

A Great Victory for the People

THEY KNOW WHAT THEY WANT

(Edgar Howard, in Columbus, Neb., Telegram.)

Last winter ex-Mayor Charley Bryan, now a city commissioner, conducted a municipal coal yard in the city of Lincoln. He bought coal in large quantities and retailed it to the people at a price far below the price demanded by Coal Trust. The municipal coal yard saved \$150,000 to the people of Lincoln and vicinity in one year.

Coal Trust got busy and carried the municipal coal yard into court. The court killed the plan to get coal to the people at low cost. The ruling of the court was that the people had never given the city commissioners power to enact a municipal coal yard ordinance.

The Commissioner Bryan called upon the friends of cheap coal to circulate petitions for a referendum vote on the question.

Did the people of Lincoln vote in favor of a municipal coal yard and cheap coal?

They did.

Was it a close vote?

More than ten to one in favor of the city coal yard.

It was a great victory for Charley Bryan, and a great victory for the former victims of Coal Trust.

In this connection it is known in some quarters, and I state here as a fact, that for more than two years the big corporations have maintained in Lincoln a bureau of "information." That's the name they gave it. The business of that bureau was to write for the daily and country newspapers columns of news and editorial matter calculated to make the people believe that it is bad for the people to have any public utilities owned by the people, but that all such things ought to be owned by corporations. Those hypnotizers worked earnestly to earn their big salaries, and I really believe they did earn them, because they put up some fine arguments for a bad cause.

But the people of Lincoln, and of the whole country, are getting their eyes open to the need of publicly-owned public utilities. They are not wanting a city, a state or a nation to engage in competition with private dealers in any commodity, but they are getting ready to exercise that competition whenever the discovery shall be made that any article necessary to the comfort of the people is controlled by a trust. The next step will be for the national government to own and operate all the coal mines, to the end that the country may no longer be robbed by Coal Trust.

And the next step will be for the parent government to own and operate all the railroads, to the end that the producers of the country may have opportunity to get their produce to the market places at a charge which will leave some profit to the producer.

The heaven of good sense is working among the people.

MUNICIPAL COAL MAKES A CLEANING IN LINCOLN ELECTION

Municipal coal has become a settled feature with the city of Lincoln. The people settled it with their votes at a special election held for that express purpose last Tuesday. The majority for municipal coal was immense. There were 5,145 votes cast, of which 4,721 were for the proposition and 424 against—eleven to one in favor. In several precincts the vote was unanimous, not one vote being cast against it. It is quite likely that had a full vote been obtained, the majority would have been proportionately as large. Many people who favored the question did not take time to vote as they said they knew it would carry anyhow. Lincoln is for public ownership if anybody happens to ask you, on any fair and reasonable proposition.

Municipal coal has had hard sledding from the start. While the people were for it, certain members of the council were strongly opposed to it. They may tell you now that they never were against it, but smooth as they are in smearing the dear people, they cannot cover their feet prints in this case. The city coal combine and the inner circle of the chamber of commerce were against it, and the city legal department and all did their best to prevent its being established last winter but Commissioner C. W. Bryan fought it through the council and gave the

people excellent service and saved them some money.

Certain city coal dealers continued to harrass the coal department of the city, dragged it into the courts on several pretexts and finally got a decision from the supreme court that the city council had not established this department in accord with the city charter and that the people would have to say so by their votes if they want continuation of municipal coal. Well, the people have spoken on the question and the little handful of opponents have no doubt heard what they said by this time.

Commissioner Bryan is entitled to a great share of the credit for the winning of this fight for the people as against the profiteers. Single handed and alone he scrapped the council, the city legal department, the coal combine and the inner circle, or high brows as they term themselves, with the splendid result recorded at Tuesday's special election.

Incidentally we might remark that Tuesday's special election is a fair fore-runner of what this city will do for Mr. Bryan in November when the voters come to choose a governor. Things have come to a pass where the public needs men who will respect the public, who will respect themselves and their oath of office and who will do things and do them for the public instead of a little ring or special interests and C. W. Bryan has given numerous demonstrations on these lines to the people of this city. And the feeling out in the state seems to be equally as strong for C. W. as it is here at home. It looks very much now as though he will win in a walk.—Lincoln Herald.

