

at large from the state of Oregon. I kept in touch with your headquarters while in San Francisco, and can assure you that I was an ardent supporter of the amendments as presented by you at the convention, and still endorsing the stand you are now taking and have taken relative to the league of nations and peace treaty, and I believe that much good will result from your conference with the president-elect of Friday, December 17.

Jas. H. Woertendyke, Illinois.—I am more interested in the proposition to reorganize the Democratic party than I am in most any bit of news that has come to my office during the past presidential campaign, and if the party cannot be reorganized with different leadership, that will harken more to the wishes of the people on the settlement of great public questions, then I hope there will be a new party organized along lines that will meet the requirements of the present day.

I was originally a Democrat, but have been a Prohibitionist since 1900 and am willing now to join in an effort to make the Democratic party over anew and to join with you and others in that effort, with the thought that there will be due consideration given to some important reforms that must be taken up, and some that are now up and must be settled with a stable policy of government. If advised when and where the contemplated conference is to be held I would be pleased to be present and participate in such an undertaking. I was the nominee on the Prohibition ticket at the late election for governor of this state. Wishing you every success and hoping to hear from you or the committee in charge of arrangements with an announced opening that I may be admitted to such a conference.

R. T. Jordan, Texas.—I enjoyed reading the many expressions from the people found in the last issue of The Commoner. I think the Missouri Democrat has expressed it about right. Any reorganization of the Democratic party that does not recognize W. J. Bryan as the foremost exponent of Democracy can hardly expect to succeed. Mr. Bryan is no better Democrat than many of us, but he has the happy faculty of expressing it better in word and deed. His foresight into things political, and courage to express them in and out of season, is remarkable and admirable. For a number of years I have followed him—and most always found out that his course was the proper one. I have never found occasion to regret my course. His influence for moral and religious ideals is inestimable. His influence for nation-wide prohibition is a moral influence.

Just now we are face to face with economic and moral problems that need solving. The agricultural interests of the United States must be encouraged and built up. Just how, I do not know best, but will suggest that a commission similar to the interstate commerce commission be given some kind of advisory powers to suggest a market for farm products, based on cost of production and a fair profit to the producer; also, that this commission be given power to grant a license to dealers in farm products, and no one can deal in them without a license; and if the dealer asks too much for his products his license could be revoked. The dealer's prices too should be based upon a legitimate profit and cost of carriage. All dealing in "futures" in farm products should be forbidden. The horse races and lotteries went; why not the "future gambler"? Many other relief measures could be suggested, but this will do to start on.

R. R. Beam, Colorado.—Although they were the boldest and most mercenary band of political hyenas that ever secured control of a great party, their oblivion in my opinion is permanent. Certainly support or alignment with them in the future would spell disaster. They had the opportunity to develop their real character, and did, so that an association with any of them would be considered a liability, and be courting political bankruptcy.

Your silence during the campaign I approved, and what an excellent finale. Some Democrats (Eastern), I believe, considered you as a handicap to the party. That has certainly been eliminated, and I think valuable to you. Those that did not entertain that idea now know that you are indispensable and absolutely essential, and I predict an almost unanimous appeal, that you take full control of the policies of the party in the future. Some may not like it, but

I believe they will abandon their prejudice in order to secure victory, or at least be placed in the position to get a respectable run for their money.

Chas. A. Dieman, Iowa.—It probably means little to you what an unknown Iowa Republican might think, but I do want you to know that I fully concur with your opinion in the matter of this presidential election. Not alone is it the Republican who takes this view, but I can name a good many Democrats in this city who cast their votes for a Republican president for the very reason you have stated, among them women who were casting their first votes as Iowa citizens. Although of a different political belief, I have always admired your stand in the welfare of our country. I am sorry we cannot have a man of your ability and broad vision in the chair.

E. W. Durkee, Oregon.—I have just finished reading The Commoner, which I read every month from A to Z with great interest. Especially do I enjoy the letters from the people received by The Commoner commenting on current events. Mr. A. A. Meredith of West Virginia in his eulogy of William Jennings Bryan writes one sentence in which I have no doubt he is sincere and absolutely honest. Here it is: "I have voted for him three times and have always voted the Democratic ticket though at some elections I had to hold my nose to do it." His Democratic ticket must have been foul, even rotten. It was so immediately after the national convention at San Francisco. It could not be otherwise being controlled as it was by that rotten disloyal, whisky element. Again, in the very next paragraph Mr. Meredith said: "I am willing to do my part to make the Democratic party a real party of the people and for the people, etc."

In these sayings Mr. Meredith admits, as it stands today, that the party is not a "real party of the people" and that it is rotten. The only remedy is—get rid of its rotten element. If he and the better element of the party had rallied to the honest support of William Jennings Bryan in the San Francisco convention as they should have done to force the adoption of his prohibition plank, the party would have got rid of those disloyal bums to be joined by every prohibitionist in the land. The result would have been the election of an honest prohibition president, and the party would have been, as Mr. Meredith wishes for, "A real party of the people and for the people." I join with Meredith in saying "I will do my part to that end."

