

these amendments with great earnestness, the first for twenty-three years and the second for seventeen.

Then came the question of prohibition and I contributed what I could to the success of various prohibition measures, beginning in 1910 with county option, continuing in 1916 with state prohibition and ending with the Eighteenth Amendment.

Then came woman suffrage. I spoke in favor of the suffrage amendment in Nebraska in 1914 and advocated the national amendment later.

The Commoner took up the discussion of these questions from the date of its appearance, and through it I presented arguments in favor of the reforms which I advocated.

In February, 1905, I presented in an editorial in The Commoner, the peace plan which afterwards, by authority of President Wilson, I incorporated in thirty treaties with three-quarters of the world. These treaties contained a new principle, namely, investigation of ALL disputes before war. This treaty plan involved three essential propositions, namely, investigation of ALL disputes; second, refraining from hostilities during investigation (limited to one year), and, third, reservation of the independence of the parties at the close of the investigation.

The plan has been, to a large extent, incorporated in the League of Nations Covenant and embodied entire in the Four Power Treaty. In the League of Nations Covenant provision was made for the investigation of all disputes before war and for abstention from hostilities during the investigation (the time being reduced from a year to nine months), but instead of adding the third provision, namely, independence of action at the conclusion of the investigation, the Covenant sought to substitute the moral obligation embodied in Article Ten, Article 10 more than any other provision, led to the failure to ratify.

The reforms thus far mentioned have been political in character and it will be noticed that they increased in importance. The income tax amendment and the currency laws and the trust laws were economic and the prohibition amendment both economic and moral, while the popular election of senators and the suffrage amendments affect the machinery of government as do the initiative and referendum which (like the bank guarantee) have been endorsed in several states but have not yet been adopted by the nation.

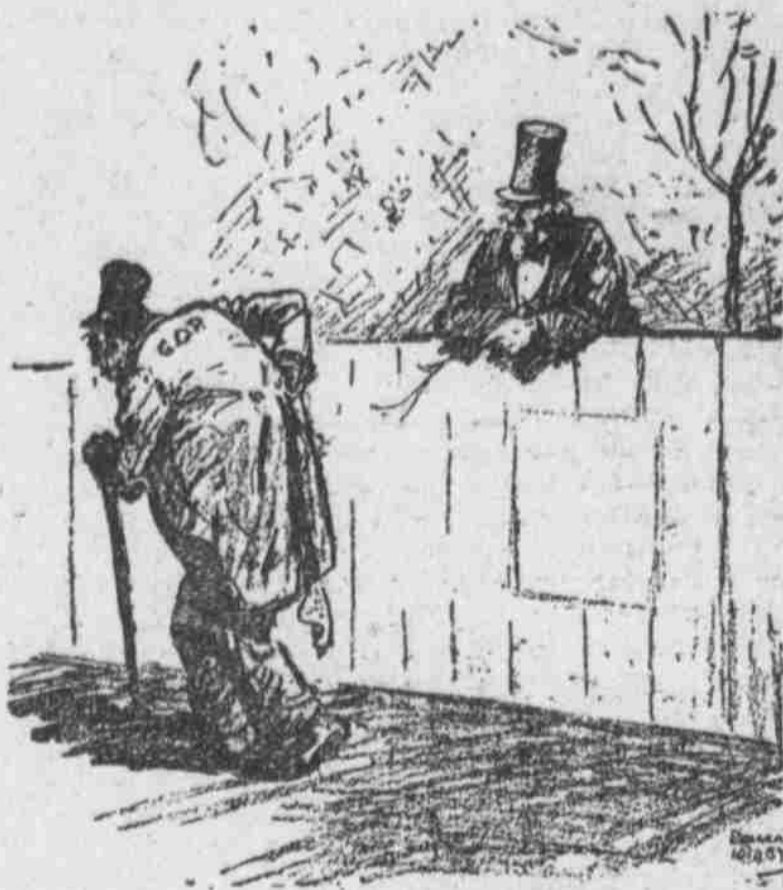
In 1908 my platform contained a declaration in favor of "such an administration of the government as will insure, as far as human wisdom can, that each citizen shall draw from society a reward commensurate with his contribution to the welfare of society."

For some years I have been discussing the divine law of rewards and laying increasing emphasis upon the proposition that man's right to draw from society is measured by the contribution which he makes to the welfare of society. So far as I know, my platform of 1908 was the first political platform that ever presented a doctrine so fundamentally important to society. As I have discussed the subject it has grown upon me and in recent years I have pointed out that it lies at the root of nearly all of the world's difficulties. If all were as intent upon earning all they collect as they are in collecting all that they earn, most of the world's problems would be solved. It is the greed that seeks to COLLECT WITHOUT EARNING that disturbs the world and disorganizes society.

The discussion of God's law of rewards naturally turned attention to the importance of a belief in God, because no one will respect or obey God's law unless he believes in God. As belief in God is the basis of man's sense of responsibility to God as well as the basis of God's law of rewards, I was gradually drawn into the discussion of those influences which, by undermining belief in God, undermine not only religion but civilization. It was this course of reasoning that led me to bring to the attention of the Christians of the world the effect of Darwin's unsupported hypothesis which links man in generations with the brutes of the forest.

I had not intended to devote so much space to the subject, but attacks from evolutionists—college professors and ministers—compelled me to make replies, some of which I have published in The Commoner. If I overestimate the importance of belief in God, my work deserves criticism, but I do not go farther than Christ did when He announced as the first and great commandment "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy mind, and with ALL thy soul, and with all thy strength." If I am not overestimating the importance of belief in God, then I am right in dissenting from Darwin's doctrine if it is true, as

"AND HE WAS SO SPRY TWO YEARS AGO"



—By Rollin Kirby.

