

# Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

## Emasculating Democracy.

In real democracy there is throbbing, ever-present life. There is nothing more vigorous and virile than democracy when it stands for the rule of the people—the right of the people to control their own government and the capacity of the people for self-government. Democracy in an open fight need not fear either aristocracy—the rule of the best (as they style themselves) or plutocracy, the rule of the rich. In an honest fight democracy can rely with confidence upon the righteousness of its cause and trust the conscience and intelligence of the people. Victory may be delayed, but it cannot be prevented if the democratic party remains steadfast in its support of democratic principles. The greatest danger which confronts democracy today is that it will be emasculated and robbed of its force and vitality by those who cling to the democratic name but constantly give aid and comfort to the republican party. For the purpose of illustration three daily papers may be mentioned. They loudly proclaim their loyalty to democratic principles and roundly condemn those who were responsible for the Chicago platform. They deserted the party in 1896 and supported the Palmer and Buckner ticket—a ticket that polled about one hundred and thirty thousand votes all told, and carried one precinct in the United States. They gave a protesting support to the national ticket in 1900 and ever since the election have been industriously at work "reorganizing" the democratic party. The papers referred to are the New York World, the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Chicago Chronicle. Each paper is the best representative of its class in the section in which it circulates.

On the money question all three support the republican position; they are mouthpieces of the great financiers; they breathe the poisoned air that has passed through the lungs of Wall Street. No financial policy is too cruel, no dollar is too dear, no money system too despotic for them to endorse; provided, always, it has the endorsement of the money changers. They not only want to make gold the only standard money but they want to retire the greenbacks and substitute national bank notes. They often praise the love of Jefferson, and yet they know that Jefferson was always and at all times the enemy of banks of issue. They conjure with the name of Jackson, and yet Jackson made his greatest reputation fighting a bank of issue. If these papers had their way the democratic party would disregard entirely the interests which the masses have in a stable dollar, and would make the party the exponent of those whom Carlisle once described as the "idle holders of idle capital."

On the question of imperialism these papers do not entirely agree. The World still condemns an imperial policy, while the Courier-Journal and the Chronicle advocate a surrender to the republicans on this issue. The Courier Journal admits that the democratic position is the correct one so far as principles are concerned, but contends that commercialism is bound to win and that the democratic party should "get into the band wagon." It preaches the gospel of expediency—a doctrine which demoralizes the party by making everything subordinate to the desire to win a temporary success. The Chronicle goes a little farther and declares that the democratic party would not carry out the promise made last fall, even if it could. The following is from a recent editorial in that paper:

"There will be no revolution in American politics which will result in conferring independence on the people of the Philippines. If the democrats should carry the next presidential election, and should elect a majority of both houses of congress, the Philippines would not be abandoned. They are with us for good or for evil, as time shall determine, and it is mostly for them to say whether it shall be for their good."

It will be remembered that the democratic national convention of 1900, without a dissenting vote, and amid unparalleled enthusiasm, declared it to be the duty of this nation to immediately announce its purpose: First to establish a stable government in the Philippines; second, to turn that government over to the Filipinos and give them independence, and third, to protect the Filipinos from outside interference as we have protected the republics of Central and South America. There was difference of opinion as to wording of the money plank, but none as to the party's position on imperialism. And yet, the Courier-Journal and the Chronicle are willing to give up the defense of the Declaration of Independence and accept the republican theory of government—a theory identical with that announced by George the Third.

On the trust question no two of the three papers agree. The World is very much afraid of the trusts, but does not

A number of mouthpieces of trusts and monopolies profess to be greatly scandalized because the striking steel workers broke certain contracts said to have been made with their employers. But these mouthpieces insist by implication that it is right and proper for the strikers to break their contracts with their fellows and repudiate their unions. Has it come to pass that it is no sin to break a contract unless it happens to be a contract made with a trust?

know what to do about them; the Courier-Journal does not know whether it is afraid or not, and the Chronicle isn't worried at all, but all three of the papers lose no opportunity to misrepresent and malign those who are in earnest in their efforts to destroy private monopoly.

