

The Commoner

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VOL. 22, NO. 9

Lincoln, Nebraska, September, 1922

Whole Number 761

Democrats for the Senate

The primaries are filling up the gaps and arranging the battle lines for the fall campaign. While the Democrats have reason to hope to gain control of the House of Representatives, they can hardly hope to gain enough members among the one-third of the Senate to be elected this year to secure a majority. But we must gain as many as possible this fall in order to complete the triumph in 1924.

In Nebraska, Senator Hitchcock's reelection seems practically certain. His announcement puts him back of law enforcement and his activity on the people's side of the revenue question, the tariff question, and other economic questions before Congress will make him strong with the voters of Nebraska.

Ex-Governor Ralston, the Democratic nominee in Indiana, made an enviable record as governor and is sound on all national issues. His prospects grow brighter daily.

Ex-Senator Beveridge seems likely to retain the "ex." He did well when he made his campaign for the nomination; he was one hundred per cent progressive when he opposed Senator New, now he is fifty-fifty and is opposing Governor Ralston, a real progressive—that is quite a different matter.

Candidate Herring in Iowa has more than a fighting chance owing to the bitter dissensions in the Republican party over their candidate. He deserves success.

Senator Ashhurst can hardly fail of reelection in Arizona. His personal popularity added to the current that is running against the Republicans should insure him an increased majority.

Senator King has just been renominated in Utah, a deserved reward for his excellent record.

Senator Jones has brought such prominence to New Mexico that it would be a reflection on the people of that state to doubt his reelection. He has become a power in the Senate and always on the right side.

Nevada will surely show her appreciation of the splendid work done by Senator Pittman and retain him as her spokesman.

Ex-Congressman Neeley, who has won the Democratic nomination in West Virginia, is a high-class progressive Democrat. He has had experience in Congress and represents the best that there is in the Democratic party. He bids fair to add one to our Democratic gains in the Senate.

The Commoner has already called attention to the claims of Mrs. Olesen, the Democratic candidate in Minnesota. She is an ideal woman and an ideal Democrat; she will make an ideal senator.

Mrs. Bishop, who has been selected by the Democrats of Wisconsin, will have the advantage of the bitter fight in the Republican ranks. To

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the Republicans she will be the least of two evils—to the Democrats an unalloyed good.

The Democratic Senatorial candidates in the South will have little opposition. The Republican landslide spent itself in 1920.

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LIVING COST RISES

On another page will be found a report of an increase in the cost of living. In a few cases the farmer gets the benefit of a small increase but the increase is not on staple crops. Wheat has fallen below one dollar in Chicago; oats are down and corn is likely to be down by the time the crop is gathered; but the cost of living goes up. The farmer sells on a low level and buys on a high level; how long can he stand it? And while his income drops his taxes increase. The tax receipts is the strongest Democratic argument this year. While this tragedy is being enacted on the farms the tariff bucaners are raising the tariff so as to stimulate higher prices for the benefit of the profiteers. "How long, oh Lord, how long?"

JAPAN ON CHEAP LABOR

The following press notice is interesting:

"Tokio, Aug. 18.—Twenty-five hundred Chinese laborers have been ordered to leave Japan, it was learned today. The fact that they were working cheaper than similar Japanese labor resulted in the order for them to leave the country, it was said."

Japan feels justified in SENDING TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED CHINAMEN BACK TO CHINA because they worked for lower wages than Japanese. Japan was acting entirely within her rights, but since she recognizes the right of a nation to protect its own people from cheap labor she can not complain if other nations assume the same right. This nation does not SEND BACK cheap labor—it simply prohibits their continued coming.

Nebraska Politics

The campaign in Nebraska is getting well under way. The Republicans are on the defensive in Nebraska on account of the tremendous increase in the people's taxes during the past four years that the Republicans have been in power in the state.

During the two years of Governor Morehead's administration, the Democratic governor of seven or eight years ago, the appropriations for the biennium were in round numbers \$7,000,000. During the next two years under another Democratic governor, Gov. Neville, which was the war period, the appropriations for the biennium amounted in round numbers to \$9,000,000. Three or four years ago when the present administration took office, the appropriations for the biennium jumped to \$20,000,000, and for the past two years under the same administration, the appropriations increased to nearly \$30,000,000. This doubling and trebling of the taxes on the farms of Nebraska while the price of grain and livestock was being cut in two, has made the issue of tax reduction the paramount issue in the Nebraska campaign.

The Republican administration four years ago adopted what is known as the code system, which has duplicated most all of the officials and employes of the state, and the administration of the state's affairs by appointees of the governor has proven to be very unpopular, and has led to waste, extravagance and inefficiency that the Republicans are finding it difficult to defend. The entire Democratic state and legislative ticket is pledged to the repeal of the code bill and the reduction of the appropriations in proportion to the reduction of the incomes of the people of the state.

The Republican legislature two years ago passed a revenue bill which has resulted in the holders of intangible property being able to unload about \$500,000 of their taxes on to the farmers and middle classes whose investments are in lands and homes. The same legislature also passed a bill which emasculates the direct primary law, and another bill which requires the people living in the small towns and country to register within thirty days before the election or be disfranchised. The third measure that was passed by the same legislature gives the state banking board—which is an appointive board—power to determine whether another bank should be permitted to be established in any community. This measure, together with an anti-picketing bill which is very drastic, has caused so much protest among the people that these last four measures mentioned have been held up under the referendum law and will be submitted to the people for approval or rejection at the polls in November. Mr. Randall, the Republican candidate for governor, as a member of the legislature, voted for these bills at the time they were passed. He will now either have to defend them from the attacks of

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