

been given an opportunity to take advantage of the sins of omission and commission of the Republican party. The Republican candidate, for instance, has a good official record on one vital issue of the campaign, that of national prohibition, of having always voted one way, for prohibition and law-enforcement. This made it possible for the wets and dries to vote for him consistently though reluctantly. The Democrats, on the other hand not only refused, as did the Republicans, to insert a dry plank in their platform, but nominated a man whose public record has been consistently with the liquor group, and was supported solidly by the liquor forces in the convention, who thus politely gave an invitation to men like Bryan and hundreds of the other leaders of the party in their respective states of the west—a section of the country that made possible the election of Mr. Wilson in 1916—to get out of the party if they didn't like it. In plain words, the wets, with the assistance of the dry forces—the latter acting on the grounds of expediency—nominated a man who is a "red flag" to the prohibition element throughout the west.

The south is safe for the party. There is no question of this fact. It will remain solid for the Democratic party. This is as it should be.—Montgomery, Ala., Journal.

**BRYAN**

The man who casts political expediency to the four winds and hews to the line of principle with his conscience as his guide makes friends and enemies alike. That so great and so courageous, so eloquent and so renowned, so brilliant and so uncompromising a leader of men as William Jennings Bryan should stand before the nation today as the most formidable

foe of the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcoholic liquor places Bryan in a unique place before his own party and the whole people. That he declined to accept the prohibition party nomination for the presidency is not surprising to those who know him best. This was in part his answer to that party:

"My connection with other reforms would make it impossible for me to focus my attention upon the prohibition question alone, and besides, I am not willing to sever my connection with the Democratic party which has so signally honored me in the past years."

That was apparent in his address before the Democratic national convention at San Francisco with the State Register today prints in response to numerous requests. He was easily the leading orator of that convention. He and Bourke Cockran, the champion of the wets; Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and Chairman Homer Cummings, with several other able speakers, presented an oratorical battalion which totally eclipsed the best orators of the Chicago convention. There the women for out-classed the men, with the possible exception of former Governor Willis of Ohio, whose address nominating Senator Harding was quite Bryanesque, but lacking Bryan's beautiful touches of finished oratory and dramatic force.

Throughout it all at San Francisco before the resolutions committee and the convention proper where he lost all his fights except to keep a wet plank out of the platform. Bryan, more than any other one man stood champion of the great, towering cause of democracy which is greater than any one man or any one issue.

Bryan has been signally honored by his party, as he says. Yes, and his party has been signal-

ly honored by Bryan. It is his sacred right to vote as he pleases with his conscience as his guide as it is the right of any other individual. Ever will he strive to serve humanity throughout the world. There you have his rule and guide of action. The State Register prays that he may be spared to his nation for many years. He is yet a young man in mental, physical and oratorical force. Through the years he will battle on always with his face turned against the foes of humanity; always wielding the sword of conscience in fearless championship of what he believes to be right as God gives him to see the right; yes, and always a Democrat.

When the final trump is sounded his every act and word will have given greater luster to his good name and brilliant statesmanship. Decades hence as history tells of the world's most famous leaders, well up in the list of names of those who fought most effectively in the service of the common cause of humanity,—of the men, the women and the children of the world—will appear in bold relief the name—  
**WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.**  
—Springfield, Ill., State Register.

**A TIMELY INQUIRY**

Portland, Maine, Aug. 27, 1920. The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. Gentlemen: What objection is there to having the expenses for primary elections for the nomination of candidates for president of the United States, United States senators, and representatives in congress paid from the federal treasury, the law to provide just what expenses were legal in such elections? I wish Mr. Bryan would discuss in The Commoner such legislation. Very truly yours,  
**V. D. COOMBS.**

**GOVERNMENT GUESSES ON SIZE OF CROPS**

Referring to an article on "Bumper Crops" given out by one Lionel L. Jane and published simultaneously on the 13th inst., in all the prominent daily papers of the rice belt, in which article the most ridiculous claims for an unprecedented crop are made, ostensibly for the benefit of the planters, but in reality for the sole and exclusive use of the market

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**The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebr.**

sharks and speculators in agricultural products, we wish to make a protest against being stabbed in the back by our alleged friends.

It is a part of the same old game that has been played on the planter ever since this pernicious statistical fraud on the planter has been instituted and in the nature of things that surround the making of crops: Boll weevils; boll worms; cotton worms; too wet or too dry, Indigo; Mexican weed; poor stand; shortage of labor; deleterious grasses and weeds; floods in harvest such as we have had for the past two years and are having right now at the time when Mr. Janes is predicting a "bumper rice crop," such claims as he makes are criminally fraudulent, as there is no humanly possible way for any one to determine, even approximately, what a rice crop will actually make until it is threshed and in the sack and no one should know this better than those who are rushing into print with such preposterous guesses as this Jane is making for the board of trade of New Orleans and the crop speculators in general.

It is probable that when the agricultural department of our government was organized, it was intended and expected that it would be operated in the interest of that great class of our people, who as producers of the most essential element in human life, food, are certainly worthy of and entitled to all possible encouragement and assistance from the government; but the untimely, wild and altogether vicious guesses made and published broadcast over the land by such men as DeLancy Evans, Lionel Jane and Paul D. Perkins, have been used by the rice speculators and rice millers to manipulate the rice market and have cost the rice planters more than all the other pests and storms we have had in the past twenty years.

This Jane person guesses that the 1920 crop will be 33% larger than that of 1919 before half the 1920 crop is even headed out and bases his guess on an average yield of nine sacks per acre, which any one who knows anything at all, knows is far out of reason, such an average not

having been made in years and the conditions of poor stand, grass, weeds and heavy rains which are hampering the harvest of the early rice at this time, make such a guess ridiculous and there is the probability of storms during the equinoctial period still further damaging and shortening the crop.

If the agricultural department can show how these guesses, always 15 to 33 per cent too high, made long before the crop is made, to say nothing of being saved, can be of any possible advantage to any one except those who are interested in bearing the market, claiming that there is to be an overproduction and using these wild guesses to prove it, then we will take off our hats to it, but it cannot be done.

Just why the Agricultural department, which is presumed to be operated in the interest of the planter, is willing to stand sponsor for these wild and maliciously false pre-harvest guesses year after year, in the face of the tearful protests of the planter victims, is almost beyond human understanding.

It has rained almost every day since the first early rice was ready to cut and is still raining and any one who can make "bumper crop" predictions in the face of such conditions, is super-qualified for membership in the "Ananias Club."

There is an expensive Agricultural Rice Station near Crowley, La., maintained at the expense of the taxpayers, but it remained for a local rice planter, without assistance from the Agricultural department or any one else, to develop seed rices that saved the rice industry of the South from certain disaster. All hail to Sol. Wright, the Burbank of the rice belt.

If some steps can be taken that will eliminate the statistical bureau from the Department of Agriculture, or at least keep their guesses on crops under cover, where the market manipulators can not unearth them until the said crops are harvested, it will be the greatest boon the planters have ever received from the government. God grant it.—**H. L. Cary, Planter, Jennings, La.**

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