The papers above mentioned illustrate the confusion, conflict and uncertainty that prevail among those who oppose the Kansas City platform. If a convention were called of the daily papers which want to repudiate the Kansas City platform, and their editors were required to submit a new platform satisfactory to all of them, they would adjourn sine die before they agreed upon a single important plank. They represent all shades of opinion on every question and are harmonious about nothing except their contempt for the patriotism and intelligence of the more than six million voters who in spite of corruption and coercion supported the party in two national campaigns. The Kansas City platform is a positive, clear and emphatic application of democratic principles to present conditions. When a person stands upon that platform and gives to it his unqualified endorsement, the people know what to expect of him.

The opponents of that platform, however, quarrel and contend over every proposition submitted. Some want the party to boldly declare for the gold standard; others favor a cowardly evasion of the whole question. Some want the party to declare openly in favor of banks of issue; others want the party to keep still on the question in its platform, but to lend the party's influence after election to the retirement of the greenbacks. Some want the party to continue the fight against imperialism; some want the party to quit opposing imperialism and acquiesce in it without endorsing it, while others think that the party should have the courage to commend the administration's course. Some think that all trusts are bad; some think that part of the trusts are good and a part of them bad, and still others believe that the trust is an economic development that is entirely beneficial in its operations.

The difference of opinion which manifests itself in the discussion of the larger questions is no less conspicuous in the discussion of minor questions. Because they can agree upon no platform the reorganizers content themselves with criticizing democratic principles and republican individuals.

Is it strange that the democratic party has made slow progress when it is remembered that for five years the leading dailies, which claim to be democratic, have given more assistance to the opposition than to their own party? Between campaigns they have been condemning the platform of the party and discrediting those who endorsed the platform; it is impossible for such papers to repair during the campaign the damage which they do to between campaigns. But for the weekly papers, which have for the most part remained loyal, the democratic voters would have had little opportunity to read democratic literature. The republicans, on the contrary, have all their daily papers, all their weekly papers, and a considerable portion of the so-called democratic dailies continuously explaining and in whole or in part defending the course of the administration. The only wonder is that the rank and file of the party should have shown itself as steadfast as it has. If those who call themselves democrats will defend the democratic platform for the next three years we can win in 1904; but it is difficult to win when a numerically small but financially influential portion of the party is constantly compromising with the republicans.

The esteemed Chicago Chronicle seems fond of telling how fusion has failed in Nebraska. Let's see about that. Fusion rescued the state from republican control after thirty years of fruitless effort on the part of democracy. It retired a republican senator after the state had been the victim of unbroken republican senatorial representation for more than a quarter of a century. It reduced the republican representation in the lower house from three to two and added four to the opposition. It uncovered \$500,000 of financial rottenness in the state's finances and saved thousands of dollars to the permanent school fund. It cleared the political atmosphere in Nebraska, and had democratic newspapers like the Chronicle worked as hard for the success of democratic principles as the democrats of Nebraska did, the present day rule of trusts and monopolies would not be in existence, the flag would not be dishonored abroad, the constitution would not be a literary colander, and the principles of the Declaration of Independence would yet be in full force and effect.

Doubtless the g.o.p. leaders referred to the fall dinner pails of the gentlemen who control the output of steel.

Five men may meet secretly and lay plans to crush an independent manufacturer, and that is called financing. Five hundred men may meet openly and endeavor to persuade their fellows to stand by the just demands of organized labor, and that is called intimidation and punished by prison sentences.

In the face of an industrial war the republicans of Ohio demand a campaign on state issues. Over in Pennsylvania the republicans demand a campaign on national issues.

## APOLOGY NOT ENOUGH

Kaiser Sends Word to Chinese Emperor that More is Expected.

## FUTURE CONDUCT TO INFLUENCE

Von Ketteler's Murder to Be Explained by Good Behavior—Emperor William Imposes Chun With the Solemnity of the Occasion.

BERLIN, Sept. 5.—Emperor William's reception of the Chinese mission of expiation headed by Prince Chun, which took place today at Potsdam, was marked with all the severity consistent with an audience nominally friendly.

The Chinese imperial envoy on entering the palace was not accorded a salute by the Garde du Corps. The emperor received him seated. The buttons and epaulettes of his majesty's white uniform were enveloped in crape. Prince Chun bowed thrice on entering and leaving. Emperor William remained seated during the reading of the Chinese address. Afterward, however, he relaxed his stern demeanor and welcomed the envoy courteously and subsequently, accompanied by his adjutant, he called upon Prince Chun at the Orangerie. Later in the evening the emperor, Prince Chun and a dozen members of the expiatory mission took tea on an island in the Sprea.