Morris H. Mills, Idaho.—There was an election on Tuesday (Nov. 2, 1920). Today is Wednesday, the day following, and we can in imagination see the emblematic donkey bestirring himself in Washington and perusing road maps showing the various lines of travel leading to a place called Lincoln, in the state of Nebraska. In the light of past experience, he knows of no other place where there is hope of getting the sustenance necessary to enable him to compete with a show for success in a race with the elephant, which can only take place four lean years hence.

The people have spoken. The verdict has been rendered, and while many reasons have been given by the wiseacres, the fact remains that the masses that were ignored are ALL that is left. The donkey moves slowly, and it may be some time before he puts in an appearance. However, he can be heard even now braying in the distance.

H. H. Hill, Oklahoma.—I am for Mr. Bryan for president in 1924. We ought to start at once to get the next congress. I am for a new deal. Put none but Bryan men and women on guard. The Wilson bunch laid down on us this time. They knew they could not elect Cox; they were for anything to beat Mr. Bryan. The next time, with Bryan the candidate, the Republicans can't say he promised to keep us out of war as they did this time about Wilson. They appealed to the "slacker" vote and they got them. I think it was a shame that the Republicans forced Wilson in the war, then said he promised to keep us out, and then got back into office on it. Cox and that bunch did not deny it, so the voters found them guilty.

R. H. Simpson, California.—I do not believe in the rehabilitation of the Democratic party. Like the old lynch-pin wagon it should be cast into the junk heap. If the incoming administra-

tion succeeds in cleaning up the mess the outgoing administration has left behind there will be no need of reorganizing any party. I have always been for W. J. Bryan and am yet but he should form a new party with a platform that means something more than empty promises. The Democratic party don't go with me any more.

Frank E. Lenhart, Nebraska.—I have read the statement given by you to the public after the November election, and wish to congratulate you in speaking more truth, and getting nearer to the true and exact conditions than all the political speakers and information given to the voters during this great election. I assure you I have always had the greatest respect for you as a citizen of our great country, though have been of different political faith, after reading this great little article it would be a pleasure to support such a man even if I am of Republican faith.

Julius T. Long, Louisiana.—You may say for me that William Jennings Bryan has triumphed over the wing of Wall street and autocracy heretofore pretending to belong to the Democratic party; that he was with Woodrow Wilson so long as Wilson remained working for the best interests of the people, but kept steadfastly on with the people when Wilson strayed away with their enemies.

Juan M. Garcia, Colorado.—Your kind note is at hand, and will say to you that I consider it a great statement in regard to the overwhelming defeat that our party suffered at the hands of the present misleaders of our people and great party. The plan for organization is a good one, but under what leadership? I will say frankly that I would rather follow a progressive Republican than a traitor Democrat. I did my part in behalf of our national ticket, although I was a dry, and knowing that Cox was a wet reactionary. I will promise you and my fellow Democrats that I will do my very best to organize my party in my locality and county. I want a suggestion from you as to what kind of an organization we must have. If it is for the great Commoner as our leader, or any other of his type, I am more than ready to go ahead, but if we are going to promote some secret enemy I will not assist you or any other. I know that you are a real Democrat and that you are defending the rights of the common people, and your suggestions will be highly appreciated. I hope The Commoner will turn out every week instead of monthly.

W. A. Reeder, California.—Your suggestions as to a speedy method of securing a league of nations meets my hearty approval. The difficulty, it seems apparent to me, is that away down in the bottom of his heart President Wilson is more deeply interested in Woodrow Wilson than he is in the league of nations. I trust that your great ability may bring about the consummation of your timely and beneficent suggestion. Your suggested possibility of a sufficient resurrection of the Democratic party, to elect a congress two years hence, will be accounted for by many of your admirers on the theory that a great and progressive mind may at times over-reach itself.

J. S. McKenzie, Texas.—After reading your interview, in which you suggest that the President resign, and also your reasons for same, I wish to say that it seems to me only just and rational course. He forced the issue on the country, and much needed legislation was delayed thereby. Now we have the answer in a wholesale repudiation of his policies and administration. I like your suggestions because they embody true democracy. I have read your political obituary many times, but you seem to possess an ever youthful mind, that is, the faculty of coming back. As my political idol I wish you many years in which to lead to higher life.

Walter Sillers, Mississippi.—I believe the time has come when we have got to organize a new party. The press of the country has attempted to boycott Mr. Bryan, and has succeeded as far as they can. The leading politicians in the Democratic party are jealous of his influence, and Mr. Bryan's usefulness is greatly impaired by these jealous and antagonistic influences. Many Democrats will await his action with interest.