

The Commoner

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STAND BY THE PRESIDENT

TO THE READERS OF THE COMMONER:

At the coming election one-third of the senate will be chosen, and the political complexion of the third thus chosen will determine whether the senate will be friendly or unfriendly to the president.

An entire house of representatives will be chosen, and the political complexion of that body will determine whether the president is to be permitted to carry out his program of reform or have his hands tied by a hostile majority. It is a critical moment; the crisis is here.

In 1912 the voters selected Woodrow Wilson president, and gave him a democratic senate and house to second his efforts. He immediately called congress together and has kept these two bodies in continuous session ever since, laying before them from time to time recommendations carrying out the promises made during the campaign. The record which he has made is without parallel in the political annals of our country. At no former period have so many problems of such size and of so varied a character confronted a president during two years. He has met each one without hesitation, and solved them successfully by the simple process of applying democratic principles to them.

His success has been phenomenal and the approval which he has won is well nigh universal. His time has been divided between gigantic domestic questions, and titanic international difficulties—and he has proven equal to every emergency.

The cabinet which he summoned to his council table has been more than successful in meeting public expectations, while the senate and house have won the confidence and praise of the democratic party, and of a large percentage of the members of other parties.

Surely the president will not be asked to pause in

his labors; surely the country will not be guilty of the dangerous experiment of changing the leadership of the senate and the house. To what opposition would the nation entrust the government? To the Roosevelt wing of the party? That wing included more than half of the voting republicans at the last election, but every election since has shown a loss in numbers and disintegration in organization. Ex-President Roosevelt realizes this as well as anyone, and is centering his efforts upon a few of his particular friends whom he is trying to save from defeat. There is no possibility of the progressives securing control of either the senate or the house. To what opposition, then, will the country turn? To the stand-pat republicans? What have they done to earn a return to power? They have, to be sure, drawn back some of those republicans who called themselves progressive; but has the leopard changed its spots? Has the republican party reformed? Has stand-pattism become less odious to the American people? If reactionary republicanism was a stench in the nostrils of the people in 1912, is the odor less offensive now when the whole country is keeping step with Wilson?

The president has not only been able to summon the democrats of the senate and house to the support of the measures recommended by him, but in nearly every case he has had the pleasure of seeing republicans vote with the democrats. So habitual has become the tendency of some of the republicans (not always the same ones) to join in the support of democratic bills that one of the democrats has wittily suggested that "The republicans ought either to quit criticizing the democrats or else quit voting for democratic measures."

It is only a few weeks more until election; let every reader of The Commoner busy himself with campaign work from now until the polls are closed. He should be sure to vote himself, and

to keep the matter before his neighbors. It is easier to bring a democratic voter to the polls than it is to convert a republican—therefore, get the vote out.

But this is not enough—the victory this fall ought to be overwhelming. Let every democrat pledge himself to bring at least one republican to the support of the administration candidates. It is not likely that the majority in the senate or house will turn on one vote, but it may. Take no chances. A democrat would never forgive himself if as a result of his negligence the majority in either senate or house should be lost.

The people have been relieved of the burdens of a high tariff; they have seen a part of the load lifted from the backs of the masses and placed upon large incomes; they have witnessed a change in the currency laws which makes Washington and not Wall Street the financial center of the country; they have seen trust legislation enacted; they have seen the Filipinos promised independence, the promise to be fulfilled as soon as a stable government has been established; they have reason to be proud of the manner in which the honor of the country has been upheld; they have rejoiced that the country was kept from war with Mexico and put in position to assist in restoring peace in Europe; they have seen the government of the United States become the diplomatic clearing-house of the world, potential in every capital.

Let the approval be so emphatic that the president may not only have an increased support, but be given additional inspiration to continue the splendid program of reform which he has outlined.

Let every reader of The Commoner make this fight his fight, that his share of the general rejoicing may be large when the election is over.

W. J. BRYAN.

The Clayton Bill

The passage of the Clayton bill marks the completion of the second advance in dealing with the trust question. The trade commission law creates a body which will be entrusted with the work of investigating the methods of large corporations, and with the applying of such correctives as can be employed by an administrative body. The Clayton law deals with the subject in a legislative way, correcting abuses, defining unjust methods, and applying criminal correctives. It will go a long way toward the protection of the public from the evils which have followed in the wake of the trusts. The new law also brings the long-awaited for and greatly needed relief to the laboring man from government by injunction.

Nothing of importance is accomplished without effort; a remedy never comes until the need of it is felt, and then, if the evils to be corrected are serious ones, those who benefit by the evils make a stubborn resistance to remedial legislation.

The president came into office pledged to legislation which would make a private monopoly impossible. This was the third reform on his program. As soon as the questions of taxation and currency were out of the way, he addressed himself to this problem, and the two laws above mentioned are the results of the combined efforts of the president and the democratic senate

and house. The three subjects together, taxation, currency and trusts, present a record in economic legislation upon which the party may well invite the judgment of the country. If the laws enacted are not in every line just what every citizen would wish, it must be remembered that ours is not a one-man government. The constitution compels co-operation between the executive and congress, and it is no easy matter

to bring a majority of the more than four hundred members of the house of representatives and of the ninety-six senators into accord on the details of a measure, even when there is absolute agreement as to the work to be accomplished.

The more carefully these anti-trust measures are examined, the more hearty will be the endorsement of the president and congress.

W. J. BRYAN.

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The report of Census Director Harris, just published, shows that of the 38 million wage-earners and workers in the country, over 8 millions are women and children. This does not include the housewives. If one-fifth of the men in this country, whose industrial status is determined in large part by legislation, protective or otherwise, were denied the ballot, there would be a revolution. Why should one-fifth of the workers of the nation be refused the same protection?

It may be safely affirmed that no court in the country will interfere with the enforcement of Secretary Daniels' order that any wireless station that refuses to obey the neutrality rules laid down by the government shall be closed. It was a remarkable exhibition of corporate stubbornness that led the owners of the Siasconset station to insist that they could send what they pleased, regardless of whether the station was being utilized to violate national neutrality.