

parties, on the theory that the old parties do not meet the issues that have arisen. Our party is the one party that can qualify for the meeting of these issues. It can oppose a class party because it is not itself the party of a class, but the party of the whole people, regardless of class.

"The republican party has become a capitalist-party and has permitted tariff barons to write the tariff laws, trust magnates to direct the policy of the party on the trust question, and railroad presidents to dictate its policy on the railroad question, while packing house companies and other profiteers have used it as their own. It would divide the country into class parties and by its own attitude compel the formation of a farmers' party and a laborers' party.

"The democratic party, on the contrary, stands for the protection of the rights of every class, dealing with each citizen as an individual instead of as a member of a class. It has, since it has been in power, given the commercial classes a splendid currency law; it was given the farmers a farm-loan law; it has given labor an eight-hour day and greater security in its rights, and has given to all the people relief from the high-tariff burdens that had been placed upon consumers. Democracy contemplates co-operation between all elements and the promoting of the welfare of society in general.

**TRIBUNAL FOR STRIKES URGED**

"It would prevent strikes, not by prohibitory laws, but by the creation of machinery which will investigate disputes and thus secure a peaceful settlement of differences before the controversy reaches the stage of strike or lockout.

"The democratic party will distinguish between evolution and revolution, guaranteeing freedom of speech and press to every one who advocates governmental changes by constitutional methods, and, at the same time, prevent the use of either freedom of speech or freedom of the press for the overthrow of constitutional government.

"The democratic party has for twenty years denounced private monopoly as indefensible and intolerable. It cannot surrender its position on this subject now when the beneficiaries of all the private monopolies are mobilizing under the banner of the republican party for a united attack upon the right of the people to own and operate all necessary monopolies in the interest of the public.

**FIGHT AGAINST PROFITEERS**

"The democratic party will continue its fight against the profiteers. A government that restrains the individual from the use of force in the protection of his rights assumes the solemn obligation to protect the disarmed citizen from every arm uplifted for his injury. We need machinery in every state and in each community that will give to the consumer a tribunal before which a dealer accused of profiteering can be brought for examination. The federal trade commission is a step in the right direction. But the subject is too big to be handled by the nation alone or by a national commission. The remedy must be as complete as the evil, and it cannot be complete unless states and communities as well as the federal government are prepared to deal with this subject.

"I assume that the party will accept prohibition as the permanent policy of the country. Three-fourths of the democrats in the senate and two-thirds of the democrats in the house voted to submit the national amendment, and every democratic state voted for ratification—and every republican state except three. It is inconceivable, therefore, that our party should antagonize the moral sense of the nation. John Barleycorn is dead. The democratic party cannot tie itself to a corpse or become the champion of an outlawed traffic.

**NEED WOMEN'S VOTES**

"I assume that the party will accept woman's suffrage also as an accomplished fact. The women saved our party from defeat in the last campaign, and we need their aid to hasten the triumph of every righteous cause.

"I venture to suggest three new propositions for which I ask consideration:

"First. A national peace-way, running into every state, wide enough to accommodate both passengers and freight, and so permanent that it will be a lasting tie binding together the forty-eight commonwealths. It will be a memorial to the soldiers and to all others who took part in the war, and a monument in commemoration of peace restored. It will not only be an expression of patriotism, but it will be educational as well as useful. It will bring the

word 'peace' into the thought and conversation of all our people for centuries.

"Second. We need above all other things just now a national bulletin—not a newspaper, but a bulletin—under bipartisan control, furnished to all who desire it at a nominal cost—a bulletin which will present to the people the issues upon which they must act, with editorials presenting the arguments for and against the action proposed, so that every citizen may intelligently exercise the duties of citizenship and give to his government the benefit of his judgment and his conscience. The avenues of information are at present in private hands, and the editors, being human, have a bias which makes it impossible for them to present both sides fairly; and to make the situation worse, the great predatory interests are in position to influence many newspapers in addition to those which they absolutely control. If there is anything for which a government like ours can afford to spend money, it is to inform those upon whose will the government rests.

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM**

"Third. The initiative and referendum are not new. For a quarter of a century the idea has been growing and spreading. Since this reform has been put into operation in states like Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Massachusetts, it has ceased to be a thing to be ridiculed. Instead, it now excites the determined opposition of those who are not willing that the people shall be the masters of their own destiny through a government entirely within their control. The progress that democracy is making throughout the world ought to encourage our party to make the adoption of the principle of the initiative and referendum its next great reform, a reform entirely in harmony with the election of senators by the people, and the primary. The people are the source of authority, and any machinery which obstructs the popular will and puts into the hands of the minority the right to determine the course of the government is antagonistic to our institutions and must give way before the progress of popular government.

"We have become the world's teacher in the science of government, and we must not hesitate to express in practice our own faith in the principles that we proclaim. Our party must respond to the call that comes from every state and from across the sea to apply to every problem the principles of democracy. Faith in the people, faith in their capacity for self-government, as well as in their right to self-government, must be our party's policy now and always."

