

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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Come Into the Open

The Democratic convention is not far off; and a number of Democrats are offering themselves as candidates—they are not making a canvass for delegates, but are EAGERLY RECEPTIVE. Strange that none of them have seen fit to outline a platform or announce their position on public questions. Why? Do they think themselves so superior to platforms that issues cut no figure? Or do they think there are no issues? Or are they afraid?

Prohibition is an issue. Shall the Democratic party stand for the amendment that was ratified by EVERY DEMOCRATIC STATE, or become the champion of an outlawed traffic? What say you, candidates?

And the profiteer? Shall our party be inactive while he shames the highwayman by his conscienceless extortion? What say you, candidates? Have you any plans, or are you flirting with the predatory middleman?

Do you stand for private monopoly, or with the people? Are you with the pirates of high finance, or with their bleeding victims? Speak out NOW so the people can choose intelligently.

Where do you stand on the labor question? Shall those who toil on farm and in factory have an even chance, or do you favor class government by the business class?

And what about the treaty? Do you believe in the right of the majority to rule in the Senate, or is Democracy good for Europe only? Do you want the treaty ratified with reservations agreed upon by a large majority, or do you want to play policy with the peace treaty while Europe drifts back into war and republics return to monarchy?

The June Commoner will be pleased to publish the platform of any Democratic aspirant who is willing to take the people into his confidence.

W. J. BRYAN.

A FALSE KEYNOTE

The selection of Chairman Cummings to "sound the keynote" at the Democratic National convention is worse than a comedy; it is a tragedy. It is a melancholy beginning if the Democrats have any intention of making a campaign this year. If the Democratic party is to be wrapped in a "wet" shroud, locked up in a Wall street safe and buried at sea, Cummings is just the person to officiate, but his selection is a serious handicap if the party proposes to appeal to the progressive sentiment of the country. Mr. Cummings is a "wet;" he hails from one of the three states THAT DID NOT RATIFY THE PROHIBITION AMENDMENT AND HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT. His selection will give offense to every Democratic state (for every Democratic state has ratified the prohibition amendment), to the thirty-four states that are dry by their own act, and to the forty-five states that have ratified. He is a reactionary—Wall street's choice for chair-

To the Democrats of Nebraska

By your votes you have given Nebraska her old place among the progressive states of the union; you have put her again on the firing line. Turn an ear toward the West on June 28, and listen. When you hear the sound of battle, be assured that Nebraska's standard is in the midst of the fray and that the State's flag will not be lowered to either Wall street or the liquor traffic.

Nebraska tests 100 per cent on every reform. I am grateful to you for your confidence, expressed after 30 years of association, and for the ten loyal friends whom you have given me as colleagues. I am proud to be one of your representatives at San Francisco.

Faithfully yours,
BRYAN, OF NEBRASKA

man! And he is the more unfit because he was once a progressive and fell. He is just the kind of man Wall street will want for vice-president if it can control the convention.

Do the rank and file of the party understand NOW why he attended the Edwards "coming out dinner" and was then himself banqueted by the Wall street Democrats? Will the progressive Democrats get busy, or have they given up hope?

W. J. BRYAN.

THE RESULT IN NEBRASKA

The World-Herald, still ashamed to discuss the real issue, tries to make it appear that the treaty had a part in the contest. It knows better. The Hitchcock-Mullen machine was smashed because it represented Wall street schemes and used Wall street methods to protect the liquor traffic. The bulk of Mr. Hitchcock's supporters were opposed to the treaty in any form, but they were more interested in beer and wine than in any treaty. As the leader of the wets, Senator Hitchcock has for ten years made subserviency to the booze crowd a condition to preferment, but his reign is ended. The women smote him with the ballot as the shepherd lad once slew another boastful giant with a pebble. Nebraska is free; decency can now wear the Democratic garb without fear. It has been a long night, but the dawn is here.

W. J. BRYAN.

TO THE WOMEN OF NEBRASKA

Thanks, a thousand thanks, for your cordial support. I shall be your ambassador at San Francisco and am grateful to you for giving me ten co-laborers. We shall guard your homes from your three enemies—the saloon, the profiteer, and war. Thanks, again; I wish I could express them "with flowers." W. J. BRYAN.

Ratify at Once

The Bible suggests the most appropriate comment to be made on the President's letter to the Democrats of Oregon, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Broken down in health by the weight of cares and anxieties such as have fallen to no other occupant of that high office, the chief executive has been denied the information essential to sound judgment and safe leadership. For nearly eight months he has been surrounded by physicians and unable to confer with the senators and members of congress to whom the American people have entrusted the legislative affairs of the government. For the greater part of the time he has been unable to confer with the members of his cabinet. How can he be expected to know actual conditions in the United States and across the seas, and how can he advise wisely without full knowledge of the situation?

He brought back as good treaty as we have any right to expect, when we remember that he fought single handed against the selfish interests of all the other leading parties to the treaty, and the Democratic party stood by him and fought for ratification without reservations as long as there was any hope of securing ratification without reservations, an effort in which I heartily joined, but the effort failed.

No matter whether the Senate acted wisely or unwisely in the adoption of reservations, it acted upon a constitutional authority as complete as the authority which the same constitution confers upon the President. The Senate endorsed reservations by a majority of 18, and the 57 senators—34 Republicans, and 23 Democrats—who agreed upon reservations; constituted more than two-thirds of the 77 senators who favored ratification, but differed upon reservations.

The issue now is whether the Democratic party believes in the fundamental principle of Democracy; namely, the right of the majority to rule. The President asks the party to make a campaign on the theory that the presumption of wisdom is with twenty Democratic senators, plus the President, instead of with the majority of the senators, or even with the majority of the Democrats of the Senate. He asks the party to make this fight at a time when problems of transcendent importance demand immediate attention. We may assume that the President knows that the Allies are so anxious for us to enter the League of Nations that they prefer ratification with the reservations agreed upon rather than the postponement of ratification, but does he know that the world's recovery from war is halted by our delay. Does he know that while the Senate wrangles over the phraseology of reservations newly established republics are threatened, on one side,