

Personal Work Counts In Politics

only then are we in position to make the most of life. No fear of punishment inflicted by others can restrain us as effectively as the conscience can and should.

Our moral development, then, begins with the recognition of a supreme being as our heavenly Father, and we are not ready to live well until we have determined that our supreme duty is to know His will concerning us and to do it. The second thing to be considered in moral development is a rule of conduct, and we find that in the Bible. We need the word of God; we can not get along without it. It gives us the commandments that form the basis of our moral character; it leads and directs us through our mature years, and it is our only comfort when death approaches. The Bible teaches us of God, and it also reveals to us the Christ whom we need as savior and as example. Christ gave to the world the law of love; when we obey the law of love, there is no danger of our breaking any other law, for love is the fulfillment of the law. If we make our bodies strong; if we give to our minds the training necessary and then put back of our physical strength and our mental activity, a high purpose and a lofty ideal, we can make life a success for ourselves and bring happiness to those about us. We may differ in the amount of good that we can do, but all can do enough to make life worth living. One of the beauties of the Christian religion is that it can be accepted at any time and can make even a small remnant of a life useful. I was born and raised in a prairie section of southern Illinois and never saw a spring until I was twenty-two years old. Since I first saw a spring it has seemed to me the most fascinating thing in nature. A pond receives water from the surrounding land and soon becomes stagnant; a spring pours forth constantly of that which is refreshing and invigorating.

Just a word in conclusion. God has so arranged this world that we can begin at any time to lead a useful life, and no one can estimate the amount of good that he can do, if he only tries. When I visited the home of Tolstoy, the great Russian philosopher, they showed me a ring in the ceiling of one of the rooms of his house from which he had prepared to hang himself at the age of forty-eight. Up to that time life seemed vain and empty to him although he had distinguished himself in literature and had every social advantage. At the age of forty-eight a change came in his life. He was born again; he became a new creature, and for thirty years he preached the gospel of love, and by so doing made his name known in every civilized land. Let no one tell you that opportunities unimproved never return. That is a dark and gloomy gospel, as disheartening as it is untrue. Let me give you a gospel of hope rather than a gospel of despair. Let me read to you a poem on "Opportunity," written by Judge Walter Malone. It breathes the spirit of Christ's religion. He extends a hand to help all who will turn their faces to the light. I shall not only read you this, but I shall with the permission of your warden, Mr. Melick, furnish each one of you with a copy of this poem that you may keep it with you and gather from it the inspiration which runs through every line. None are so good as not to need forgiveness; none have wandered so far as to be beyond Christ's love and care.

OPPORTUNITY

They do me wrong who say I come no more When once I knock and fail to find you in; For every day I stand without your door, And bid you work, and rise to fight and win.

Wail not for precious chances passed away, Weep not for golden ages on the wane! Each night I burn the records of the day— At sunrise every soul is born again!

Laugh like a boy at splendors that have fled To vanished joys be blind and deaf and dumb; My judgments seal the dead past with its dead, But never bind a moment yet to come.

Though deep in mire, wring not your hands and weep; I lend my arm to all who say "I can" No shame-faced outcast ever sank so deep But he might rise and be again a man!

Dost thou behold thy lost youth all aghast? Dost reel from righteous retribution's blow? Then turn from blotted archives of the past, And find the future's pages white as snow.

Art thou a mourner; Rouse thee from thy spell;

In politics, as well as in all other branches of human activity, the personal work done by the rank and file among the voters is the largest factor in party success. Little or nothing can be accomplished even by the shrewdest political managers without the support of the workers in the ranks. The best laid political plans will end in disaster if the voters are not aroused to the importance of the campaign issues.

The work of reaching the voters will depend almost entirely on the efforts made in each precinct by the workers who are alive to their party responsibilities. This is a work in which every one can and should take part, and nothing will contribute more in bringing about democratic success.

What can you do in your precinct this fall? How many votes can you add to your column? What per cent of increase can your party make over its previous vote? Let every voter commence work at once in his own precinct. Make this year a record breaker. A change of a few votes in each precinct in your state may mean a sweeping victory for the cause of reform policies.

