

common people. Mr. Bryan, in my opinion, is the only true standard bearer that can lead the Democratic party out of the tangled mess that Mr. Wilson and his San Francisco convention followers did in miring and lowering the dignity of the Democratic party of every state in the union. The delegates of that convention should be censured and reprimanded by the people at home.

Edgar L. Ormsby, California.—In your Commoner you invite people interested in better government to give their ideas how to improve municipal, state and national politics. There is nothing that I can say better than you have said yourself; you have summed up the whole trouble with the Democratic party in your article, "Get right—then go ahead" and "Deserve to win—then organize." The party has drifted away from the right course, that in the nation and the state of California; there has been a great exodus to the other parties. The Democratic party should not be disheartened; it must come back, but only by inspiring the people with a hope for better things. Let the Democratic party stand for high ideals and "hitch its wagon to a star," and not let the wagon be a brewery wagon.

In the San Francisco convention the word was sent out "to eliminate Bryan." This "elimination" has been going on for many years, but the process has not been "dignified" enough to "knock Bryan into a cocked hat." Those active in the elimination should realize that when Bryan is eliminated that they are only eliminating the whole party. Mr. Bryan remained "eliminated" during the last campaign and they now howl with rage (yet they had due notice in advance), that he "eliminated" himself too much. Suppose Mr. Bryan had been "eliminated" at Baltimore—would the men who fought him at San Francisco—would they now be holding their exalted positions in Mr. Wilson's cabinet? "Ingratitude more strong than traitor's arms."

Can anyone, after witnessing the one big, genuine demonstration of that convention lasting for nearly half an hour (even if the brass bands and pipe organ were hushed by orders); can anyone doubt after hearing the thousands of people crowded into that auditorium, who attended that session especially to pay you tribute, shouting themselves hoarse for you, can anyone doubt that you stand solid in the hearts of the people?

I have talked with many Republicans and Progressive Democrats and they will be with you; many who formerly believed all they read in misleading newspapers now know your sincerity and unselfish qualities, they now understand and admire you. In 1896, when I first listened to a speech you delivered in San Francisco, I was converted from the Republican party to your cause and I am proud to say I have followed you ever since. It was my greatest regret in the last campaign when you stopped your friends from placing your name on the primary ballots.

In your reorganization plan you can count on me if there is anything I can do to help. I am yours to command and if there is no one to come forward to accept leadership under your new and definite program it is my wish and prayer that you allow your friends to rally around you. May God spare you.

Willis T. Keese, California.—The foremost statesman in America and of the world today is William Jennings Bryan. At least this is the opinion of one man, and from talking with others I find that many are coming to the same conclusion. He is a LEADER, and I believe, the only man in America that can unite the reform forces of the world to carry out the reconstruction of the world for peace on earth and good will among men! May God call him to the work is my prayer. And here let me offer a suggestion to the common people—of whom Abraham Lincoln said "that God must have loved, or he would not have made so many of them"—let us unite in sending out a call to that gentleman to the work in the reorganization of the Democratic people into one party that shall be 100 per cent American, and call it the American party, or some other name suggestive of TRUE reform.

E. W. Fulmer, Pennsylvania.—I see in the papers occasionally that your name is connected with the reorganization of the Democratic party. In my estimation, the strongest plank we could insert in the Democratic platform, or to be used as a campaign issue, ECONOMY, and LOWER SALARIES FOR ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—a reduction instead of new increases now being proposed.

Dr. F. S. Suddarth, West Virginia.—I am ready to help rehabilitate the old Democratic

EACH THINKS HE IS BEING PURSUED



—From the Chicago Tribune.

party under the leadership of the greatest Democrat and statesman our country has ever produced. There are many of us who are willing to go with him as leader to the last ditch—more than ever followed any other leader except the Prince of Peace.

R. B. Watson, Indiana.—Mr. Bryan, you can safely bank on having many friends in this part of Indiana, both Republican and Democrats. We feel and know that you have proven yourself to be the greatest and best man in the world to stand for honesty and justice to all mankind at all times, even under the most trying circumstances. If the Democratic party is ever reorganized it will be done through and by the advice and leadership of Mr. Bryan. The job is too large for any other man in the party.

D. R. Harris, Illinois.—You wanted to hear from those who will undertake to help rehabilitate the Democratic party in their respective counties, I, for one, will do all that I can to help in Kane county, Illinois.

