

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 23, NO. 1

Lincoln, Nebraska, January, 1923

Whole Number 765

Practical Remedies in Sight

Governor Bryan's message is worthy of careful perusal; it is a plain, businesslike statement of existing evils and of the remedies needed. For the better enforcement of prohibition Governor Bryan recommends that the governor be empowered to suspend during trial the local officials charged with failure to perform their duties. At present the accused officer holds on during a protracted trial and thus paralyzes enforcement. The legislature can hardly fail to respond at once to the suggestion.

The governor also recommends a rural credit law based upon the South Dakota law on the subject. Such a measure is much needed, and the legislature, representing as it does one of the greatest agricultural states, can hardly fail to support the governor in this recommendation.

An income tax law patterned after the Wisconsin law is also recommended. This, too, will appeal to the legislature as a means of reaching the holders of invisible property. Because the holders of invisible property do not pay their just share of state taxes, the holders of visible property are overburdened.

Another recommendation of the governor imperatively needed is the law authorizing the municipalities to establish water plants, coal yards, lighting plants, etc.

The recommendation that the soldier's bonus be substituted for the ship subsidy is refreshing. It is like grafting a sweet orange tree on a lemon root—it can be done in the orchard, why not in legislation?
W. J. BRYAN.

THE IRISH FREE STATE

The withdrawal of British troops from Ireland was an event of such great importance that it is not surprising that the departure of these symbols of an outside authority called forth great rejoicing. Ireland's struggle for home rule has lasted for centuries. Sometimes her cause has grown brighter, at other times her prospects grew dim. Out of ebbing and flowing hopes triumph has at last come and the destiny of Ireland is in the hands of Irish men and Irish women.

Every friend of self government will hope that the power now secured will be wisely employed for the benefit of the people who have so persistently struggled for freedom. Here's to the health of Ireland and to the success of her new government.

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

A press dispatch from Tokio says, "The unions of retail traders in Tokio are being forced to reduce prices in the face of business depression."

Why not force trade combinations in the United States to reduce prices and rates of profit? Those in control at Washington might well follow Japan's example.

At the beginning of this, its 23rd year, The Commoner rededicates itself to the cause of the common people; for their interests as against the interests of special classes.

THE SHIP SUBSIDY GRAB

The Minority Report on the Ship Subsidy bill, prepared by Senator Fletcher, is worth reading. No unbiased person can read it without wondering at the audacity of the men who sponsored the bill.

It was radically amended in the House where some of its most glaring iniquities were eliminated but it is still so bad that it ought not to find a single supporter in a body like the Senate.

No wonder the Ship Subsidy bill was deferred until after the election. Nearly all of the Republican congressmen who were defeated in November voted for the Ship Subsidy bill—a fact which is contributing largely to the popularity of the measure designed to move the sessions of congress forward and thus prevent a post-election session.

In this issue will be found a cartoon drawn by Kirby of the World which sets off the situation. It shows the Ship Subsidy bill being towed by the lame ducks. It is one of the best cartoons of the season and ought to make converts of any who still adhere to the Ship Subsidy project.
W. J. BRYAN.

EUROPE NEEDS AMERICAN ADVICE

The dissensions among the allies as to reparations threaten the peace of Europe. The United States ought to lend its advice, reserving always the right of independent action. It can not allow itself to be bound by decisions made in Europe but, with its moral prestige and its disinterestedness, it is in a position to aid by its counsel. In fact, it is the only nation that can speak peace to the world.
W. J. BRYAN.

A DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY

The Democratic party is the only party of any size that represents the producing masses of the nation. The late elections put it in a position where it can outline remedies and secure the support of progressive Republicans. This puts a great responsibility upon Democratic leadership in Washington. They must meet these responsibilities or the Democratic party will suffer from their failure.
W. J. BRYAN.

Darwinism in Public Schools

Now that the legislatures of the various states are in session, I beg to call the attention of legislators to a much needed reform; viz., the elimination of the teaching of atheism and agnosticism from schools, colleges, and universities supported by taxation. Under the pretense of teaching science, instructors who draw their salaries from the public treasury are undermining the religious faith of students by substituting belief in Darwinism for belief in the Bible. Our constitution very properly prohibits the teaching of religion at public expense. The Christian church is divided into many sects, Protestant and Catholic, and it is contrary to the spirit of our institutions, as well as to the written law, to use money raised by taxation for the propagation of sects. In many states they have gone so far as to eliminate the reading of the Bible, although its morals and its literature have a value entirely distinct from the religious interpretations variously placed upon the Bible.

Quietly and unnoticed, the enemies of the Bible have been substituting irreligion for religion. Having excluded the teaching of religion they are daily teaching that which cannot be true if the Bible is true. They do not always openly attack the Bible, but that which they teach is built upon the theory that the Bible is untrue. Many of these teachers are atheists and do not believe in either a personal God or a personal immortality, as Professor Leuba of Bryn Mawr University shows in his book, "Belief in God and Immortality." Leuba has himself rejected belief in a personal God and belief in a personal immortality and presents evidence to show that a majority of the prominent scientists agree with him.

Some deny that they are atheists, preferring rather to call themselves agnostics, it being easier to plead ignorance than to defend atheism. Darwin declared himself to be an agnostic, having substituted his hypothesis and its implications for the Bible. Darwin began life a Christian, but finding that his hypothesis was inconsistent with the fundamental teachings of Christianity, he rejected the Bible as an inspired book and with it the Christ of whom the Bible tells. Darwin declared himself an agnostic and said that the beginning of all things was a mystery insoluble by man.

The tendency of Darwinism, although unsupported by any substantial fact in nature, since no species has been shown to come from any other species, is to destroy faith in a personal God, faith in the Bible as an inspired book and faith in Christ as Son and Saviour.

The so-called theistic evolutionists refuse to admit that they are atheists, contending that they believe in a God back of creation; they argue that evolution is God's method, but they put God so far away as to practically destroy a sense of God's presence in the daily life and