

The Commoner. ISSUED WEEKLY

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

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Editorial Rooms and Business Office, 324-330 South 12th Street

One Year.....\$1.00
Six Months......50
In Clubs of Five or more, per year.. .75
Three Months..... 25
Single Copy..... .05
Sample Copies Free.
Foreign Post, 5c Extra.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

CIRCULATE THE COMMONER

An old-time reader of The Commoner writes: "Wherever The Commoner is regularly read the democratic vote increases. One of the most effective methods of increasing Governor Wilson's vote would be by the circulation of The Commoner (particularly among men who have heretofore voted the republican ticket) in every state of the union. I suggest that you make a special rate for campaign purposes and I am sure there are many hard working democrats who will take advantage of that rate to put The Commoner regularly into the hands of their republican neighbors." The Commoner will be sent to any one from now until the close of the 1912 campaign for the sum of 35c, or three subscriptions will be entered until the close of the campaign for \$1.00.

NO CASH FROM CORPORATIONS

Following is a United Press dispatch: Washington, July 20.—Detailed figures showing democracy's finances in the 1908 presidential campaign were furnished the senate investigating committee today by Herman Ridder, of New York, who was treasurer of the democratic national committee. Ridder appeared armed with books and records. He said the total receipts were \$620,644, and the expenditures \$619,641.

William J. Bryan, the nominee, had given instructions, the witness explained, that no contribution larger than \$10,000 should be accepted and no money at all should be accepted from corporations. Ridder said that he, himself, was the largest contributor to the campaign fund. He had evaded Bryan's order by contributing \$10,000 in his own name and \$9,000 in the name of each of his three sons.

Tammany hall contributed \$10,000. Other large contributors, as listed by Ridder, were: W. F. Sheehan, \$3,000; Samuel Untermyer, \$2,500; J. Sergeant Cram, \$1,000; M. J. O'Brien, \$500; Jacob Ruppert, \$1,000; Delancey Nicoll, \$1,000; E. M. Shephard, \$1,000; J. D. McGraw, \$2,000; the Oklahoman, an Oklahoma newspaper, \$1,000; H. H. Lehman, \$1,000; D. E. Conway, \$1,000; E. F. Goltra, \$3,000; Nathan H. Straus, \$1,200; the Buffalo Times, Norman Mack's paper, \$1,000; J. W. Cox, assistant treasurer of the national committee and ex-Governor D. R. Francis of Missouri, each \$3,000.

Ridder declared that neither August Belmont nor Thomas F. Ryan made any contribution to the campaign.

The witness turned over to the committee two account books, which showed in detail the contributions and the expenditures during the campaign.

Chairman Clapp announced that George R. Sheldon, of New York, who was treasurer of the national republican committee in 1908 would testify next Thursday.

Idaho made a most creditable record in the Baltimore convention. Her democrats will not have to blush when the report is read.

DEMOCRACY'S TRIUMPH

The following editorial appeared in the Centre Democrat, published at Bellfonte, Pa:

Every loyal democrat in this land has occasion to rejoice over the result of the national convention held in Baltimore.

The policies of the party as were there plainly outlined and approved, the progressive platform adopted, and the high standard of the two men nominated to head the ticket, taken all together, marks it the most important political convention held for a generation. Great issues, that for years have confronted the American people, and that more or less shackled the freedom of other parties, were fearlessly, frankly, and courageously met; and now there is not a quibble or a doubt left, or an uncertain note sounded anywhere, as to the result of those deliberations.

Today the democracy of the land stands forth free from the taint of "Tammany rule" and "Wall street manipulation." The representatives of the money power were there, conspiring to thwart the will of the people, and prostitute the work of this great organization to their own selfish ends. Entrenched in great strongholds, completely manipulating many entire state delegations, aided by shrewd men of national repute, they boldly conspired to gain control, same as was successfully done by them at Chicago to re-nominate Taft—but at Baltimore they ingloriously failed and met a humiliating defeat.