I assert, first, that the doctrine is unproven and, second, that it is harmful. It led Darwin to declare himself an agnostic and to repudiate the Bible as an inspired book and, according to Professor Leuba, it has led a majority of the prominent scientists of the United States to deny the existence of a personal God and of a personal immortality.

Whether one is Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, he must defend belief in God—whether the attack comes from the materialistic evolutionist who denies the existence of God or from theistic evolutionists who put God so far away as to weaken, if not destroy, his influence upon life. If the unsupported doctrine of evolution (applied to man) does, as I contend, weaken faith in God, destroy confidence in the Bible and belittle Christ by denying Him the glory of a virgin birth, the majesty of His deity, and the triumph of His resurrection, Christians must oppose it or must give up their faith in the Christianity taught in the Bible.

I am not attempting to argue the question—I am simply reviewing the course that I have followed and the positions which I have felt it necessary to take. This review is merely for the information of the readers of The Commoner, and I conclude it with the assurance that I shall continue the use of The Commoner as a means of laying before the readers of The Commoner arguments in support of the measures which I deem essential to the welfare of our country and the world. I was never more interested than now in politics, national and international, and never more interested in religion. There is no conflict between them. Every human being must be interested in religion and every American citizen should be interested in politics.

I do not ask that any reader agree with me on all questions or even on any question; all I ask is that he consider the reasons which I advance. I have never asked anyone to accept my word as authority on any subject; but I have appreciated their willingness to read what I have to say and to form their own conclusions.

The Commoner has relied upon its friends for the extending of its circulation and I trust that the readers of today will be as generous in their words of commendation as the readers of the past. The Commoner has never dealt with greater themes than it is dealing with today. It is not a business proposition—I draw no money from it; it is merely propoganda and I prize the paper because it is the means by which I reach a thoughtful and intelligent group of American citizens.

W. J. BRYAN.

#### RELIEVING THE DEMOCRATS

Press dispatches report that the President is disposed to reappoint Mr. Harding president of the Reserve Board. It will be a great relief to the Democrats to have the Republicans assume responsibility for him. He has been a heavy liability to the Democrats for several years.

On another page will be found a report of an interesting extension of church activity. The Episcopal church has established an insurance company for the insurance of preachers and Christian workers at cost. Other churches may well follow the example, and it would not hurt to extend it to all church members.

## The Republican Record

Senator Lodge and Senator Watson—the eastern and western leaders of the reactionary element in the Republican party—have presented their defense of the administration, but the defense which they present is not sufficient. Every good thing secured during the present Congress has been secured in opposition to the leaders of the Republican party. The agricultural bloc is responsible for the three reforms secured by the farmers—first, the anti-option law; second, regulation of the packers; third, an agricultural representative on the Reserve Board. The anti-option law (partially nullified by a Supreme Court decision) was a western measure put through by the representatives from the agricultural sections. The packers bill was drawn by Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, a progressive Republican, and Senator Kendrick, of Wyoming, a progressive Democrat. The agricultural representative on the reserve board was secured by an amendment offered by Senator Harris of Georgia and opposed by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon.

Insofar as reductions have been made in the appropriations, the Democrats have furnished the balance of power which enabled the progressive Republicans to overcome the reactionaries.

The Revenue bill gives us the clearest proof of the real tendency of the Republican leaders; they have gone as far as they could in transferring the burden of taxation from the rich to the poor. But all the legislation for which the Republican party is really responsible is along the same line. What has the administration done to protect the public from the profiteer who blocks the way to prosperity? What has the administration done to bring labor and capital together and speak peace to the industrial world? What has the administration done to recognize the nation and to restore general prosperity? These questions will have to be met in the campaign; they cannot be met by the arguments of such leaders as Senator Lodge and Senator Watson.

W. J. BRYAN.

#### FARMER ON RESERVE BOARD

The farmers have won their fight for a member on the Federal Reserve Board and they won in spite of Secretary Mellon and the president of the Reserve Board. Now let us hope that "a farmer who farms" will be selected. And what about "a laborer who labors" and "a business man who is not a banker?" Both of these classes need representation on the Reserve Board. The cabinet has representatives of these three groups—why not the Reserve Board? But it is something to get the farmer—the others will follow.

W. J. BRYAN.

#### A NEEDED WARNING

Prof. Gray of Carlton College (Minn.) gives the church a needed warning when he points out the unchristian attitude of those ministers who take the side of capital in its effort to crush labor. Labor organizations are not always in the right (neither are big business organizations), but wage earners would soon be reduced to serfdom if they had no organizations to protect them.

#### WHY NOT HERRING?

The nomination of Brookhart, in Iowa, calls attention to the Democratic nominee, and the party is fortunate in having a candidate who will stand scrutiny. Clyde Herring is just the man for the place. Now that the Republican voters have declared their progressivism they ought to elect a Democratic senator who will have his party to work with. Mr. Brookhart would do the best a Republican could do, but a progressive Republican in the Senate is powerless except as he works with the Democrats. He cannot control his own party but he may be able to help the Democrats, just as the agricultural bloc has helped the Democrats in the present Congress, and just as ninety-three Republicans in the House helped one hundred and six Democrats to raise the tax rates on large incomes.

The Republicans in Iowa can do more for the masses by sending a man like Herring to the Senate than they can by electing anyone who must preserve a formal connection with the Republican party even when he revolts against Republican leadership.

W. J. BRYAN.