The emperor had evidently arranged the entire ceremony with the view of impressing Prince Chun that the ceremony meant expiation for a foul crime and only through expiation had Prince Chun acquired the right to be treated with princely honors. Not until after the ceremony did the atmosphere change. Then the troops outside saluted, the bands played and the Hussars escorted Prince Chun back to the Orangerie.

The imperial envoy seemed deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and when summoned to the throne room he showed visible embarrassment. He bowed repeatedly while approaching the throne and his voice was agitated while he was reading the imperial address.

The entire manner of Emperor William was calculated to impress Prince Chun with the solemnity of the ceremony. He spoke emphatically and seriously, emphasizing particularly the word "civilized."

The ceremony lasted only ten minutes. In the meantime six Chinese dignitaries of the highest rank who were halted in the anteroom remained there perfectly motionless and speechless, awaiting Prince Chun's return with evident anxiety. Prince Chun retired backwards from the throne room, bowing profusely.

According to the Lokal Anzeiger, the Chinese envoy will breakfast tomorrow with the emperor and empress.

There was apparently but little public interest in the mission among the people of Berlin. A small but demonstrative crowd watched Prince Chun driving in the park.

## END OF STRIKE MAY BE NEAR.

Conference of Labor Leaders and Steel Officials in Session in New York.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—A conference at which conditions of peace in the great steel strike are being discussed is in progress at the office of the United States Steel corporation. The participants in the discussion include Charles M. Schwab of the United States Steel corporation, Sampel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers' association; Prof. Jenks of the Industrial commission, Secretary R. M. Easley of the Civic Federation, and Harry White, secretary of the Garment Workers' association. The conference was arranged this morning and was asked for by Samuel Gompers and John Mitchell, who are believed to be acting in behalf of President Theodore J. Shaffer and the Amalgamated association. They reached here early this morning and were joined by Messrs. Jenks, Easley and White. The entire party came down town at 12 o'clock and at 12:15 o'clock entered the office of the United States Steel corporation. They were received by Mr. Schwab and shown to the consulting room. Shortly after their arrival Verly Preston and some of the officials of the subsidiary companies entered Mr. Schwab's office and joined the conference. None of the participants in the conference could be seen and the basis of the discussion could not be learned.

Whisky or the Revolver.

CEDAR FALLS, Ia., Sept. 4.—J. H. Hough was found dead near Parkersburg with a revolver in one hand and a bottle of whisky in the other. He was 45 years old. He was unmarried. The body was buried in the potter's field.

Financing the Omaha Line.

CHICAGO, Sept. 4.—It is reported, says the Tribune, that President Stickney of the Great Western has succeeded in forming a syndicate to underwrite an issue of \$5,000,000 Chicago Great Western debenture bonds, to provide for the building of the proposed extension to Omaha and Sioux City. Work on these extensions is to be commenced next spring, but some preliminary grading may be done this year.

## START ON THE EXPOSITION.

Elaborate Ceremonies Mark the Driving of the First Stake.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 4.—Just four months from the date of the organization of the exposition company the first stake of the World's fair, to be held in this city in 1903 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana purchase, was driven today on the site at Forest park. Officers and directors of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company, municipal officers and others assembled this forenoon on the site near the structural center of the grounds and there the stake was driven by William H. Thompson, president of the Bank of Commerce, in his official capacity of chairman of the committee on grounds and buildings.

President David R. Francis of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company, C. W. Walbridge, representing the committee on ceremonies, and President Hiram Phillips of the Board of Public Improvements made addresses. At the conclusion of the ceremonies the stake, which had been specially prepared for the occasion, was withdrawn for preservation and a stake ordinarily used by surveyors substituted for it.

According to the plans adopted by the commission of architects, the principal buildings—agricultural, mines and minerals, fisheries, transportation and fine arts—will be built on foundation lines radiating from the point where the first stake was driven.

## COMES THE MASTERS' WAY.

Steel Strike Develops More Gains for the Trust Operator.