H. C. Boger, Washington.—In response to your suggestion in the December number of The Commoner, that readers of The Commoner write out their ideas as to what reforms the next Democratic platform should contain to be placed before the people for their consideration at the polls two and four years hence, I wish to suggest at least two reforms that, in view of events of the past few years, have become questions of great importance to the whole country; namely, profiteering and the war. In view of the wholesale and cold-blooded profiteering that was so manifest on every hand during the recent great war, when sacrifice should have been the watchword, I wish to suggest that a demand be made in the next Democratic platform for a law that will be adequate for such crimes.

The second reform I wish to suggest is a law that will put the power of a declaration of war in the hands of the voters to be decided at the polls, and that only the power to repel an invasion be left in the hands of congress and the president.

I hope to see William J. Bryan the leader of the Democratic party, and that he will be given a platform to stand on that will appeal to the voters of the country. A platform if ratified by the voters at the polls and then enacted into law will mean real relief to the people. I would be glad to support Mr. Bryan and such a platform with my vote, as I have always supported him in all his efforts in the past for the public welfare.

J. N. Welch, Illinois.—You have been kind enough to ask the readers of The Commoner to say what they want in the platform of the party. I would like to suggest one plank, and that is, that no person or corporation be allowed to make war material. I am now 76 years old and have voted the Democratic ticket since I was 21, except for Greeley and Cox. I would not vote for Cox because he stood for some things that I think get us into trouble worse than we have ever had.

FROM A COMMONER READER

Hon. W. J. Bryan,
Lincoln, Neb.
Dear Sir:

Please find herewith \$1.00 to cover renewal to The Commoner founded in 1901. After reading, digesting and marking the best articles I mail it to an acquaintance or friend at a modest expense of a penny wrapper with the hope of increasing subscribers.

Doubtless I will enjoy reading editorials in which you take to task now and then beneficiaries of special privilege and shave them close with the sword of truth in justice to all concerned.

Evidently you are an able, appreciative, and appreciated defender of the honest wealthy, and an effective thorn in the flesh of the predatory rich who put the dollar above the man and seek defeat of Presidents, Senators, and Congressmen of independent thought and action.

A group of Democrat and Republican multimillionaires constitute an invisible government which systematically exploit the public through protective tariff regulation, combines and trusts. These strangers to principle are pretentious nobodies who import pauper labor as competitors of skilled artisans whom they underpay and overwork until they are turned adrift or humbly bear with the yoke of oppression. Gladstone, one of the greatest humanitarians in his day, was conscious of the blessed truth, a knowledge of which makes us free, when he declared in substance that labor was driven to organize for protection by the aggression of organized capital.

Brains and poverty seldom compete successfully with brains and money, because brains and money unite to divide brains and poverty. Many good men fought, bled and died in the Revolutionary war for independence and a voice in the government. Men and women alike should study political economy and work a wholesome reformation in public affairs at the ballot box. In the service of public servants, justice demands enactment of an initiative, referendum measure and a constitutional amendment reducing the unwieldy army of federal and state misrepresentatives in order to obtain better representation for an increase of compensation and in the interest of honest government economically administered.

Men of conviction with courage to express it are unafraid because they are just; the people are in dire need of such men as public servants; such a man is Hon. William Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, Nebraska; measured by policies championed in the interest of the people, a majority of which was appropriated by the Democrat and Republican parties and a majority of which are in the statute books, he is the greatest statesman in the nation.

The conflict between government by the people for the people and government by big business for big business will never be settled until it is settled right.

God made man and man made the dollar, Big business puts the dollar above the man. As between the man and the dollar vote for the man.

J. B. KEATHLEY.

Brownsville, Tenn.
Jan. 27, 1921.

A POSY FOR BRYAN

Just in order to convince his readers that he is an unbiased, big, broad-gauged gentleman, Gen. Jo Alden in his Republican of York, said last week:

Edgar Howard has heard and gives currency to a rumor that Mr. Bryan is coming back to Fairview to take up his residence and once again make Nebraska his home and not merely his voting place. Politically it may afford no comfort to the Republicans to have Mr. Bryan again take up his residence in the state, but from the standpoint of a non-partisan citizenship the home-coming of Mr. Bryan is a desired and promising thing to contemplate. The influence of the commoner is still unabated. He has the esteem of his neighbors. It would be quite fitting for Mr. Bryan in the fullness of his years to return to the state which has many times honored him and always openly or secretly owned a great pride in him and his great abilities, and take up his residence at historic Fairview. The Republican hopes Editor Howard's rumor will grow into a fact.—Waco, Neb., Waconian.

Morris & Co., one of the big five packing companies, declared a stock dividend of over 1300 per cent the other week. It ought to be easy to make big money when a corporation controls the price of what it buys as well as of what it sells.