

down that rule to John D. Rockefeller. With the price of crude oil down one-half, the price of gasoline has fallen 4 cents a gallon, or about one-seventh. The only satisfaction we get out of such a situation is that John D. must be getting ready to pay even a larger income tax in 1921 than he did in 1920.—The Fairbury Journal.

NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN ENDORSES PLAN

Grand Island, Neb., March 4, 1921.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. Gentlemen: In re your National Legislative Program; I am much pleased with the suggestions therein contained. The idea is along the lines of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Committee at its recent meeting held in Washington, D. C.

We can rally party strength around principles easier and with much less friction than around men. A live principle is always more appealing in a government like ours. As these and other planks, as it were, are presented, and discussion is had thereon by individuals, by the press and at public meetings, leaders will naturally arise who are in harmony with public thought and public needs, and will thus draw the younger men and women at least to them.

These natural leaders will come forth and take their places unhampered by past alignments and differences. Organization of those who think alike will make it more easy for the National Committee to push their work unto every state, and to aid the state organizations to reach every county, and the County Committeeman to carry the work into every ward and precinct.

Personally, I like the manner of strengthening our party, and the principles suggested meet my approval. There is a great work ahead.

First the discussion of principles, then the meetings looking to organization. By opening the way you are doing the country as well as the party, a great service. Respectfully,

W. H. THOMPSON,

National Committeeman for Nebraska.

Letters from the People

Frankfort, Ky., February 16, 1921.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska: It is laughable and at the same time pitiable, to read the rantings in the editorial columns of some of the newspapers, most especially Louisville Times and Courier-Journal, owned and published by R. W. Bingham, of Louisville, Ky., in which he makes a feeble attempt to read Colonel Bryan the greatest living American, out of the Democratic party.

In an editorial of Feb. 11th, there are strong objections given to Colonel Bryan having any hand in the reorganization of the party, and it goes to the extremes of accusing Mr. Bryan of deserting the party in the recent election, when the facts are that Colonel Bryan rode thousands of miles to vote the straight Democrat ticket. If we mistake not, this is more than the "naive" Judge Bingham from Kentucky did only a few years ago, when he allowed Governor Gus Willson, and other Republicans, of Louisville, induce him to allow his name go on the regular Republican ticket, as the nominee of that party, against Judge Shackelford Miller, the regular Democratic nominee for judge of the court of appeals. Yes, and if our memory serves us right, this is the same "Judge" Bingham after he was badly defeated by Judge Miller, who accepted the appointment of Governor Willson, the then Republican governor of Kentucky, to the judgeship in the city of Louisville, made vacant by Judge Miller when he went upon the appellate bench.

Colonel Bryan has more loyal Democratic friends in Kentucky today than ever, despite the rantings of the publisher. You can count on me, and thousands of other Democrats of this state, to help organize for anything that Colonel Bryan advocates. He has done more against corporate greed, and more for the common people of this country, than all the so-called leaders. To make a long story short, he is the only real leader the Democratic party can now look to. Sincerely yours,

MOSES R. GLENN.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 23.—Mr. Chas. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. My Dear Mr. Bryan: I read with very much interest, the front page of our paper, The Commoner, and while it is not my pleasure to know you personally, as I do W. J., I feel

NOW IS TIME TO REORGANIZE

While I have my doubts about some things I still believe that the Democratic party has within it the ability to come forward, shake itself of the touch of the special interests, and say to the American people, "We have cleansed ourselves of the past and have come to champion the rights of the common people, whatever may come."

Now is the time to start. Not 1924. And your "National Legislative Program" provides that needed start. I would like to discuss this program, as I view it, section by section, but space prohibits my doing so. However, I shall take the liberty to discuss them in part.

Although I have my doubts about the advisability of trying to secure disarmament by conferences or otherwise, I still believe that such steps would do much to bring this condition about. Your proposed referendum on war is, in my opinion, the most progressive plank in your program, and will meet with considerable approval from the American people. Your stand on military training is to be commended very highly. This problem presents to us one very great question—"Are we going to fasten upon our own nation what we fought to put down in another nation?" We are not. And your statement clearly shows that the Democratic party on its new footing is going to fight for what the people want in regard to this question.

The section providing for the prohibition of gambling in foodstuffs will meet with universal favor in the agricultural industry, which constitutes a very large share of our population. It is a very progressive plank and most sorely needed, particularly at this time.

Another important feature, to my mind, is that section favoring national and state legislation guaranteeing the people's deposits in national and state banks against loss through bank failures. Already some progressive states have enacted such legislation and it has met with the approval of ALL the people.

And lastly, with regard to your program, the section favoring a national primary election law will do much to eliminate machine operations in politics, which showed their work to perfection at the last two conventions of the two major parties.