PITTSBURG, PA., Sept. 4.—Developments today in the steel strike show decided gains for the manufacturers. The accession of thirty-two skilled men to the Star plant, the increased production at the Painter and the Lindsay & McCutcheon mills, the defection from the strikers' ranks of seventy-five machinists and pipe cutters at the Continental Tube works and fifty at the Pennsylvania Tube works, the importation of twelve men to the Monessen Steel Hoop mill and the installation of three mills on the night turn at the Clark mill all point to an early resumption all along the line, as viewed by the steel officials.

The Amalgamated officials, however, make the claim that everything is progressing satisfactorily and say that much of the supposed advantage of the manufacturers is bluff and cannot be made good. As an instance they cite the Lindsay & McCutcheon plant, where the company claims to have as many men at work as they can accommodate.

## FRANCE KEEPS A BOLD FRONT.

Refuses to Yield Its Demands Upon the Sultan.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 4.—Munir Bey, Turkish ambassador to France, wired the porte on Saturday that he had strong hopes that a settlement of the Franco-Turkish difficulty would be reached which would preserve the dignity of both governments.

M. Delcasse, French minister of foreign affairs, on the contrary, wired M. Bapst, councillor of the French embassy, categorical instructions to take no steps to show that the relations between the two countries were modified.

For Violation of Game Law.

DES MOINES, Sept. 4.—Judge N. M. Hubbard of Cedar Rapids and Judge H. H. Timble of Keokuk were arrested at Ledyard, Kossuth county, by Deputy Game Warden Murphy, charged with violating the game law. They were tried before a justice of the peace, who reserved decision until he could look up the law. Judge Hubbard acted as counsel for himself and Judge Timble.

First Stake on State Fair Site.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 4.—Under the direction of Chief Architect Isaac S. Taylor, a party of surveyors, whose duty it will be to run the lines of the buildings erected on the World's fair site in Forest park, will drive the first stake of the Louisiana Purchase Centennial exposition today. This survey is necessary to determine accurately the space available for the structures.

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## NEBRASKA GROWS CORN

Hon. James Wilson Invited to Come and be Convinced.

## THE FINEST EXHIBIT OF THE YEAR

This Vigorous Young State a Very Important Part of the Corn Belt—Coming Back to "God's Country"—Miscellaneous Nebraska Matters.

LINCOLN, Sept. 4.—The following message was sent by telegraph to James E. Wilson, secretary of agriculture, at Washington:

"The Nebraska State Board of Agriculture sends greeting and cordially requests your presence at the finest agricultural exhibits shown in the United States during the year 1901.

"E. L. VANCE, President."

"It has been demonstrated that Nebraska is a very important part of the corn belt," said a member of the board, referring to the message, "and we want the man who said the state was not in the corn belt to come here and be convinced of his error. If Mr. Wilson comes to Lincoln he will see corn that is not excelled in any state in the union and we will have no difficulty in proving that both in acreage and yield Nebraska occupies a position pretty near the top of the column."

The sending of the message was the result of a conference of the board of agriculture, held soon after the state fair gates closed Monday. It was unanimously agreed that the agricultural and live stock exhibits at the fair surpass all previous efforts in this state. Claims of this nature have been made during the last two or three days, but they were generally thought by the public to be exaggerated. Now the board has reaffirmed the claim and went still further by sending the enthusiastic message to Secretary Wilson.

Back to God's Country.

OMAHA, Sept. 4.—The man who left Nebraska twenty-one years ago looking for a better place to live has been heard from and he wants to come back. His name is Charles F. Adelman of Socorro, N. M., and he writes the following plaintive note to J. Francis, general passenger agent of the Burlington:

"I have seen an ad. in the Corn Belt, 'Where Shall I go in Nebraska?' and this is just what a few friends of mine and I would like to know. We have been here now over twenty-one years and want to get back to God's country again. We used to live in Omaha, Columbus and Madison, from 1872 to 1879, but there the land is high now. Will you please mail me a few of your new books, 'The Nebraska Grazing Country'?"

Mr. Adelman's request for information about God's country has been granted and, if nothing unforeseen occurs, it is probable that Nebraska will receive a few more settlers, despite the drouth stories so freely bandied about by the yellow journals.

Requisition for Owen E. Mason.

LINCOLN, Sept. 4.—A requisition on the governor of Colorado for the return of Owen E. Mason, who is wanted in Tecumseh to answer to the charge of embezzlement, was issued by Governor Savage. Mason is accused of stealing \$60 from the treasury of the Tecumseh lodge of the Knights of Maccabees. It is alleged that he took the money while it was in his possession as record keeper of the lodge.

