

The Commoner

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Law or Lawlessness

The Democrats have a splendid chance to control the next House and make large gains in the Senate, PROVIDED the wet Democrats do not destroy our prospects by trying to make the party serve the liquor interests. Prohibition is here to stay. No intelligent wet has any hope of repealing the Eighteenth amendment; neither has any intelligent wet any hope of a law permitting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages. So long as the Eighteenth amendment remains the Supreme Court will be compelled to nullify any law permitting the use of enough alcohol to make beverages intoxicating. All that the wets hope for is a majority in the House or Senate—just enough to enable them to block appropriations for enforcement. Any man who represents the wet side of the contest will oppose appropriations and thus invite an era of lawlessness in which the liquor traffic can do as it pleases. The real question is law or lawlessness and that issue supersedes all others. We cannot have government without obedience to law.

Wherever, therefore, the enforcement of the law is threatened, other questions must be postponed. The dries greatly outnumber the wets but the wets think of only one thing, namely, where they can get a drink; they are more intense in their feeling and therefore more active in their efforts. The dries must be vigilant and not permit the wets to win a point. We should not only have a working majority in both houses but we should have a TWO-THIRDS VOTE as we have had in the three Congresses past, so that we can override vetoes if necessary, and impeach judges in case they fail to enforce the law. Law, like a link in a chain, is only as strong as its weakest point, whether that weakness is found in a faulty wording or a failure to enforce. The law may be perfect and the enforcement one hundred per cent efficient, but it will profit nothing if a wet judge refuses to punish those who are guilty. Those engaged in bootlegging have no sense of honor, and, therefore, are indifferent to fines so long as the fines do not absorb all the profits derived from making illegal sales. An impeachment of a wet judge guilty of violating his oath of office would have a wholesome effect on other wet judges. The moral influence of lawlessness is injurious in proportion to the prominence of the offender; a wet judge can do more harm than a host of bootleggers. Wherever there is a wet candidate with any chance of election the dry forces should unite to make his defeat sure. W. J. BRYAN.

SECRETARY WEEKS REACTIONARY

Secretary of War Weeks has stepped forward to claim the prize as the champion reactionary in the President's cabinet. He attacks the direct primary, the agricultural bloc, and the 18th amendment. Of course, Weeks opposes them—his opposition is one more proof that the primary is wise, the bloc a blessing, and the amendment a necessity. W. J. BRYAN.

Nebraska Politics

The election in Nebraska this year includes the election of a United States senator, six congressmen, governor, all state officers, the election of members of the legislature and the election of all county officers. The primary for the selection of candidates will be held on Tuesday, July 18.

Four political parties have candidates in the field. In addition to the Democratic, Republican, and Prohibition tickets, a new political party has made its appearance under the name of Progressive party. When the Progressive party was formed during the winter, the intention was to make it the farmers' party or a combination of farmers and laboring men. When the party was finally organized and in the field, however, it developed that most of the candidates and members of the party organization were composed of lawyers, real estate men and other business callings, with very few farmers or laboring men on the ticket or on the campaign committees. A contest and finally a split in the Progressive party ranks occurred, and the party now has two sets of candidates in the primary fighting each other, which has destroyed any chances that the new party may have had to become a political party of formidable strength. One branch of the Progressive party is called the Mid-Roaders and the other branch of the Progressive party is called Fusionists, the latter having filed some of their candidates on the Democratic ticket also.

The Democratic party, if successful in nominating its strongest men, has a splendid opportunity to carry the state in November. The political tide is running strongly against the Republican state administration, which has more than trebled the taxes in the state in the last four years.

The do nothing policy of the present Republican national administration has greatly disappointed all classes of the people, not only in Nebraska, but elsewhere throughout the country.

and the feeling that the people will turn to the Democratic party for relief, not only in the state elections this year, but in the presidential election two years from now, is causing unusual interest and activity in the primary contest in Nebraska as elsewhere.

Charles W. Bryan, publisher and associate editor of The Commoner, is a candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket, having filed for governor on the last day that filings could be made. The effort being made by an outside political organization to nominate candidates on the Democratic ticket—which in the belief of many would divide the Democratic party and prevent it from being in a position to give the people in Nebraska relief from high taxation this year or to be in a position to have Nebraska in the forefront of the national fight two years from now—caused Mr. C. W. to file as a candidate.

He is opposed to any backward step being taken on what has been accomplished in Nebraska. He is in favor of strict law enforcement, and his platform is so practical and specific in its plans for reducing the cost of government, cutting out extravagance and putting the state's business on a basis of economy and efficiency that his candidacy should appeal to all Commoner readers. His qualifications for the position of chief executive of the state are so well known, and his success in fighting the battles of the common people in the city of Lincoln, vouched for by the leading Democratic men and women, and by the wage-earners of his home city irrespective of party, make further endorsement unnecessary. All friends of The Commoner in Nebraska who know what The Commoner stands for are urged to make every effort possible to nominate Mr. Charles W. Bryan on primary day next Tuesday.

Below will be found his statement to the voters of Nebraska, followed by his platform, endorsements and recommendations of his record in his home city and state.

To the Voters of Nebraska

The campaign upon which we are entering in Nebraska is a most important one. The people of all classes regardless of party affiliation are demanding relief from excessive taxation, extravagance and inefficiency in the management of their state affairs. The Republican party, when it came into power in this state, found the state government being operated at an expense of about \$10,000,000 for the biennium. They found the farmers receiving good prices for their grain and livestock, and they

found the wage-earners employed and receiving good wages.

No sooner had the Republicans taken charge of state affairs than they became intoxicated on Democratic prosperity and went on a debauch of joy-riding, extravagance and inefficiency, of duplicating administration heads, of adding an army of expensive and unnecessary employes to the state's payroll, adding to the cost of government and increasing the taxes until the people of the whole state are crying for relief. When the cost of government jumps from \$10,000,000 to \$30,000,000 in four years, it is time to call a

Nebraska Primary Day, July 18, 1922