

The Commoner

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Wanted: A Young Man

If the democratic party is to remain the champion of the masses and secure for them their rights, it must be looking around for a presidential candidate for 1920 — a young man, old enough to have won the people's confidence and yet young enough to organize and lead the fight against private monopoly. He may not win in 1920 — it may take as long as it did to win the fight commenced in 1896, but we must begin now.

The mobilization of the democratic hosts and the organization of a patient and persistent fight against the cohorts of privilege and favoritism will require one who is of the people and accustomed to work with the people. He needs the soldier's willingness to die if his death will advance the cause.

The struggle will not be as hard as the one begun in 1896; (1st) because popular election of senators has transformed the senate from the bulwark of predatory wealth into a democratic body responsive to the people's will; (2nd) the reduction of the tariff has made it impossible for the protected interests to frighten the voters by threatening a panic; (3rd) the new currency law makes it impossible for Wall street to terrorize the small banks; (4th) the abolition of the saloon eliminates the most corrupting influence in American politics; (5th) equal suffrage brings woman's conscience to the support of man's judgment.

But with all these advantages on one side we still have a powerful antagonist to overcome and must be ready for a bitter fight. Our opponents have the city press — we must rely on public meetings and the country weeklies.

Look about you: find a David who is not afraid — one who can slay the giant of error with pebbles of truth.

W. J. BRYAN.

MICHIGAN REJECTS BEER

Have you read the news from Michigan? In 1916 Michigan adopted a prohibition amendment by a majority of 67,000. On Monday, April 7, the people voted on an amendment that proposed to permit the sale of beer, wine, ale, porter and cider. The amendment was defeated by 150,000. This settles the fight in Michigan and shows that the tide against the saloon is still rising.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS GROWS

The opposition to the league of nations dwindles. The plan in its original form deserved endorsement in spite of minor defects, and the improvements that have been made still further strengthened it. Now that the Monroe Doctrine has been specifically protected all opposition will disappear.

BUY BONDS!

Every citizen should do his part in subscribing for the Victory Loan. It is the citizen's duty to furnish money needed by the government and the loan is easier than taxation. This loan may be considered a thank offering expressing a nation's gratitude for the relatively small loss suffered by us in comparison with the loss suffered by our allies. Buy bonds.

W. J. BRYAN.

LET THE BANKERS BEWARE

The bankers are trying to prevent the confirmation of John Skelton Williams as comptroller of the currency. They had better look out. That sort of an attack is likely to help the victim of their wrath more than it harms him. The banks tried to destroy Andrew Jackson, but they only made him a hero, and enabled him to write his name among the democratic immortals. John Skelton Williams is made of the same kind of stuff, and if the banks defeat his confirmation they may have to deal with him as a democratic candidate for president. The country has never had a better comptroller of the currency. Instead of spending his time trying to pick out a New York bank to become president of, he has been busy six days in the week making the banks obey the laws and protecting the depositors. That kind of a man is a dangerous man to tackle. The more they turn the limelight on him the stronger he grows. When they get through investigating, it is more than likely that there will be a number of progressive senators who will see in Williams just the kind of a man we need, and they will help to defeat the efforts of the Penrose crowd to punish him for his fidelity to duty.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE PROFITEER

What are your state and city doing to check the profiteer? And what are you doing to spur your state and city up to action? The injustice continues — action is imperatively needed.

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Official Summary of the Covenant

The following official summary of the covenant of the league of nations was issued from Paris, April 12:

1. The league of nations is founded in order to promote international co-operation and to secure peace.

The league will include:

- (A) The belligerent states named in a document annexed to the covenant;
- (B) All the neutral states so named;
- (C) In the future any self-governing country whose admission by two-thirds of the states already members of the league.

A state may WITHDRAW from the league, providing it has kept its obligations to date, on giving TWO YEARS' notice.

2. The league will act through an assembly comprising not more than three representatives of each of the member states, each state having only one vote, and a council comprising for the present one representative of each of the five great powers and each of four other powers as selected from time to time by the assembly.

The number of powers of each class represented on the council may be increased by the unanimous consent of the council and a majority of the assembly. Other powers have the right to sit as members of the council during the decision of matters in which they are especially interested.

In the council, as in the assembly, each state will have only one vote. Both these bodies are to meet at stated intervals (the council at least once a year) and at other times if required; both can deal with any matter that is of international interest or that threatens the peace of the world; the decision of both must be unanimous, except in certain specified cases, matters of procedure for instance, being decided by a majority vote.

The league will have a permanent secretariat, under a secretary general. The secretariat and all other bodies under the league may include women equally with men. A permanent court of international justice and various permanent commissions and bureaus are also to be established.

3. The member states agree: (A) To reduce their armaments, plans for such reduction being suggested by the council, but only adopted with the consent of the states themselves, and thereafter not to increase them without the concurrence of the council; (B) to exchange full information of their existing armies and their naval and military programs; (C) to respect each other's territory and personal independence, and to guarantee them against foreign aggression.

(D) To submit all INTERNATIONAL disputes either to arbitration or to inquiry by the council, which latter, however, may not pronounce an opinion on any dispute whose subject matter falls solely WITHIN A STATE'S DOMESTIC JURISDICTION; in no case to go to war till three months after an award, or a unanimous recommendation, has been made, and even then not to go to war with a state which accepts the award or recommendation.

(E) To regard a state which has broken the covenant as having committed an act of war against the league, to break off all economic and other relations with it and to allow free passage through their territories to the troops of those