

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 21, NO. 6

Lincoln, Nebraska, June, 1921

Whole Number 746

The Farmer Dies Last

In a fight to the death the farmer will die last. If big business thinks it can bleed him without limit it had better consider his resources. When it comes to the pinch he can stand squeezing better than any other class. Food is the first necessity, and he can feed himself. He can raise all that he and his family need, but if he raises no more than he needs the rest of the people will starve. The farmer's surplus supplies the world—suppose the surplus fails?

The farmer can raise the material necessary to clothe himself and family—wool, cotton and silk, but if he raises no more the rest of the people will go naked. It is the farmer's surplus material that clothes the world—suppose the surplus fails?

The farmer can, if necessary, produce his own fuel. He can raise his own wood; he can burn corn cobs and even corn if he must, but what will become of the railroads when the farmer neither buys or sells?

What will become of the packers when they have no meat to pack? And what will become of the grain gamblers when there is no market grain to gamble on? What will become of the little stores when the farmer's cease to trade? And what will the wholesalers do when the little store close? And what will the manufacturers do when the wholesalers go out of business? And what will the clerks in the stores the workers in the mills and the railroad employes do when business stops? And what will the banks do when they can not grow rich loaning the people's money? What will all the people do, when nobody needs them? What? Go to work WITH THEIR HANDS and wring a living from Mother Earth—that is the last resort as it was the first.

Will the middlemen continue to lord it over the producers of wealth, or will they learn that they must SERVE if they would live, and serve for a reasonable toll? The flower that blooms in beauty on the stem should not despise the roots that do their work in the dirt. The roots will live when the flower fades—not only live but furnish the sustenance for new flowers, season after season. So with the farmer, he lives near to Nature's heart, he draws the milk from Nature's breast and Nature will protect him as a mother protects her child. He will be last to die in the struggle for existence. But why this conflict? Why not love and brotherhood and cooperation? Why not work together for the common weal? Why not justice to each and all?

W. J. BRYAN.

THE DEATH RATTLE

The sound that you hear in the wet sections is what drys call the "death rattle." It became audible when congress voted the money to enforce prohibition.

SHALL AMERICA LEAD?

I look to America as the greatest factor in the world crisis on international peace. Combined reduction of expenditures by the great naval powers is essential. America, trained in great principles, is free to act and make her own proposals. We have a common object and all nations must work loyally for agreement in effective methods.—Wm. H. Gladstone, Former Secretary of State for Home Affairs of Great Britain.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT REPUDIATED

When City Commissioners Zehrung, Dayton, Schroeder and Wright disregarded the will of the voters of Lincoln, Nebraska, and gave the office of mayor to Zehrung after he had been defeated for that position, representative government was repudiated and the commissioners were guilty of an offense which no European monarch would dare to commit. The issue presented by the recall of Zehrung gives the voters an opportunity to express themselves for or against this inexcusable usurpation of power. Those who supported Zehrung when a candidate in the recent election ought to be as prompt to rebuke him as those who voted against him. Principles of government are more important than candidates and the fundamental principle of popular government is the right of the people to rule. The economic issues can be decided as those issues are presented on separate ballots, but the overshadowing question is presented by the recall. Zehrung and Wright should be recalled by majorities so overwhelming that no city official of Lincoln will ever again disregard the expressed will of the voters.

W. J. BRYAN.

"IT MUST NOT BE AGAIN"

"It must not be again" is the title of President Harding's greatest speech. It was delivered on May 23d at Hoboken, N. J., at the memorial service for 5,000 who died in the world war. A report of the speech will be found on another page. If he succeeds in bringing about disarmament and world peace his words will be recorded in history with Lincoln's Gettysburg speech.

So may it be.

W. J. BRYAN.

NO PROMISE NECESSARY

In declaring for a conference on disarmament it is neither necessary nor wise to announce in advance that we can not begin disarming alone. We can reserve decision on that question until we try out the question of agreement. To promise not to act without cooperation may stimulate the old world militarists, navalists and manufacturers of munitions to try to control this government by controlling European governments.

W. J. BRYAN.

From Nebraska to Florida

The following news item was given to the press in New York on May 31st:

"Mrs. Bryan's health is such that it is necessary for us to live in the south, and, having tested Miami's climate for eight years, we have chosen that city for our permanent home. For some time I have been, politically speaking, in a state of suspended animation, living in Florida, but voting in Nebraska. Being as much interested as ever in the problems of government and desiring to make my remaining years as valuable to my country as possible, I have decided to transfer my citizenship to Florida, and thus make my actual residence my legal residence also."

It announces a decision reluctantly reached after months of deliberation. For more than thirty-three years I registered from Lincoln, Nebraska, and my name has been associated with the name of the state as I have been introduced to speak at gatherings of every kind. I look back over a third of a century with feelings of profound gratitude to the people of Nebraska, as well as to the members of the Democratic party, and the attachment based upon appreciation is not lessened by the separation which I have felt it my duty to make.

Beginning in 1888 the Democrats of Nebraska have expressed their confidence in me time and time again. Twice they nominated me for congress, once for the Senate, three times they have supported me for President, and many times for delegate to national conventions. Only once have I been defeated by Democrats for any position to which I aspired, and that was in 1916, when the prohibition question was beginning to be a national issue. In 1920 when prohibition was an established policy in both Nebraska and the nation, my party not only selected me as a delegate to San Francisco but elected eleven delegates out of sixteen in sympathy with the policies which I advocated. This was the last expression of my party, and I shall treasure the compliment while I live.

I shall not lose interest in the welfare of the state and in its attitude on political questions. On the contrary, I shall not only remain in touch with public sentiment there, but will return as frequently as I would if I were still a legal resident of the state. I can never be indifferent to the interests of the state or to Nebraska's position in the councils in the nation. By transferring my citizenship to Florida I shall increase my capacity for usefulness because, living there, I can take part in the politics of the state and share also in determining the state's position on national questions. This will require no change in my attitude on public questions because the south has been a loyal supporter of every reform in which I have been interested. With the exception of equal suffrage, the south has stood with the west—even against the northeast—and in the case of suf-