

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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Money for All But Soldiers

If the Republicans had been economical along other lines, the ex-service men would wait patiently for their turn, but there was money enough to give the profiteers 450 millions relief a year by the repeal of the excess profits tax (that tax would have paid the bonus in ten years besides penalizing profiteering).

There was money enough to give less than five thousand millionaires a relief of 90 millions a year by the reduction of the rates on big incomes.

There was money enough to give the railroads over half a billion to guarantee dividends (when did the government guarantee a fair income to farmers, laborers or merchants?).

There was money enough for a Republican House to pass a bill loaning another half billion to the railroads.

There seems to be money enough, according to Republican leaders, to permit the voting of a ship subsidy.

Why does the money suddenly fail when a bonus is asked for the boys who bore the risks while big business made enormous profits? The ex-service men have had a test of Republicanism.

W. J. BRYAN.

SENATOR HITCHCOCK

Senator Hitchcock should and will be re-elected. On economic questions he is the champion of the over-burdened taxpayer and he stands for the enforcement of prohibition in state and nation.

His convincing arguments against the piracy practiced on the masses by the Republican revenue law, against the highway robbery perpetrated on the producers of wealth by the Republican protective tariff law, and against the deflation of the farmers by the Republican administration of the currency law, are making a profound impression on the Nebraska voters.

W. J. BRYAN.

AMERICAN SHIPS GO "DRY"

The government has made a new ruling that excludes liquor from United States government ships wherever they sail—no more ship saloons under the American flag.

The ruling goes farther and prohibits the carrying of intoxicants by any ships, foreign or domestic, within the three mile limit. This is another blow to the wets. Uncle Sam is to be sober on the water as well as on land. Another step has been taken in the "forward march" toward a saloonless world.

MRS. OLESEN GAINS

Mrs. Olesen, the Democratic candidate for senator in Minnesota, is gaining as the campaign proceeds. The unfair effort to defeat her by putting up an independent candidate ought to react in her favor.

The Issues in Nebraska

Address by Charles W. Bryan, Democratic Nominee for Governor

Below is reproduced a speech delivered by Charles W. Bryan, Democratic candidate for governor, at Papillion, Neb., October 5, in which he discussed political issues in nation and state, and in which he outlined his program of specific measures for the relief of the people of the state of Nebraska. An account of the meeting, and an abstract of Mr. Bryan's address, as reported by a staff correspondent in the Omaha World-Herald, follows:

Papillion, Neb., Oct. 5.—Charles Bryan, Democratic gubernatorial candidate, bringing the campaign into Sarpy county here tonight, called a spade a spade, so to speak, when he met every paramount issue of the campaign squarely and averred the trend during both national and state Republican administrations has been:

First: To shift the burden of the war from those who had profited most by the war onto the backs of those who were least able financially to bear it.

Second: To transform government affairs out of reach of the electors into the hands of groups, "who are controlled by special interests."

Mr. Bryan, in his talk said:

"I did not come to deliver a Fourth of July oration but to talk plain facts and figures. I'm the silent member of the family; my work has been in the office of The Commoner at Lincoln, but in the twenty-one years I've been there, associated with my brother, I've been trying to apply business principles to government and never have I known a time when business principles were so badly needed in state government as now.

"During the present national administration, we have seen many things happen, chief among which was a trend to transfer the burdens of the war from those who made the profits out of it, onto the backs of the common people. The most striking example of this was through repeal of the excess profits tax, a piece of legislation designed and put into effect that those men could escape with the loot they obtained during the war.

"We next see it in the effort to pass the ship subsidy which provides for the sale of our fleet of vessels which cost approximately \$3,000,000,000 during the war for \$200,000,000 to the shipping trust, or at a price which will net the government about 7 per cent on the original investment, and, in addition, the administration wants to give them \$750,000,000 in the form of a subsidy, payable in ten annual installments.

PEOPLE MUST PAY

"Next came the tariff which put up a wall so high on imports that all necessities of life are bound to increase heavily. The country's treasury is being deprived of about \$400,000,000 a year in loss of revenue in addition, and you people will be called upon to make up the differ-

ence in some kind of taxation, no doubt. A New York Republican newspaper estimates the cost of living in this country will increase about \$3,000,000,000 a year as a result of this prohibitive tariff. I was told today in Omaha at Hayden's and at Brandeis' that the advance in wearing apparel already has started.

"The soldiers' bonus, which I was sorry to see the president veto, could almost be paid out of the installments of the ship subsidy or out of the revenue lost through repeal of the excess profits tax.

"So, you see, they find ways to relieve the great captains of industry by giving them subsidies, repeal of their taxes, etc.

"The President vetoed the bonus bill—or adjusted compensation as it should be called—because, he said, there was no sales tax attached to finance the measure. A sales tax is merely a consumption tax—a tax on practically everything you buy, and its effect would be that the soldiers, to whom adjusted compensation is so justly due, would virtually be financing it.

BIG BUSINESS IN SADDLE

"I just mention these things to show you the trend of the times—that big business is in the saddle.

"The men who made the profits out of the war should be made to pay the bonus. I wish legislation of that sort could be enacted. If such a thing were possible, they could finance it out of one year's profits.

"If you agree with us, then it is your duty and to your interest to support as a unit our candidates from Senator Hitchcock and the entire Democratic ticket.

"The same trends are noticeable—possibly more so—in state government. Commencing four years ago, we saw the cost of government jump until now our taxes alone have more than doubled. We find that under Governor Morehead's administration, the appropriations for the first two years were \$8,000,000. During the second term, it was reduced \$500,000 and under Governor Neville's administration—a war period—the appropriations for state government were \$9,000,000. Four years ago came the change in government with an accompanying jump in the state appropriations from \$9,000,000 to \$20,000,000 and then during the past two years to about \$30,000,000. Such a protest went up from the people that a special session of the legislature was called and a slice of about \$2,000,000 taken from the appropriations and then they went around boasting of how much they had saved the taxpayers.

THE CODE LAW

"I now want to discuss the code law in our state government which the Democrats are pledged to wipe off the statute books, if elected. It is a law created by Governor McKelvie four years ago—by which the power vested in the