

its mission is fulfilled, and I am ready to help do constructive reform work. I would like to see a Democratic party organized, that is really Democratic. The old party has been aristocratic concerning color, and sex, and commercial caste. Whether a World Democracy including industrialism, one language, one flag, one money, and one religion is practicable, will have to be considered before long. I enjoy *The Commoner* very much.

John Womble, Montana.—You wanted to hear from those that would assist you in reorganizing the Democratic party. You can count on me doing all I can, as a private. I have been with you since 1896. I believe the best thing that can be done is to try and get *The Commoner* read by every one.

H. W. Higginbotham, Iowa.—The newspapers report that you will start to reorganize the Democratic party. I followed you three times to defeat and I am still with you. No man has done more to build up the party and to bring about good government than you. I wish you well.

J. H. Parrott, South Dakota.—I do not want to lose an issue of *The Commoner*. We are heartily with Mr. Bryan in his plans to reorganize the Democratic party along the lines suggested in your February issue. That he may succeed is our wish. You can depend on us to the extent of our ability.

A. R. Gossard, Texas.—That the Democratic party has suffered a crushing defeat, goes without saying, nor is it hard to locate the cause. No outgoing administration has any right to dictate the party policies or to control the convention. This will always cause defeat. A Democratic congress gave us Judge Parker and we went down in disaster. Taft tried it and the result is well known. Nominations to be successful must come from the people. The democracy need not be discouraged; we can profit by the past history. The Democratic party cannot die, it is the people's party. Let the Democratic party stand true to the people—and the people will restore it to power again.

Mrs. A. F. Shirley, Kentucky.—I could not think of doing without *The Commoner*. I heartily indorse the political policies therein set forth. I wish you much success in the work of reorganization.

M. J. Ledbetter, Mississippi.—I heartily approve of the National Legislative Program as printed in *The Commoner*. With such a platform of principles the Democratic party may be restored to even greater accomplishments for good to the people than in the past. Can we not devise some plan to put *The Commoner* in the homes of patriotic men and women who will never give up the ship, and who will work persistently and intelligently until the goal is reached. In this hour of dismal gloom give us more men like the Bryans!

J. J. Koger, Tennessee.—I procured six subscriptions in less than an hour. I do not want to miss a number. I heartily approve of your positions, politically and religiously, and wish you great success.

NEW YORK AND PROHIBITION

By a vote of 81 to 62, the New York state assembly yesterday passed three bills which, in the language of their proponents, "put the state behind the Volstead act." These measures are designed to enroll on the side of prohibition enforcement the full police power of the state of New York. If the people of the state do not wish to enforce the national act they may lessen the activities of the police and state constabulary. If they wish to carry through in prohibition enforcement they can under this bill just passed stop the smuggling of liquor over the Canadian border and stop other forms of bootlegging. It was noticeable that the Democrats voted solidly as a party against the bills, and thirty-one Republicans joined them, but the Republican party majority in the assembly is so large that a margin of nineteen remained. The question was brought to a focus by Assemblyman Gage, sponsor for the measures, who said, "We must rip away the artificial distinction which puts the criminal who breaks the liquor law in a preferred class." This action by the New York assembly is an indication that notwithstanding the so-called reaction from prohibition the people of the country are not repudiating the eighteenth amendment.—Ex.

Democracy Must Be a Party of the People

(From *The Montgomery, Alabama, Journal*.)

I.
Pulling itself together after the frightful cataclysm of November, 1920, is in order for the utterly routed but still untterrified democracy to discover "where we are at," and what we are going to do.

It was the "safe and sane" democracy that brought the party a like disastrous defeat in 1904. It was that "wet" and a mixture of bad leadership and personal subterfuge that brought disaster to the party in 1920.

Both have had their vaunted innings and the results in both instances, not only added nothing to the Democratic party, but left it almost a total wreck upon the broad ocean of political activities, with neither rudder nor compass, neither helmsman nor pilot. The candidacy of Parker was forced on the party at St. Louis by the "safe and sane." The candidacy of Cox was forced on the party at San Francisco by the wets and discredited party bosses.

II.
The selfish subterfuge in each instance was born in the brain the first of the plutocracy of the east, and the second of the breweries and liquor interests and plutocracy of the east.

Many delegates in each convention, honest and well-meaning, yielded their better judgment to the will of the minority—sacrificing judgment and principle to a hope for victory. Many newspapers, honest and reputable, acquiesced but recognized that the nomination in each instance was merely a hasty makeshift, chosen to discredit the leadership of the man who stood for real democracy and who had done more for democracy than all the politicians of his time. They fell easily into the trap set for them, and worse still, many of them permitted themselves to join his enemies in coupling their praise of the men thus foisted upon the party with unworthy abuse of a greater man, whose magnificent services pulse yet on the grateful memory of the Democratic people.

