

# Fight for Restoration of People's Rule Is On

"Deserve to Win—Then Organize" Program for Rehabilitation of the Democratic Party Attracting Nation-wide Attention

On this page we present the National Legislative Program as published for the first time in the February issue of The Commoner. Following are comments of the press, favorable and unfavorable, and letters of indorsement from readers and friends representing all sections of the country. This program is intended to bring about world peace, curb the profiteer, prevent extravagance and waste in governmental affairs, and to restore "people's rule." We desire to hear immediately from everyone who approves this legislative program and will assist in crystallizing public opinion to write it into the law of the land.—Editor The Commoner.

## A National Legislative Program

A forward-looking Democratic legislative program prepared with the advice and approval of students of governmental needs, and represents the consensus of opinion of progressive Democrats throughout the country. The program is not complete, and will be added to as means for dealing with other questions are worked out. The legislative remedies are only briefly outlined, and will be more elaborately set forth and discussed hereafter. The program as thus far developed is as follows:

### PEACE PROGRAM

A league of nations or an association of nations providing for arbitration of all disputes that can be arbitrated and an investigation of all others as provided for in the plan of the thirty peace treaties, each nation reserving the right to accept or reject the findings.

### DISARMAMENT

The United States should immediately endeavor to assemble the representatives of the leading nations of the world in a sincere effort to bring about disarmament.

### A REFERENDUM ON WAR

We favor a national referendum on war before a declaration of war can be made by congress, unless the country is invaded by a foreign foe.

### LIMIT TERM OF PRESIDENT

The president of the United States should be limited to one term of not more than six years by making him ineligible for re-election, and the inauguration of the president and the assembling of the new congress should be set for January following the November election.

### A MAJORITY SHOULD RATIFY

We favor an amendment to the federal constitution permitting a majority of the United States senate to ratify a treaty.

### PROHIBITION

The national prohibition amendment should be enforced by the national, state and municipal officers without fear or favor.

### MILITARY TRAINING

We are opposed to universal compulsory military training in time of peace.

### PROFITEERING

The Democratic party pledges the nation to rid it of the profiteer and to close the door against his return. It will endeavor to eliminate all unnecessary middlemen by the encouragement of organizations among producers that will bring those who produce and those who use nearer together. It will enact and enforce laws that will effectively prevent excessive charges by such middlemen as are necessary. To this end it will demand legislation subjecting to the penalties of the criminal law all corporate officers and employees who give or carry out instructions that result in extortion; it will make it unlawful for anyone engaged in interstate commerce to make the sale of one article dependent upon the purchase of another article, and it will require such corporation to disclose to customers the difference between cost price and selling price or limit the profit that can be legally charged as the rate of interest is now limited.

### RECOGNIZE THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

We favor a liberal policy in providing for soldiers and sailors who made sacrifices in the world war.

### A NATIONAL BULLETIN

We favor a national bulletin, not a newspaper, but a bulletin, issued by the federal government, under the fair and equitable control of the two leading parties, such bulletin to furnish information as to the political issues of the campaign.

### ARBITRATE DISPUTES

In the settlement of disputes between capital and labor we favor a board of conciliation patterned after the tribunal created by the thirty peace treaties, the board to have power to investigate all disputes but no power to bind the parties.

### PROHIBIT GAMBLING

Gambling in food stuffs should be prohibited by national enactment.

### BANK DEPOSITS

We favor national and state legislation guaranteeing the people's deposits in national and state banks against loss through bank failures.

### LIBERTY BONDS

We favor federal action that will maintain the price of liberty bonds at par.

### FEDERAL RESERVE BANK SYSTEM

We favor the federal reserve banking law but insist that it must not be used to squeeze the debtor by deflation processes.

### FARM LOAN BANK

The farm loan bank law should be maintained and strengthened to extend credit to the farmers and to protect them from high interest rates.

### MONOPOLIES

A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable. All necessary monopolies should be taken over by the government, national, state and municipal.

### ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY

We favor the reorganization of the administrative and executive departments of the federal government on an economy and efficiency basis, including the establishing of a budget system and a reduction in the number of departmental employees to the minimum needs of the government.

### EXCESS PROFITS

We are opposed to the repeal of the excess profits tax law, and are opposed to the enactment of a sales tax law.

### REDUCE TAXES

For the purpose of lightening the people's burdens we favor an immediate return to a peace footing basis to bring about a reduction in taxes, and that in reducing taxes consideration should be shown to those least able to pay.

### VOTING BY MAIL

We favor a legislative provision for voting by mail for voters away from home and for collecting ballots in order to accommodate women and men who are disabled or distant from the polls.

### NATIONAL PRIMARY LAW

We favor a national primary election law.

with northern communities had not learned the art of impressing democracy on their neighbors. Those from Democratic states were utterly out of touch and sympathy with northern ideas and methods.

All were Bourbons and after the fashion of their sort have learned nothing from the election results.

There could be no more ridiculous spectacle in politics than this of the conductors of the disastrous campaign clinging to the wreckage of the Democratic organization, and demanding that they alone be entrusted with its reconstruction. They invited failure at San Francisco. Is it likely that they will be put in a place to invite disaster a second time?

The opponents of the theory that an adverse majority of 7,500,000 constitutes Mr. Cox the leader of the Democratic party for the next four years are not approaching their proposed reorganization in a way to compel respect and sympathy.

Turning out one crowd of local politicians posing as national figures and installing others of the same stripe will accomplish nothing.

Controlling an organization is not the ultimate purpose of political endeavor. Commending the party to the people so that it will win elections is more to the purpose.

But the figures that were dominant at San Francisco and in the campaign that followed were those of men who controlled the Democratic organizations in their states—Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, for example—but had so thoroughly alienated the people that they never carried elections.

There is no efficiency attained in scrapping a machine and substituting one of the same sort, or one built from the scraps.

There is nothing to stimulate the renewed loyalty of Democratic voters, who for the moment have strayed from the fold, in the prospect of a party reorganization undertaken in the interest of some potential candidate, but which will leave the organization in the hands of politicians of the discarded type.

Is it impossible to find in the party any leaders who demand reorganization in the name of sane and progressive principles?

Is it too much to hope that somewhere in the moribund mass of Democracy there may be those who will strive for such a reorganization as shall make the party an effective defender of public and individual rights, a foe to special privilege and the spread of plutocracy?

With such a program pursued as a party in opposition, the democracy may hope to secure public confidence again in the near future. But no such policy may be expected of it unless the right kind of reorganization is effected, and of that there seems at present little promise.—New York Evening Journal.

### THE BRYAN PROGRAM

Mr. Bryan's program for reorganizing the Democratic party has the merit of frankness and consistency. That is to say, it shows its author in the guise in which the country has come to know him.

He is for peace—by arbitration, disarmament, referendum, and all the rest of it. He would make the treaties he negotiated while secretary of state the basis of action.

He is for the ratification of a treaty by a majority rather than by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. He wanted the Democrats of the Senate to accept the Lodge reservations to the treaty of Versailles because a majority of the Senate had declared for them.

He is for a rigid enforcement of the eighteenth amendment. There is no compromise in him on prohibition.

He wants bank deposits in both national and state institutions guaranteed.

He favors a single term in the presidency—a term of six years.

He does not mention either coinage, or a tariff

## Press Comment

### HOW TO REORGANIZE

Reorganize the Democratic party? Of course. The recent census, miscalled an election, furnished about seven and a half million reasons why a party beaten by that number of votes should be reorganized.

The party leaders responsible, so far as any leaders were responsible, for that smashup are

tenaciously determined to hold the reins of authority. Do they want to drive the rickety machine to another such catastrophe?

The present chairman of the Democratic national committee is a most amiable gentleman. They used to say of him about headquarters that he was the best national chairman that ever came from Marietta, Ohio, and the measure of praise quite adequate.

Most of the gentlemen active around headquarters lived in solid Republican states, unless they happened to come from south of Mason's and Dixon's line. Those few who were familiar