**BRYAN PAVED WAY, DECLARES DANIELS**

A Washington dispatch, dated January 8, says: William Jennings Bryan was given credit by Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, for laying the foundations of the league of nations covenant through the arbitration treaties negotiated by him as secretary of state.

In view of published reports that the three-times nominee of the democrats for the presidency again aspired to lead the party in a campaign, Mr. Daniels' statement created one of the most interesting moments of the dinner.

"The declaration (of independence) and the covenant (of the league of nations)," the secretary said, "are the two living light fountains of liberty and peace. It is the glory of the democratic party that through Jefferson and Wilson we have given these safe charts for all time for safe navigation upon all seas.

"Just as surely as Jefferson's declaration and Lincoln's emancipation glorify American statesmanship, the covenant will yet bring free nations into such accord that reason and not force will rule among nations as among individuals. A long step toward that ideal was reached in the celebrated and beneficent Bryan treaties, which Germany alone of European nations refused and forecasted its action in 1914 in precipitating the war. The principles and spirit of the Bryan treaties expanded and enlarged are embodied in the treaty of peace."

Asserting that no man appreciative of the changing conditions believes the coming presidential election predestined for any party, Mr. Daniels told the banqueters the record of the last seven years entitled the democratic party to a renewed lease of power.

**MR. BRYAN'S QUESTIONS**

Mr. Bryan is asking a good many questions to which he will receive no answer—at least for the present. But perhaps he has intentions on his own account.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Letters from Commoner Readers**

Cassius Haywood, Oklahoma.—In December's Commoner is a "feast of reason and a flow of soul." Bryan is at the front, with the profound clarion challenge to the mighty hosts of true democracy; demanding that they at once put themselves to the task of considering a leader who is able to champion their cause and be foremost in every act that shall be necessary to lift it out of the slough of confusion and make it pure and clean, that it may again be presentable to fulfill the hope and sustain the faith that right shall and will triumph.

'Tis the same Bryan that electrified at Chicago by the chiseled eloquence of unbending conviction. 'Tis the same Bryan who at St. Louis stood, pale and trembling, before that vast convention; who left his sick bed at 2 o'clock in the morning to minister to the wronged cause, in such oratory of dauntless truths as had never, until then, held that enormous throng so overpowered and in such breathless pause. 'Tis the same Bryan who fought Belmont and Murphy; who won against Rockefellers and Morgans; who now witnesses his party precipitate in tendency toward profiteers, wealth and its fawning cohorts.

'Tis the same Bryan who championed the income tax and the popular election of United States senators; who has for more than a decade advocated for every state a law to guarantee bank deposits, similar to the Oklahoma guaranty fund. 'Tis the same Bryan who long since declared against government by injunction; who has observed his government ownership ideas grow, since his Madison Square Garden speech, by leaps and bounds. The world knows of his labors in the cause of prohibition, and of the value of his efforts in the furtherance of woman suffrage. And none will be deceived, that the body of the League of Nations covenant was taken whole from his thirty righteous treaties.

He is on the side of labor, with ample reason, showing the strain of Sunday to be too severe when the one day is to be divided between relaxation of body and spiritual devotion; declaring the minimum wage proposition just and that it, in time, would come to be a fact.

What of 16 to 1, with twilight silver more precious than sunlit gold? What of his logic relative to money's quantitative bearing on prices? Ask whoever wayside shopkeeper. Propound it to the profiteers. But the latter will only smile in—ominous silence.

For you, Mr. W. J. Bryan, and The Commoner, signal success.

Will Atkinson, Pennsylvania.—With a "wet" president prohibition will be nullified. The only "dry" who has any chance of election is William Jennings Bryan.

The "alien and sedition act" destroyed the strongest political party of a hundred and twenty-two years ago. The Espionage act and its silly enforcement during actual peace has so disrupted the Democratic party that no Democrat can be elected president in 1920 but Bryan. William Jennings Bryan will be nominated and elected president in 1920, because of universal confidence in his absolute honesty and because of his own advocacy of suffrage, prohibition and public ownership will attract the votes of women, "drys" and of public ownership advocates as no other candidate can.

I would like to nominate as his running mate Former Governor Martin H. Glynn of New York.

**PRESIDENT WON'T SEEK THIRD TERM**

A Philadelphia dispatch, dated January 10, says: Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer was quoted tonight by newspaper interviewers to the effect that persons in close touch with President Wilson are certain that he will not seek reelection.

"The president," Mr. Palmer is quoted as saying, "realizes that there is a certain sentiment throughout the country against a chief executive running for a third time and while he has not made any definite declaration that he will not be a candidate this year, his personal friends know he will not even consider it."

The peace treaty will be ratified with reasonable interpretations or with reservations, said Palmer, who attended a dinner of a Greek letter fraternity of Swarthmore college.

"Call them what you will, they will not nullify the treaty and the document will be satisfactory, I personally believe, to President Wilson," he said.