

The Commoner
ISSUED MONTHLY

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

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, CHARLES W. BRYAN,
Editor and Proprietor Associate Ed. and Publisher
Edt. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year.....	\$1.00	Three Months.....	.25
Six Months.....	.50	Single Copy.....	.10

In Clubs of Five or more per year... .75 Foreign Post, 25c Extra.
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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

That phrase, "further argument is unnecessary" was never coined by a member of the United States senate.

Some of the republicans seem to think that a reservation in the hand is worth two resolutions in the bush.

The merchants can go into court and collect a debt from the citizen. Why not a local trade commission before which the citizen can call the merchant on the charge of profiteering?

The darkest blot on the war was that while our soldiers were bleeding on the battlefields abroad their parents were being bled by the profiteers at home, and the bleeding at home increases after the bleeding in Europe stops.

The objection is raised by those officials who have no particular desire to get after the money-grabbing business men that it is impossible to define, to tell what a profiteer is. We suggest that the job be turned over to any workingman with a good, vigorous command of language.

We saw somewhere not long ago the statement that there is one spot in the ocean where the water has a depth of over seven miles. Our guess, however, is that it will take a longer pole than that to measure the deep water that certain republican senators have got their party into over the League of nations.

A fifty thousand dollar farm has been voted by the state of Tennessee to Sergeant York, who held the hero record of the war. That's more substantial as a reward than offering him a republican nomination for congress in that state, and even if he did get a public office he would get more out of the farm than the office.

Mr. Bryan was criticised because he advocated the acceptance by the senate of the treaty with Spain in 1898 notwithstanding the fact that it committed the nation to a colonial policy entirely out of harmony with her genesis and her professions, but he successfully defended himself on the ground that the first duty was to secure peace, and policies could afterwards be determined by the people themselves. The same logic applies to the present situation.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The world is chaotic just now, but it will settle down in a little while with the people in more complete control of the government of the world than ever before. Democracy is spreading. This country is now ready for the initiative and referendum, the last step necessary to insure the rule of the people.

UNITED STATES STANDS ALONE

The lonesomeness of our nation becomes more and more apparent as the secrets of the Paris conference are revealed. No alliances please.

The Mistakes of Watterson

Mr. Watterson—or Henry Watterson as he is generally known—is writing a series of articles which purport to be history as he views it. The seventeenth article of the series contains the following misrepresentation:

"Through Mr. Cleveland the party of Jefferson, Jackson and Tilden was converted from a democratic into a populist, falling into the arms of Mr. Bryan, whose domination proved as baleful in one way as Mr. Cleveland's had been in another, the final result shipwreck, with the extinguishment of all but the label.

"Mr. Bryan was a young man of notable gifts of speech and boundless self-assertion. When he found himself well in the saddle he began to rule despotically and to ride furiously. A party leader more short-sighted could hardly be imagined. None of his judgments came true. As a consequence the republicans for a long time had everything their own way, and save for the Taft-Roosevelt quarrel might have held their power indefinitely. All history tells us that the personal equation must be reckoned with in public life. Assuredly it cuts no mean figure in human affairs. And, when politicians fall out—well—the other side comes in."

Mr. Watterson's assertion that the democratic party was converted into a populist party illustrates the loss of vision one suffers when he looks at a question through himself. Because Mr. Watterson left the democratic party in 1896 (following the leadership of President Cleveland) he endeavors to put the blame on the democratic party instead of accepting it himself. He joined with the gold democrats in an effort to form a separate party and only after a ludicrous failure returned to the democratic party, but he has never quite forgiven us for refusing to follow him into the wilderness. What he called "shipwrecked" was really the rescue of the party from the forces that threatened to annihilate it. In 1896 the democratic party polled a million more votes than it ever polled before, and it did this in spite of the desertion of Mr. Watterson, President Cleveland and his cabinet, and all of the democratic office holders whom the President could influence, and in spite of the opposition of all of the railroad magnates, all the trust magnates, all of the Wall street financiers and all of the big newspapers that Wall street could control. The democratic party polled more votes in 1896 than it ever polled afterwards, until 1916. Mr. Bryan's vote in 1900 and in 1908 was a little below the vote in 1896. Even President Wilson's vote in 1912 did not quite reach the democratic vote in 1896, 1900 and 1908, while Mr. Parker's vote in 1904, fell a million and a quarter below the democratic vote in 1900 and 1908, in spite of the fact that Mr. Parker had the benefit of Mr. Watterson's enthusiastic support.