I, for one, can say without reserve that I subscribe to every section of your "National Legislative Program," but most especially to those sections discussed above. You have presented to the people what they want in a small package and it is now up to each and every believer in progressive legislation to carry to every individual.

I think that it would be a very good plan if The Commoner would print this "National Program" in circular form, cheap enough, so that a large number of individuals could purchase them for general distribution. Such a move would do much to popularize the program with the people.

—Submitted by R. Forest McConnell, Editor of the Iowa Department, Co-operators' Herald, Nashua, Iowa.

that we have a common interest at heart, and that is the resuscitation of the Democratic party.

With me, politics has always been part of my patriotism, never part of my business, and it seems to me that somewhere in this broad Universe of ours, there are enough true-blooded, real Americans who are interested in the welfare of this country and its people to the end that they can place selfish ambitions aside and do something that will be a credit to posterity.

The average so-called politicians of today uses a party only as a vehicle for a livelihood or some personal or material gain. These people, for the present, we cannot interest, neither should we attempt to. We should endeavor to reach the heartstrings of those whose love of God and love of country are their paramount ideals.

I wish to assure you that anything you may undertake to do that I am heartily in accord therewith. I believe that the platform outlined by the Honorable William Jennings Bryan, is an ideal one and by the broad publication of same, much can be accomplished.

I note with much interest the newspaper com-

ment on same and believe that if we keep everlastingly at it, from now until our next National Convention, we will be a power that shall be reckoned with.

Yours truly,

L. J. WALTERS.

Bridgeport, Ala., March 8, 1921.—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. Sirs: With much interest, I have noted the comments on the announcement of Mr. Bryan's suggested platform for the reorganization of the Democratic party.

As an admirer of Mr. Bryan for many years, with a deepening conviction that he is humanity's friend, actuated by the highest, purely unselfish motives, I hail with delight the idea of his leadership in the Democratic party during this period of most uncertain and peculiar conditions in governmental affairs all over the world.

To my mind, Mr. Bryan, without a parallel in statesmanship today, is the logical man to lead a great political party in the struggles to bring about a happy adjustment of all the conflicting claims within the realm of state, with the view of conserving the best elements in our own national life and with a purpose to extend the hand of fellowship and brotherly love to the governments and nations that are groping through a period of darkness and uncertainty.

As the great American Commoner, styled the world citizen of this age, the great champion of human rights, with the voice of inspiration and prophecy, the forerunner and leader of the great governmental and moral reforms of this age that are bearing fruitage in our own life, as well as in the lives of other nations and governments of earth, Mr. Bryan may well be styled a true reformer in which all liberty-loving, God-fearing people may take pride. He stands consistently, both in public and private life, on a plane that gives him fellowship with the highest type thought of all the ages and summons the world of thought to assemble before the bar of human justice and there rectify the wrongs among all classes of men.

In this hour of the world's bleedings and disasters, this man, a herald of the cause of righteousness and of the Christian religion before the courts and parliaments of earth, stands, with the ear of the world, and beckons humanity toward the goal of Christian civilization and liberty.

With an abiding appreciation of the sacrifices made by this apostle of human freedom and with a wish and prayer for his future ministry in the interests of mankind, I am,

Very sincerely,

T. E. ELGIN, M. A.

President Tennessee River Institute.

Dr. J. D. Motley, Missouri.—I am in hearty sympathy with Mr. Bryan's slogan, "Deserve to win—than organize." This will give us a solid foundation to build on and offers a reasonable hope for success in the future. Everyone sees now, and the posted ones saw before, that the actions of the national convention at San Francisco destroyed all hope of success at the polls last November. The magnificent fight put up by Mr. Bryan at the convention, that we might have some hope at the polls, though turned down by the convention, will not be forgotten by the rank and file of his party. The Murphys, Taggarts, Brennans and John Barleycorn have had their inning and been overwhelmingly repudiated and must be relegated to the rear, in the future, if our party is to be a factor in the next presidential campaign. Honesty is the best policy and will triumph if faithfully adhered to.

R. E. Fisher, Minnesota.—The February Commoner sets forth a National Legislative Program. One clause would limit the term of president to one term of six years. This, in my opinion, is dead wrong, for this reason: If the incumbent should happen to be like some presidents we have had in the past (Wilson excepted)—he will appear in history as one of our great presidents) six years would be too long, and for such a president as Lincoln was six years would be too short. What the people want from their president is service. As long as that is rendered to their satisfaction, no law should bar the people from choosing such a man for as many terms as they see fit.

George Wash, Nebraska.—Just a word from a well-wisher concerning present day conditions. Any student of the times knows that the world is getting ready for a period of real progress in industrial, moral, and general social reform. We know that the Golden Rule as taught by the Christ is not applied as it can and as, I believe, will be applied in the near future. The progressive element of the earth today is struggling as