No one can do this work for your precinct better than you can. No one can have the personal influence with your neighbor that you have. Are you willing to do your part? Many Commoner readers have enlisted in this work, and know from experience the value of good campaign literature. For this reason many are forming campaign clubs and placing The Commoner into the hands of the voters. In some states, a change of one, two and three votes in each precinct will bring victory to the democratic cause. In every precinct where Commoner workers are at work they have found no difficulty in placing The Commoner in the hands of at least ten new voters in each precinct. In some precincts they have accomplished even more. Do you not realize the great importance of reaching the voters in your precinct with democratic literature?

The Commoner is doing its part in this work by offering an exceedingly low campaign rate of 35 cents on new subscriptions—from now until the close of the 1912 campaign—or THREE NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS for \$1.00.

Every democrat can assist in the work of reaching the voters by sending at least one club from his precinct. Every precinct should be able to send at least one club of three, and you should see to it personally that your precinct is represented by an increased vote this year. Use the coupon below for club of three, or blank sheet where club is larger.

PLACES COMMONER IN HANDS OF 12 VOTERS

Herbert Sears, New York—Please find enclosed money order for \$6.00 to pay for twelve yearly subscriptions to The Commoner, including my own renewal. It gives me pleasure to be able to increase The Commoner's circulation in my home town and in this way help a little bit in holding up the hands of Mr. Bryan in his efforts to spread the gospel of true democracy and rescue the government from special privileges. I will be on the job for new subscribers all of the time. Considering the low campaign rate, I feel I should be able to take quite a good many more. Congratulations upon your splendid victory in the Nebraska primaries.

STARTED TO GET 3—SECURED 10

Robert A. Urell, Pa.—I started out yesterday to get a club of three for The Commoner—but as you will see by the enclosed list I got ten—probably will get more, but am sending these at once. The progressive democrats are feeling very good of the result of their two years' fight to oust the Guffey & Co., corporation, special interest servers. I believe the people of both or all parties are determined to resume their right of government to be the real rulers and not the ruled—even here in Pennsylvania it will not be long before we will have direct legislation, the initiative and referendum and right of recall.

REACHES TWENTY-FIVE VOTERS

Robert P. Reeder, Pa.—Enclosed find money order for \$8.35 for which please send The Commoner for the remainder of the campaign to the twenty-five persons, whose names are given below.

THREE FOR \$1.00 CLUB

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb:

Gentlemen—Enclosed find \$1.00 for which please send The Commoner to the following new subscribers under your special campaign offer—THREE FOR \$1.00—from now until the close of the presidential campaign.

Name P. O.

Name P. O.

Name P. O.

Art thou a sinner? Sins may be forgiven: Each morning gives thee wings to flee from hell, Each night a star to guide thy feet to heaven.

"THE WORLD DO MOVE"

"Lafe" Young, editor of the Des Moines Capitol, who has devoted the past 15 years to a war upon Senator Cummins, wrote for his newspaper an editorial declaring that after the Iowa delegation had discharged its obligation to Mr. Taft it should give its entire support to Senator Cummins. Mr. Young declares that Senator Cummins "is more conservative than Roosevelt and would not stand for doubtful constitutional interpretations."

Senator Cummins has been regarded as a radical by many people but some of the things he has done in recent years have led some of his friends to believe that he was inclined to go in the other direction. The fact that he has won the support of "Lafe" Young is in itself corroborative evidence that Senator Cummins is conservative—eminently conservative.

The weakness of Mr. Roosevelt's protest against Mr. Taft's misuse of patronage is that Mr. Taft followed Mr. Roosevelt's example.

HORRIBLE

The Philadelphia Public Ledger answers Mr. Roosevelt's threat to bolt in this way: "If Mr. Roosevelt wishes to bolt he ought to be encouraged to bolt, for it will be much better for the nation that he should stand before the country as the leader of a Roosevelt party devoted to his wild policies than that he should saddle them upon a historic and sane party organization."

This is horrible. The idea that the "Roosevelt policies" which have so often carried the republican party into power should be called wild and insane by the very newspapers that once assured their readers that those policies were dependable!

SAN DIEGO'S MISTAKE

San Diego has a difficult situation to meet but it can not be met by lawlessness on the part of the government. "Fighting the devil with fire" may be fascinating but it is not wise. The devil is an expert on fire and his fuel bill is small.

The New York Times demands that Mr. Roosevelt be given his "fill of fighting." Has the Times discovered the secret for perpetual motion.