Facing this impending crisis in our party and with the eyes of the nation turned upon this convention, a great leader of men, like a colossus, strode in the arena to combat these evil forces. Bold, fearless and defiant he challenged this common enemy at the outstart. Practically alone he mounted the rostrum and before twenty thousand people, face to face, he named Ryan, Belmont, Murphy, (also Morgan) as the peril of the country, now the conspiring enemy of democracy and, as such, were unworthy and unfit to sit in the high councils of the democracy; or with their salaried emissaries to direct its deliberations. Never in a national political gathering was such a defiant challenge made, or were such scenes enacted as followed.

So radical and direct was the attack that for the moment the great audience was amazed and dumfounded. Then gradually the foresight of the great leader was recognized, and loyal democrats and patriotic citizens rallied to his support. It was none other than the great commoner, William Jennings Bryan, thrice democracy's standard bearer, magnificently and majestically leading one of the greatest crusades in behalf of his party and country; and the great victory he finally achieved will truly be recorded a most important epoch in the nation's history.

For days and days thereafter the contest was bitterly waged, with the one issue towering over all others—shall the people rule, or the money power and the trusts oppress this nation.

On the first contest Bryan lost by a meagre vote in the selection of Alton B. Parker for temporary chairman. In nominating a man for president it soon was plainly evident that Underwood, Harmon and Clark were acceptable to Wall street. When the close relations of Clark with the "interests" were proven, Bryan again lead the battle. Openly he declared that no democrat could afford to accept the nomination, if secured by the aid of Wall street and the New York corrupted delegation, which he branded as "Murphy's ninety wax figures," who now were supporting Clark. For those reasons he broke his instructions for Clark, and rallied

by the standard of Woodrow Wilson, the only true progressive left.

No words or pen can portray the intense excitement, and the bitter personalities that were hurled at Bryan—turmoil, confusion and almost riotous scenes followed. Insult upon insult was hurled at the Nebraskan who never flinched, but defiantly faced his detractors, and rebuked their assaults.

It was evident that he had unmasked the common enemy, and stabbed it to the death. From that time on the battle of "Wall street" for Harmon, Underwood or Clark was lost; gradually their political schemes began to crumble, until finally their whole structure came down with a crash, and Woodrow Wilson, after long days and entire nights of balloting received over a two-thirds vote of the entire convention—without the support of "Wall street" or Boss Murphy's ninety tainted wax figures of New York.

In conclusion let us say, in this struggle the democracy was purged and purified; and today it stands before the country as having completely broken the shackles of "Wall street" and the "money power;" and, now is pledged to pursue the same policy if entrusted in power.

In this battle royal against Wall street, Pennsylvania stood like a stone wall with 71 of its 76 delegates supporting Woodrow Wilson and the great commoner—and without them they certainly would have failed. That is part of the good work accomplished by the rejuvenated progressive democracy of the Keystone state at Baltimore, and are facts now conceded by all.

With the splendid record of the Baltimore convention before us, and the unsullied names of Woodrow Wilson for president, and Thomas R. Marshall for vice president on our standard, a militant democracy goes triumphantly forward to a greater victory; and a free people, seeking a return of popular government, now rejoice in the dawn of a new era over our fair land.

MR. BRYAN AND CHAMP CLARK

The Kansas City Post prints the following: William Jennings Bryan, who is to speak at the Independence chautauqua, arrived in Kansas City from the west where he has been on a lecture tour. When seen at the union station he was busily engaged with a breakfast of hamburger and onions. Even this repast did not interfere with his discussing political questions.

Bryan was unwilling to make a statement in regard to Champ Clark in the Baltimore convention. "I do not know why I should discuss the matter," he said. "He is the democratic candidate for congress in his district and I am anxious to see him elected."

"I would rather that his friends should criticize me than that my friends should criticize him. I am not a candidate for anything and I will wait until after the election to answer any criticisms that may be directed against me for my part in the matter."

The new national committee starts out well. McCombs is near enough to Governor Wilson to be guided by him in the management of the campaign and Davies will make an ideal secretary.

Montana voted 7 to 1 against Parker and the one came over on the anti-Morgan-Ryan-Belmont resolution. Montana is all right.

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