All of them cannot be charged with selfish or personal motives in the share of this colossal blunder, but the result amply proves that those responsible are unwise and unsafe leaders, too inexperienced, too restricted in scope, or too corrupt to be trusted with the serious business of president-making or policy-shaping for a great and vital party carrying an essential mission of liberty and reform.

Regardless of the personality of either candidate or their environment, as the nominees of the party, *The Journal* gave them hearty and unbroken support. To the extent of our capacity with pen—we did all that we could do.

But with our ear to the pulse of the people we knew from the beginning what all men now know—that the men who forced upon the party the candidates at St. Louis in 1904 and in San Francisco in 1920, gave us impossible candidates and impossible platforms.

The nominations in each instance were the questionable shifts of Democratic opportunists who were compounding the immortal principle of Jefferson for the expediency of coveted success.

III.
Well, the experiment has been tried in two notable instances. The test has been fairly made. All the Democratic newspapers, and all the Democratic leaders, east, south and west, with few exceptions, gave their support, honest, earnest support, and the candidates and the platforms had free course to be glorified.

The Democratic party is writhing today among the debris and timbers of the worst political wreck that has been known in the nation.

And now, what are we going to do?

IV.
Well, in the first place we are not going to surrender or despair. The darkest hour precedes the dawn, and the avalanche of November may be forgotten and reversed in the next campaign. The Republican party is entering now a fearful crucible of full respect at a critical period of the country's history. Its past principles and practices, if followed by Harding, cannot commend it permanently to the support and confidence of the American people. It has been the party of special privilege and the party of autocratic discrimination. It is the party of the predatory interests and the party of the criminal trusts. It is the party of centralization,

and the party of imperialism. It is the party of sectionalism and the party of race agitation. It cannot, if it can be judged by its past record, long satisfy the wants and aspirations of the American masses, and in the very hour of its triumph and exaltation we make the confident prophecy, if the senatorial coterie of politicians control, of its disintegration and defeat—a defeat as overwhelming as that that has come to the Democratic party—and a defeat equally deserved.

But this defeat of the Republicans is dependent upon the reconstruction of the Democratic party and its policies if made such as to crystallize about its platform all the progressive elements of the people.

V.
And now there are indications that at least we are going to heed the lessons we have learned from our disasters and defeats. The democracy is going to be reborn, reformed and consecrated to the constitution, to popular rights and liberties of the people—to be controlled by privates in the ranks, not self-constituted leaders seeking personal ends. We cannot afford any longer to be a party of mere negation, a party of position, or a party of senile imitation of the party in power. We are going to believe something, and we are going to do something. We are going to be a party of creeds and not merely a party of hungry desires. We are going to quit truckling like cowards to the shadow of a merely temporary success. We are going to quit crawling on our bellies before the juggling of power. And what is now made clear, we are going to find and follow a real leader if we have to smash every slate and annihilate every politician that has fattened upon our credulity and suffrage for forty years. We have already been given a platform, by one who has the confidence of the masses of people, not of one but of both parties, and upon which all honest men can stand. It is a platform that is an open opposition and a bold challenge to the standpat creed everywhere. If we fail to give to this platform a ready and honest response, we are going to lose the confidence of the honest masses of the American people and we unhesitatingly add, if we fail to do so, we will deserve to lose them.

And who has given us this platform? Why the man who has been truest to our principles and most loyal to our faith, and the man in whom the American people have absolute faith and confidence—a man who has never betrayed a trust. Thank God, we have such a man, a man of incomparable leadership and unimpeached purity and consistency which shine like a silver star in the midnight of our misfortunes. He believes to the uttermost the things which we believe, and he has the courage and the character and eloquence to give soaring wings to our Democratic thought.

The great masses of the Americans, regardless of party, were never so ready to follow the man who leads in right lines, provided only that he leads against the common enemy.

The mission of the democracy is for the welfare of the people—all the people. Remember that!

And the people must now put on their own thinking caps and know what they believe and let neither politicians nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, separate them from their love of liberty and the hope of the masses, which is in the democracy. And we do not want any hesitation, and we must not tolerate any evasion.

We must stand for reforms, not in platitudes or incumbered sentences that may be misconstrued, but in short and ringing words which candidates will find impossible to misrepresent or evade.

VI.
Finally, let the things for which the new and progressive democracy stands be definite and set. Give the people something to vote for and they will vote for it. Let the fellows who do not believe in the things for which progressive democracy stands go away to some other party. Do not be afraid to let them go. For every man who deserts the party fighting for the people because it is fighting for the people, there will be a hundred to come in and fill the ranks.

It has come to a time when we are compelled
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