SERVING NOTICE

In words as clear as any that could be employed, Senator Borah tells Europe how it may gain American favor for cancellation of its eleven billion dollar war debt. He tells Europe's statesmen that the American people could never be greatly interested in any proposition for the renunciation of any part of the debt to the United States unless the proposition is accompanied by a definite and specific plan supported by guaranties for practical disarmament both by land and by sea. He tells them that "there is nothing to be gained by our cancelling the debt, or any part of it, if the gigantic military and armament programs in Europe are to continue. It would amount in practical effect to our aiding and abetting the building of these great military establishments and therefore abetting war. If cancellation is to be considered at all, it should be considered in the interest of humanity, of economic sanity." Here is language that kings should be able to understand, and republics, too. It will have the backing of an American congress of like mind with Senator Borah, for more progressives are on the way. Of course the American debt will not prevent Europe from making ready for another war if its people will permit their rulers to bring it on, for the budget makers of these nations have not considered this debt as any part of a problem influencing their appropriations, quarrels or cancellations. But so long as this debt remains to remind the American people of the cost of war, they will send no more argosies abroad volunteering the sacrifice of American youth in the racial and commercial quarrels of Europe. When nations adopt a pay as you go policy in the conduct of wars there will be fewer wars.—New York Sun.

WHY THE PUBLIC PAYS

Coal prices are from 10 to 20 per cent higher to consumers than a year ago. The operators say that they had a large overhead expense that could not be avoided even when the mines were idle. The men say that because of the shopmen's strike there is a shortage of cars and this means that as they are limited in their work to but a few days a week they must have better pay for the days they do work. The retailers say they had to keep their offices open even when there was no coal to handle. All of this sounds very plausible and fair until one sits down to analyze it. All these are costs resulting from the strike, which was caused by the failure of the operators and miners to agree on a wage scale, not through any fault of the public. Why must the consumer pay all these expenses and the organizations that caused them, particularly the operators, none of them?

A WORTHY WOMAN CANDIDATE

Mrs. Ben Hooper, the Democratic candidate for the Senate in Wisconsin, is running on splendid platform. She deserves the support of all the Democrats and of all the dry Republicans.

World's Salvation Rests in Word of God

On every hand and in every land we see the struggle is to get as much as possible from the world without regard to the service by which rewards should be measured. The ignoring of the divine law of rewards makes more difficult the problems of taxation, the industrial situation, the enforcement of law, the elimination of the profiteers, and the establishment of world peace. There never was a time in the world's history when it was more important that the world should get back to God and obey the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," and the second, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."—William J. Bryan, in his address to the Sunday School Convention at Kansas City, June 27.

TO STUDENTS

Mr. Milton Thomas, Editor-in-Chief, "The Troy Student," Troy, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Answering your inquiry, I beg to submit the following sentiment: There is no new advice to give students. Times may change and conditions change but the individual is the same. He needs the same amount of exercise to make his body strong, the same amount of intellectual training to discipline his mind and the same spiritual development to guide his life. If he gives his attention to his body only he may become perfect physically—but merely a perfect brute. If he gives his entire attention to his mind he may become a perfect mental machine—but a machine is valuable according to the use that is made of it. A good education will contribute as much to the success of a criminal as to success in honest business—an educated criminal can do more harm and better avoid capture than an uneducated one. The development of the heart must keep pace with the development of the mind—the bigger the ship the larger the rudder necessary to guide it.

Whether an education, therefore, is a benefit to the one which has it and to those about him depends altogether upon his conception of life and this, I feel, does not have as much attention in our schools as it should have. If civilization is to be measured by the harmonious development of body, mind and heart, it is very important that the student shall have a strong moral character as well as a strong mind and body.

Very truly yours,

W. J. BRYAN.

EXPLOITING THE TOURIST

Every American who returns from Europe tells the same story of an apparently concerted effort on the part of the shopkeepers and customs guards to compel America to pay the costs of the war. An American must pay four or five times as much for goods as a native and then they are taken from him at the frontiers of Germany and several other countries on the ground that the articles are not exportable. We decline to be much annoyed over this situation. There is no law compelling Americans to travel in Europe, any more than during the war there was any necessity for them thrusting their presence into the war zone and then demanding protection.

A DISTILLER'S PLAN

The New York Times gives considerable space to an interview with Lord Dewar, a British distiller, who argues against prohibition and advocates "education" in its place. If the Times wants to be fair it should now hunt up a professional burglar and get an interview from him arguing the superiority of moral suasion over safes and burglar alarms as a means of protecting banks.

ONE THING SURE

Taxes are never going to be reduced by a party that declares it is impossible to reduce them. Neither is better government to be secured from a party that insists that the existing government is the best government possible.—Omaha, Neb., World-Herald.