

# The Commoner.

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

## The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska  
as second-class matter.

Wm. J. Bryan Editor and Proprietor C. W. Davis Publisher  
E. L. Harmon Associate Editor Financial Review and Economic  
Editor, "The New Deal," "The World."

One Year.....	\$1.00	Three Months.....	25
Six Months.....	.50	Single Copy.....	.05
In Cities of Five or more, per year.....	.50	Sample Copies Free.	
		Foreign Post. 5¢ Extra.	

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where such agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by post-office money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

**RENEWALS**—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus 1912. Two weeks are required after money has arrived to and including the last issue of January, January 21. This means that payment has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

Address all communications to

**THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.**

### DEMOCRATIC DATES

Democratic primaries or conventions will be held as follows:

March 14—Kansas democratic state convention.

March 19—Primaries for North Dakota.

March 26—Primaries for New York.

April 2—Primaries for Wisconsin.

April 9—Primaries for Illinois.

April 12—New York democratic state convention.

April 12—Primaries for Pennsylvania.

April 17—Illinois congressional district conventions.

April 19—Primaries for Nebraska.

April 19—Primaries for Oregon.

April 27—Primaries for Tennessee.

April 29—Colorado democratic state convention.

April 30—Primaries for Florida.

May 1—Connecticut state convention.

May 9—Iowa state convention.

May 28—Primaries for New Jersey.

June 4—Primaries for South Dakota.

### DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

The Missouri democratic state convention met at Joplin and unanimously adopted a platform instructing for Champ Clark for president.

The delegates-at-large are United States Senator William J. Stone, United States Senator James A. Reed, former Governor A. M. Dockery, Lon V. Stephens, of St. Louis; former Governor David R. Francis, William T. Kemper, Kansas City banker; Gilbert S. Barbee, Joplin, and Judge Virgil Rule, St. Louis. Edward F. Goltra was re-elected national committeeman by acclamation.

The Oklahoma democratic convention met at Oklahoma City. A hot fight was waged between Wilson forces on one side and Harmon and Clark forces co-operating on the other side.

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 23.—Oklahoma's democratic state convention, which began yesterday afternoon with all indications pointing to a bitter fight, ended late today in a political love feast, the selection of a split delegation to the Baltimore convention and the election of Roger Galbreath of Tulsa, uncommitted as to his preference for presidential nominee, for committeeman.

The compromise which brought about the harmonious conclusion was reached early today at a conference of leaders of the factions supporting Champ Clark and Woodrow Wilson, after the delegates, wearied by a stormy all-night session, had taken a recess. It was agreed that twenty delegates be elected from the state at large, each with half a vote, ten instructed for Clark and ten for Wilson. When the convention reassembled this afternoon the plan was ratified with little debate.

Galbreath for national committeeman was nominated by United States Senator Robert L. Owens. He won over John Doolin by a vote of 407 to 146.

The delegates are instructed to divide the Oklahoma vote so long as Clark and Wilson are before the convention and with the withdrawal of either to center on the candidate remaining.

The compromise was reached after a contest

lasting practically all night, state politics frequently obstructing the way to a decision on the character of the Oklahoma delegation.

The turning point came when the amendment carrying endorsement of Speaker Clark was defeated, the vote on it showing plainly to Clark adherents that nothing remained but a compromise, whereupon the resolution for a divided delegation was adopted.

The contention by party leaders here is that the division of the delegation precludes any Oklahoma votes being cast for Harmon. At the Baltimore convention Oklahoma's entire strength will be thrown either to Clark or Wilson as soon as one of them shows a decided lead in the balloting.

Congressman Scott Ferris and Judge R. L. Williams head the delegates at large who will vote for Clark. The convention adjourned finally at 2 o'clock.

While the convention agreed that ten delegates at large, each with a half vote, should be chosen by both the Clark and Wilson leaders, the Clark men disregarded it and decided to name but seven, who will cast five votes. Clark men offered no explanation for the action.

### PRESS OPINIONS ON ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH

Denver News: Mr. Roosevelt's address must be put down as the most radical declaration of principles made by any national figure since Jefferson defined democracy, and Lincoln sounded revolt against the Dred Scott decision. And as Jefferson and Lincoln spoke from high belief in the sovereignty of the people—in utter opposition to outworn symbols and dead doctrines—so has Mr. Roosevelt torn away the evil accumulations of more recent years, and restored the pristine glory of America's experiment and splendid endeavor.

It came as a surprise. In Mr. Roosevelt's record, colorful and inspiring as it has been, there was nothing to prepare the people for an address so direct in its faith, so clear in its exposition of the principles upon which our government is based, and so courageously honest in its biting denunciation of the oppressions, distortions and usurpations that are working against the success of our great adventure in freedom and equality. But, expected or unexpected, the speech stands as the fearless challenge of the people to privilege, the full war cry of progress, and as a standard to which every believer in popular sovereignty can repair.

By far the most striking and important portion is that which bears upon the judiciary, for it is in relation to the courts that our statesmen have been most mealy-mouthed and the people most befuddled.

