

106 New Commoner Readers from One Town

J. A. Walker, Whitwell, Tenn.—Enclosed find money order for \$26.50 to pay for 106 subscribers to The Commoner until the close of the campaign in November, 1912, as per your announcement. Find list of names and addresses of subscribers; also keep the good work going on. All true democrats approve of Wilson and Marshall's nomination as far as I can learn.

pletely the organization is based upon him and his personality. Conceding everything that can be said in behalf of his great ability, his fighting qualities; and his educational work, it must not be forgotten that he has his weaknesses—that he is human.

If it is true, as has been widely circulated, that some progressive, Hadley or Cummins, for instance, could have been nominated instead of Mr. Taft, but for his, Mr. Roosevelt's refusal to give way to any other candidate, then this must in itself weigh strongly in the minds of many earnest and honest progressives in the republican party. If he could have secured the nomination of some one in harmony with his views upon a platform reasonably progressive and thus thrown a united party behind a republican progressive and a progressive program—if he could have done this, many republicans against whose motives he can bring no just accusation will feel that he did not exhaust all efforts within the party before starting out to disrupt the organization to which he is indebted to for all of his prominence and influence.

Mr. Roosevelt will also have to meet the questions raised as to his tardiness in espousing the reforms which he now advocates. Democrats, at least, will feel that a party which, like the democratic party, has been fighting in behalf of reform for many years ought to receive some consideration from one who has violently opposed, as Mr. Roosevelt has, many radical reforms when the democratic party was making great sacrifices in their behalf. Why, for instance, should a democrat leave the democratic party which has labored in behalf of the popular election of senators for twenty years, in behalf of an income tax for eighteen years, for railroad regulation for sixteen years, for anti-trust legislation for twelve years, for publicity before the election, as to campaign contributions for four years and for tariff reform for a generation—why should a democrat leave such a party to march under the leadership of a commander who did not begin advocating the popular election of senators until two years ago, the income tax until about six years ago, railroad regulation until less than eight years ago, has remained silent during all these years as to tariff extortion and has in every campaign since 1892 joined Wall street, the subsidized press, the plunderbund and the bosses in defeating the democratic party? Assuming that his conversion is sincere why does he not bring forth works meet for repentance instead of demanding the chief seat at the feast? He ought not to slander the party that has furnished him nearly every reform that he has espoused.

A third objection that he must prepare to meet is that founded upon his position on the trust question. He failed for seven years and a half while president to check or even control the trusts; he has not only kept silent for eleven years while the steel trust has exploited the country, but he permitted the steel trust to swallow up its largest rival and he now accepts a steel trust director as his chief financial backer and advocates federal incorporation, the very thing that the trusts have clamored for for a generation.

A fourth, and the greatest objection, is, his desire for a third term, an honor declined by Washington and Jefferson and withheld from Grant. A third term opens the door to any number of terms. What emergency requires it? The tendency is toward a single term, not toward a third term. A president wields more power than any king or emperor or czar and his power increases each year. Surely the hatred of the progressive republicans toward the democratic party is as implacable as it is impossible to explain if they are willing to risk the dangers of an unlimited succession of presidential terms rather than use the democratic party, with its progressive platform and progressive ticket, to rebuke the republican party for failing to keep step with the progressive spirit of the age.

Admitting that Theodore desires to save us, may we be pardoned for having some concern regarding the future he would save us for as well as for the present he would save us from?

THE ALL-IMPORTANT AMENDMENT

On September 3d the people of Ohio will vote on the constitutional amendments submitted by the convention. There are a number of these amendments but one stands out above and beyond all the others. It is the one providing for the initiative and referendum. If this amendment is adopted—and it ought to be adopted by an overwhelming majority—the people can use it to secure anything they want. It puts the government in the hands of the people and they can then proceed at their leisure to perfect their constitution and their laws. The amendment providing for the initiative and referendum is the all-important amendment—every one should support it.

BOOSTING THE COMMONER CIRCULATION

Every reader may have a hand in this good work. Following are letters from some of the workers:

Eugene Frey, Illinois—I enclose herewith check to pay for the enclosed club of thirteen subscriptions to The Commoner. These begin with the issue of July 18. Send me additional sample copies as I hope to be able to further increase the influence and usefulness of The Commoner in this strong republican county.

Dr. D. G. Pickett, New York—Enclosed find post office money order to pay for this club of twenty-five new subscribers under your special campaign offer; most of these men are republicans and I secured this club this evening and will try to do more in the future. We are in hopes of carrying the banner republican county of Chautauqua for Wilson and it looks as if we might possibly do so.

