head and a new emperor would be certain to create jealousies and produce a reign of anarchy which would result in the shedding of much blood.

"The plans of reform have been considered for six years. We can not hope to accomplish anything within a short time. Trade will be temporarily damaged and the people inconvenienced and frightened. We are determined to establish a stable government and hope to give

China extra-territorial rights and complete autonomy.

"Both Dr. Wu Ting Fang and Wen Tsung Yao said there would be no reason for foreign interference, the suggestion of which they deprecated as dangerous and unpalatable to the people. They said the reformers wished recognition as belligerents wherever a responsible local government had been set up, as at Shanghai, Wu Sang and elsewhere.

"In conclusion, these men declared that the trend of the world was towards a republican form of government, and that China was now only anticipating the inevitable.

"Supplementing his formal statement later, Dr. Wu Ting Fang made it plain that he was not definitely committed to the idea of a republic, though he thought the government would be feasible. Apparently he favored a constitutional monarchy, but he was in sympathy with the general revolutionary movement and the men behind that movement had set their hearts on a republic. He added:

"If the revolutionists consider the question, the future government will be a republic or a constitutional monarchy. If it is to be the former, I anticipate a combination of the United States constitution with the German federation."

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

At the request of a number of friends, I have decided to become a candidate for delegate to the national convention of 1912, subject to the indorsement of the democrats of this district.

There is a tremendous effort being made by the special interests of this country to control the next democratic convention now that there is a fair chance to elect a democratic president next fall.

The special interests know no party lines, they are with whichever party they think can win, it therefore behooves all progressive democrats to be on their guard to see to it that none but progressives are elected delegates.

The vast majority of democrats throughout the nation are progressives, nevertheless we see where the special interests control the majority of the national committee at their recent meeting in Washington, D. C., and absolutely ignored the wishes of the majority of the party.

My first choice for president is William Jennings Bryan, if he can be persuaded to become a candidate. He is the greatest living statesman in America today, if not in the world; a man that has done more for the uplifting of humanity than any other one man; a man that has absolute confidence of the rank and file of the people of this country irrespective of party. If Mr. Bryan will not become a candidate I am for any progressive candidate, who will come out unqualifiedly and declare himself on the public questions of today, one who has a record for having done something in the past. (We can only judge the future by the past.) A man who believes a party platform is a contract with the people to be enforced if elected.

A. H. ALESON.

Deadwood, S. D., Jan. 23, 1912.

ANDREW CARNEGIE FOR MR. TAFT

Following is an Associated Press dispatch from New York: Andrew Carnegie declined an invitation by telegraph to address the Roosevelt state mass convention at Oklahoma City. In his reply Mr. Carnegie declared he was an out and out supporter of President Taft. Mr. Carnegie's answer, sent to A. E. Perry, temporary chairman of the Oklahoma organization, reads:

"Thanks for your invitation to address the Roosevelt state mass convention of Oklahoma, I beg to say that I am an out and out supporter of my friend Roosevelt's chosen favorite for the presidency, who has so fully justified the encomiums he lavished upon him. It would be unfair not to give President Taft a second term and I can not believe ex-President Roosevelt is not of this opinion. After President Taft has served two terms it will be time enough to propose a successor. ANDREW CARNEGIE."

OHIO DEMOCRATS

The Democratic Progressive league, which was organized at Columbus, January 2nd, has opened headquarters at No. 510-511 Harrison building, Columbus, Ohio, secretary of the league, W. W. Durbin, in charge. Mr. Durbin desires to get into communication with the Ohio democrats who approve of the work that the league has undertaken.