

# The Commoner.

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WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor  
 RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor  
 CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher  
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throne, the other an uncrowned hero in a government where every citizen is a sovereign and no man dares or even wishes to wear a crown; the one strutting the brief hour upon the stage, despotically oppressing the groaning millions, the other living and reigning with, and in the hearts of, the people; the one distorting, exacting, compelling, the other loving, living and leading as a shepherd would lead the sheep; the one a political ruler, slaying the multitudes in the pretended interests of a despicable ambition, the other educating and elevating that all alike may attain the freedom and equality of the masses, the rights, privileges and kingship of the common people; the one from the frowning throne of emperor, czar, sultan, king, mikado, the other the proud son of the government 'of the people, by the people, and for the people'; the one banished to St. Helena, the other chosen secretary of state."

The French Napoleon a pirate; the American a patriot; the one territorial conquest for personal gain, the other political conquest for the benefit of the people; the one carrying a flag that is feared because of force, the other a flag, "Old Glory," that is honored because it is loved; the one leading a nation that shook thrones and ended dynasties by force of arms, the other that is shaking thrones and dissolving aristocracies by the splendid example of its patriotic citizens, whose government lives by the consent of, and for the purpose of, the governed.

## GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S SPEECH

Governor Morehead of Nebraska spoke as follows:

"My toast is to be the welcoming of our distinguished citizen and the speakers from the different sections of our country and to make mention of the hospitality of our great state. Having had the opportunity of attending a great many banquets in Lincoln, and considering myself an old settler, watching the progress and development of our state, I feel that I would overlook an important matter if I failed to mention the radical changes that have taken place and the progress we have made in the way of progressive legislation.

"I call attention to one of these changes in the way of legislation, having been perfected and in contemplation of passage 'The Blue Sky' law. It is intended to prevent the selling of worthless stocks and certificates and to protect the people in their investments and to furnish them evidence as to the merits of the property offered for sale.

"The initiative and referendum, a law which is now a matter of fact and is intended to bring closer to the people, the making of laws and passing judgment on laws made by our legislature and I will say in connection with this law that I am much in favor of the people giving greater attention to the law-making of our country.

"I am strongly in favor of the abolition of party circles and I am in favor of the voter having the intelligence to go into his booth and there in his own and the presence of God, being able to vote for men without doing as we have

done in the past, make a mark in a circle and cast his vote for men that he knows nothing about and has made no effort to familiarize himself with the qualifications of the candidates in a moral or in a business way. If we expect to maintain a republican form of government, we must develop the intelligence of the voters and a man who is unable to vote intelligently may prove a dangerous person. If we are considering a government that is to be in the hands of the people, I believe we have reached the time in our political life when a large reduction in our representatives, both in the house and the senate, would be an advantage.

"It appears to me that more time given to the making of laws and the repealing of them and fewer men would be a move in the right direction.

"I have great faith in the board of control which is now a matter of fact. I regard the state of Nebraska as a great business concern and I think an intelligent board of control giving its time and attention to the business affairs of the state, will prove a great benefit to the tax-payer as well as to the inmates of our great institutions of the state. While I shall not insist on a stingy or penurious administration of our penal institutions, I trust that the board of control will use the same care and caution in the expenditure of the public money that its members do in their private cases and if such care is given, the result will be a great improvement in the management of our public affairs.

"I am in hopes that we will have a law passed and an appropriation made to create a reformatory in our state. I stated in the last campaign and I have no reason to change my mind, that an appropriation of money should be made at this time and placed in the hands of the board of control, and an intelligent expenditure in securing a tract of land where agricultural and other pursuits may be followed. I see no good reason why our penitentiary and reformatory can not be placed on a self-supporting basis. I realize when these appropriations are made, just at this particular time, it is placing quite a burden on the tax-payer but I have great hopes that when we get this reformatory into action, that it will prove a great saving to the entire people of the state, besides it will remove from the penitentiary a large per cent of inmates who, I have great hopes of being able to make better citizens, as well as to make the institution self-supporting.

The Australian ballot has been a great improvement and I believe there is room for quite an improvement over the present system. I recall, as you do, a few years ago, when men were marched to the booths and voted, not as they desired, but as some party who was interested in the success of the candidate, desired. I must say that this has but little reference to what we call a free country, when a man is supposed to express his idea and preference and can not without being molested by parties who have a certain purpose to serve.