W. F. Yessler, Pa.—Enclosed find remittance to pay for club of four yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. Wishing The Commoner the best of good wishes for the fight it is making to redeem the government once more to the people, I am, etc, etc.

E. V. Kautsky, Wisconsin—Herewith find post office money order to pay for the enclosed club of twelve campaign subscriptions to The Commoner at your special rate of 25c during the campaign.

W. M. Trickeld, Idaho—Accepting your subscription offer, I enclose remittance to pay for a club of five and will send more in the near future.

Henry Miltner, Michigan—Herewith find check for \$3.50 and the names and addresses of fourteen men for which please send The Commoner to each at your special campaign rate of 25c. If any of these men are now subscribers, please advise me and I will substitute other names, as some of these subscriptions are sent on my own initiative.

E. W. Peoples, Ohio—Inclosed find my check for \$7.50 for which send The Commoner to the enclosed list of 30 subscribers until after the November election, under your 25c offer. One-half of the above named men formerly belonged to the republican party. I secured this list in about one hour and a half.

E. E. Dilatash, Ill.—Enclosed herewith I hand you draft for \$6.00 to pay for 24 subscriptions to The Commoner as per your special offer.

John B. Fied, North Dakota—Please send The Commoner until after the election to the enclosed list of nine subscribers.

R. S. Childs, Vermont—In grateful appreciation of Mr. Bryan's Baltimore triumph (which I personally witnessed) and his masterful answer to William H. Taft's followers, I am enclosing herewith my check for \$10.00 to cover 40 campaign subscriptions under your special campaign offer. Most of these men were formerly republicans, but are drifting away from what both Taft and Roosevelt stand for. I also enclose an extra dollar for the renewal of my own subscription for one year.

A. J. Spanahle, Michigan—Enclosed find remittance to pay for eight subscriptions under your special offer. Send me more blanks at once.

W. R. Sperr, Oklahoma—Enclosed find post office money order to pay for the enclosed club of 35 subscribers. Send me package of sample copies of last week's issue.

LIGHT IN THE EAST

Two hundred up-state New York democrats met in conference at Rochester a few days ago and adopted the following declaration of principles:

"The democracy of the nation, inspired by the action of the national convention at Baltimore, enters upon this campaign confident of success. The nomination of Woodrow Wilson and Thomas R. Marshall is a guarantee that the declaration of progressive principles adopted by that convention will be carried out in response to the progressive demands of the American people. It is most fitting that the great democratic state of New York should take a conspicuous part in bringing to a successful issue at the polls the work of the Baltimore convention.

"The state convention to meet at Syracuse on October 1 should be actuated by the same spirit and the same progressive purposes. It should nominate a state ticket which will be in perfect harmony with the candidates upon the national ticket in character, capacity and fidelity to the spirit of progressive democracy. It should adopt a declaration of state principles as progressive as the national platform.

"The most effective force toward accomplishing these ends is a party organization throughout this state selected by and possessing the confidence of the democratic electors. No such organization exists today. In place of the organization there is a single individual exploiting the party as a private enterprise, and admitting to a voice in its councils only such few as he selects as a matter of personal favor. It is absurd to call such individual dictation the action of the democratic party; to permit it is contrary to the fundamental idea of home rule, for which the party has always stood.

"Inaction has fostered this condition until it has become unendurable. It is the duty of the democracy of this state to take such action as will prevent its continuance.

"In view of this situation, this committee recommends that this 'Rochester conference' become permanent and that, for the purpose of completing a permanent organization, it further recommends that the committee which issued the call for this conference be continued as a permanent executive committee with power to add to their number and to name such officers and committees as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this conference."

Then they organized for the purpose of making a fight at the state convention against the one man system that has prevailed in New York for some years. They do not object to Mr. Murphy's running New York city as long as the people of the city are willing to permit it, but they do object to having the democratic prospects of the entire state blighted by one ambitious and unscrupulous boss. Good for the up-state democrats—strength to their arm.

There is no reason why the democratic party of New York should not clean house—the party in Pennsylvania did, and see what an influence it exerted at the national convention. New York, on the contrary, because she allowed one man to use her ninety delegates as his personal property found that her support was an injury to a candidate rather than an aid. New York is the most populous state in the union and ought to live up to her possibilities, but so long as she permits the predatory interests to strangle the party in the state and through a unit rule, make her delegation a menace to the welfare of the party in the nation she must expect to be looked upon with suspicion if not treated as an open enemy. The up-state democrats will render a national service if they will make the democracy of New York democratic.

COMING AROUND

Mr. Roosevelt says: "We have taken all the democratic ideas except those fit for inmates of a lunatic asylum." Thanks, awfully. This is so much milder than his denunciation of 1896, and 1900, that it is almost complimentary. He is coming around—gradually.