The charge that Mr. Bryan "began to rule despotically and to ride furiously" is fully answered by the fact that he had the democratic party with him all the time, except for the few months covered by the Parker campaign. Then, under the leadership of Wall street, the democratic organization tried the fatal experiment of following the guide of such discredited leaders as Mr. Watterson. During the time referred to by Mr. Watterson, the democratic party continued its fight for democratic principles and laid the foundation for the great economic advance that took place between 1912 and 1916.

Mr. Watterson says, "A party leader more shortsighted could hardly be imagined. None of his judgments came true." This charge is sufficiently answered by the fact that Mr. Bryan has been actively connected with every reform that has been accomplished, while Mr. Watterson has contented himself with snarling when he did not bite. He has stood by the roadside, hurling picturesque epithets, while the democratic party has marched by, too intent on its great work for humanity to heed the discordant voices of those who could find fault, but could give no advice worth considering.

During the time when Mr. Watterson has been throwing stones and decayed vegetables at the passing throng, the democratic party has led in securing a change in the election of United States senators, so that they are now chosen directly by the people, an income tax amendment that permits an equitable distribution of

the burdens of government, a currency system which even a war could not shake, anti-trust legislation, the abolition of government by injunction, the promise of ultimate independence to the Filipinos and an eight-hour day. Besides leading in these reforms, and Mr. Bryan has heartily supported all of them, the democratic party has aided in the submission of woman suffrage, and in the submission and ratification of prohibition—a majority of the democrats in the senate and house voting for both. Mr. Bryan has supported suffrage and prohibition, while Mr. Watterson has been hissing "he women" at the mothers and wives, who ask for a voice in the shaping of the environments that shall surround their children and emptying vials of wrath upon those who stop the manufacture of criminals and the corruption of politics by the saloons.

Mr. Watterson charges up the republican rule to Mr. Bryan; it would be a reflection upon his intelligence to assume that he does not know that it was the desertion of the democratic party in 1896, by men, who like himself, preferred a republican victory to the triumph of an anti-Wall street democratic party, that inaugurated sixteen years of republican rule.

He begins to reckon democratic defeat from 1896, and yet he is old enough to know that the congress elected in 1894—two years before Mr. Bryan's leadership began—had a larger republican majority than any subsequent congress has had. Democratic defeat began when men like Mr. Watterson joined President Cleveland in the attempt to carry the democratic party over to the John Sherman idea of finance. The fight which began within the democratic party after the defeat in 1894, was made necessary by the apostasy of democratic leaders, who sought to make the party the subservient tool of Wall street. The fight was won, and the party was stronger in 1896 than it was in 1894, but it took time to educate the people. It was, however, time well spent and made possible the reforms that have followed. The fight of 1896, while it did not restore silver, vindicated the quantity theory of money. Silver's restoration failed only because an unexpected increase in the gold supply raised prices and gave the world a cheaper dollar.

W. J. BRYAN.

COULDN'T BE WORSE

The capitalists profess to be afraid that the federal government would, under public ownership, use the railroads in politics. No danger from that source. The railroads have been in politics for a generation. They have elected governors, legislatures, senators, congressmen and judges, and they plan to be in politics next year and in the years to come. The government cannot possibly do worse than the railroad magnates have.

The metropolitan newspapers appear to be holding their own very sturdily. All of them were opposed to wartime prohibition being continued, and wartime prohibition was continued by an overwhelming vote.

THE OPTIMIST SEES THE DOUGHNUT, THE PESSIMIST THE HOLE



— Detroit News.