"I regard it an awakening, not only in our state, but in the United States, and the people are finding sufficient time to give the great public questions which concern them, more attention than they have at other times. We have realized that many of our natural resources have been gobbled up by certain interests and the people are now defending and protecting a great natural resource that will prove very profitable to the people. It is now not only an effort on the part of the states, but of the nation to protect the resources that are left to be preserved for the public in general.

"The preference expressed by the people in our state for United States senator has been a great improvement. A few years since, when the legislature assembled and the United States senator was to be elected, most of the time was devoted to lobbying and it put the state to a great deal of expense. Under the present Oregon plan, the legislature meets and a senator is selected with as little contention as if it were any other ordinary affair. The legislator having pledged to support the choice of the people, he knows that this pledge must be carried out or he had better not return to his constituents. We have assemblies now in some of the other states, where they are devoting most of the time allowed to them for passing laws and transacting the business of the state in a dead-lock trying to select a United States senator. In fact a pure democracy is an utter impossibility but my recommendation and idea would be we should have sufficient representatives to represent all parties, nation as well as state, but it appears to me that we are overdoing it and getting too many men which makes it bunglesome. I would therefore be in favor

of the best and most intelligent men from the different parts of the state, men who are thoroughly capable of reaching the people.

"I note with pleasure here tonight, that we have a democratic governor from the state of Kansas, also a democratic governor from the state of Illinois. While we have not been successful in electing many democratic executives in these different states, I notice with pride that democrats in Kansas have both houses as well as the executive chair and that they have passed some good and wholesome laws; that it was a harmonious body of men and some of the best laws that the state has ever had were enacted in the last session. In the state of Illinois, they are in a dead-lock, as stated, over the election of the United States senator. But I have confidence in the executive of that state and trust that the legislature will succeed in solving their difficulty and giving their time and attention to passing some good and progressive laws, in place of spending the entire session in their fight over the senator.

"This banquet is in honor of the distinguished citizen of Nebraska whom I have had occasion to honor, as we are tonight, on different occasions. I note with a great deal of interest that each banquet has increased in attendance and that at each time the feeling of brotherly love is stronger and more noticeable and I have made mention of what we are doing and I think it is all that is necessary to show what we have done towards the advancement of civilization.

"We have with us tonight Hon. W. J. Bryan, who is now secretary of state under the new administration. Mr. Bryan is not only honored by the state of Nebraska as a man who has done a great deal for the moral up-lift of humanity, he has not only aided us in the state of Nebraska, but he has been preaching and teaching the principles that are in the interest of the common people of this country. A man possessed of the attainments of Mr. Bryan, who is capable of securing a great fortune and who could live a life of leisure, has preferred to give his time to the interest of humanity. He has traveled extensively; kings and potentates have been quick to recognize him, the inherent witness which has been so long apparent to his fellow citizens of Nebraska and wherever he went he was acclaimed the great commoner which he is. Probably not in the history of the world has another citizen been recognized by the aristocracy of the old world as has our fellow townsman. Crowned heads have sought his coming and hung with rapture on his words.

Starting as he did with a hostile press that branded him as a dangerous citizen, detrimental to the public interests of the country, he has lived to see his doctrines taught by the greatest thinkers of the age and to see them adopted by the most enlightened and progressive states of the union and now about to be written upon the statute books of his country.

"One of the happiest days of my life was when I visited the city of Washington to witness the inauguration of President Wilson and to realize the high place he held in the hearts of his countrymen. The delegation from Nebraska was hailed as from Bryan's state and courtesies and honors were showered upon me, not because I was the executive of a great state, but because of the fact that I came from the state of the man who stands for the interests of the great common people of this country.

"We who realize the great work that Mr. Bryan has done, fail to find words that will express our appreciation of his work or to adequately express our gratitude for what he has done toward taking the control of the government out of the hands of the favored few and the privileged interests and restoring it to the hands of the people.

"In conclusion let me say to you, Mr. Bryan: 'God grant to you many happy years and when the last has come, in the dawn of endless days, heaven's light may 'round you shine.'

## JERRY B. SULLIVAN'S SPEECH

Jerry B. Sullivan of Des Moines, Ia., spoke as follows:

"No greater opportunity ever came to a political organization than has to the democratic party at this time.

"For the first time in sixteen years it is placed in full charge of our government and the serious question of construction has taken the place of objection and criticism. When our party was by the congressional elections of 1910 returned to power, it was not for the single purpose of placing it in control of the government, but as a protest against the political and economic propositions of the republican party. The people had grown careless with relation to government