"Never forget that the judge is just as much the servant of the people as any other official. Of course, he must act conscientiously. He must not do anything wrong because there is popular clamor for it, any more than under similar circumstances a governor or a legislator or a public utilities commissioner should do wrong. But in their turn the people must follow their conscience and when they have definitely decided on a given policy, they must have public servants who will carry out their will."

A great speech—the speech of a statesman and a patriot. Previous conceptions of the man must be laid aside, and now estimates must be based on the Columbus address. Not only does it establish his leadership of the progressive republicans, but it places him in commanding position with reference to the great national revolt that knows no party.

If he is elected to the presidency again—whether as republican, democrat or independent—there is that in his latest utterance which will still regret in all save those who hate democracy and believe in an oligarchy of wealth.

Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph-Herald (dem.): If Mr. Roosevelt intended his address, which he has himself described as "A Charter of Democracy," to be a reply to the demand of Senator La Follette for a statement of his views and a pledge to keep the faith, the senator from Wisconsin, in common with all other sincere progressive democrats of whichever political party, will accept it as satisfying to the full, and meeting the need.

Sioux City (Ia.) Journal (rep.): The Columbus speech is disappointingly commonplace. It offers no new issue, no new treatment of an old issue; no grouping of issues into new and harmonious relationship. While a good deal of it does very well as fatherly advice to the Ohio constitutional convention, the utterance as a whole falls far short of offering a full line of construction material for national platform.

Wichita (Kan.) Beacon: Mr. Roosevelt's

speech to the state constitutional convention was just what his friends expected it would be—straightforward, logical and fearless. It places him squarely before the country upon a progressive platform which contains not a single evasion.

Chicago Record Herald (rep.): His speech is neither startlingly "radical" nor conservative as a whole; it is intensely practical and was deliberately made so. Mr. Roosevelt had been requested to give positive advice and aid, and he had to consider not theories but facts and conditions.

### THOSE ATTACKS UPON MR. BRYAN

Ogdensburg (N. Y.) News: The News is in receipt of a communication from C. J. Corey replying to a press telegram printed in this paper a short time ago. The News believes in allowing all sides to be heard and in that spirit gives publicity to Mr. Corey's thoughts. The letter reads as follows:

"St. Regis Falls, Feb. 13.—Editor Ogdensburg News: You state in your paper on Feb. 9, under date of Washington, Feb. 8, that Oscar Underwood, leader of the house of representatives, won his fight against William J. Bryan on the money trust investigation, it being the second notable victory that Mr. Underwood has achieved over the Nebraskan, the first having been Mr. Bryan's stubborn attempt to force a free raw wool bill on the majority. Now do you not think that the people lost the two victories instead of Mr. Bryan? Who has money enough to buy good clothes at most any price as compared with the 90,000,000 of people in the United States?

"The house may defeat Mr. Bryan's idea but the democrats of that body may learn a lesson that they will remember when the people vote next fall.

"You state, also, that Speaker Clark of the house of representatives voted with Underwood. Now while I have been a warm friend of Mr. Clark's that vote and his action on the wool bill will lose him hundreds of thousands of votes should he receive the democratic nomination for president. And Mr. Underwood would stand just about as good a show as Buckner and Palmer did in 1896.

"Now I wish to say that when Mr. Bryan goes to a committee meeting in Washington or to a convention or any other kind of gathering, the people know they have a champion and if his ideas are defeated the people know that they and not Mr. Bryan have lost a victory.

"Mr. Bryan is thought more of today than any other man on the American continent. Yours respectfully.—From a Lincoln Republican and a Bryan Democrat."

### MR. BRYAN'S WORK

South Bend (Ind.) New Era: William J. Bryan is still the same determined foe of aristocracy and privilege that he has been all through the long years of his eventful public life. Defeats and disappointments have wholly failed to lessen his ardor, palsy his arm, or change his heart. For the cause of common man he has cast his lot and, like the heroic Murat of France, he leads his devoted followers in the political charge, riding at the head, saber in hand. In all the trying political events of the past sixteen years his followers have relied upon him and never found him wanting. They believe in him because he has never sought victory in dishonor. For them he has faced obloquy and suffered defeat. With them he has stood boldly on principle when insincerity might have won. Through it all he has shirked no duty, he has kept the faith, he has betrayed no trust. The strength of his following is no accident. His supporters are bound together with ties as sacred as patriotism can inspire. They have three times given him their free and unpurchasable ballots and are even now anxiously awaiting a word from him indicating who would be the proper man to carry out his high ideals as the standard bearer in the next campaign. His choice will be their choice.

History affords no example of a political movement where a leader has been more dauntless and the followers more true. With his heart and soul in his work, with a courage born of the consciousness of right, with indomitable will, this impulsive, magnetic man is the greatest force on the side of civic righteousness, the biggest, bravest figure in the fight, on the side of humanity, that the world has today, and his mind and voice is destined to have a greater potency in shaping the current of political thought in this campaign and in the years to follow than any other earthly influence.