M. S. Pollard is Commander.

CAMBRIDGE, Neb., Sept. 4.—The Southwest District Grand Army of the Republic Reunion association elected these officers: Commander, M. S. Pollard; vice commander, A. G. Keyes; junior vice commander, John Gany-mill; quartermaster, W. W. Borland, chaplain, Rev. O. R. Beebe. The elective officers constitute the administrative council. The reunion will be in

Blair Refunds Its Debt.

BLAIR, Neb., Sept. 4.—At a special meeting of the city council last night \$20,000 of water refunding bonds and \$5,000 of city court house bonds, which have been drawing 7 per cent for fifteen years, were sold to Mathieson Bros., retired merchants of this city, on their own bid at 4 per cent, par.

Sowing Wheat at Beaver Crossing.

BEAVER CROSSING, Neb., Sept. 4.—The farmers are sowing fall wheat. The seed bed is in the finest condition it has been for many years, and the acreage will be large.

Third Trip to the Philippines.

LINCOLN, Sept. 4.—Lieut. R. B. McConnell, formerly of the State university, will sail for the Philippines on his third trip to the islands on September 15. Lieutenant McConnell first went out with Company H, First regiment. He was first sergeant. Afterwards he enlisted with the Thirty-ninth infantry and after his company was mustered out returned to Nebraska. Two weeks ago he passed his examination.

## FINDS BOGUS SODA FLAVORS.

Artificial Compound is Made to Take the Place of Vanilla.

The chemist and the prevention of sale of adulterated and impure food have put their rejected brand on another favorite beverage. Patrons of the soda fountain who have been taught to ask for lemon or vanilla flavoring, for the alleged reason that those sirups were less liable than others to adulteration, will be surprised at the assertion that there is no extract for which substitutes are more often used than vanilla. This is said on the authority of the Massachusetts board of health. The true vanilla bean costs from \$12 to \$16 per pound, and were there no substitute it could not be used so freely and so extensively as at present. Vanilla, the active property of the extract, can be made from other substances at a cost of about \$2 per gallon. The artificial compound is chemically identical with the vanilla found in the true vanilla extract and therefore has come to be used extensively by manufacturers and dealers. It has been made for commercial purposes from turpentine, but more satisfactory results are obtained from oil of cloves or benzoic acid, and it is now extracted chiefly from these. It is considered harmless when taken in small quantities and has been found to possess certain medicinal properties. Experiments on frogs with large quantities have, however, caused spinal convulsions. There is some comfort for confirmed soda water drinkers, and a general warning for others, in the further statement by the Massachusetts authorities that the metallic contamination of the water used in a glass of soda is far more detrimental to health than any adulteration of the flavoring sirup.—Chicago Chronicle.

## A SPORTING PARSON.

He Boldly Declares That Betting is Not Intrinsically Sinful.

In a recent issue of the London Church Times a Church of England clergyman, signing himself "Sporting Parson," has a long letter, in which he asks whether gambling is really a sin, and comes to the conclusion that it is not. To drink wine or beer in moderation is not, he says, a sin, neither is gambling conducted in the same way and within one's means. As an undergraduate he used to attend Newmarket out of sheer love of horse-flesh, and at the university steeplechases he and his friends frequently made bets, and the reckoning up of their gains and losses added much to the fun of the day. Same with cards—always for small sums. When ordination came round, and he had to make his first confession, he had many grave sins to admit, but he did not regard them as breaches of the commandments. The "Sporting Parson" grants, however, that a great deal of play may be justly discouraged on the ground of its being a fatuous if not a ridiculous and contemptible amusement, and therefore deleterious in the same way as it is deleterious to eat the skins of baked potatoes the hurt of one's digestion. Let us (he concludes) do all we can to check the evils of gambling, but do not let zeal outrun discretion and say that to bet is intrinsically sinful, as that is not true, and no cause, however good, can be really helped forward by anything that is untrue or even exaggerated.

## NEWEST FOOD WHIM.

Vital Stuff is the Sort to Take into Your System.

We are told that in order properly to support life it is essential to feed on vital food. By vital food, apparently, is meant food that in some sort lives. Nothing must be cooked, for "fire destroys life;" but anything may be sun-dried, for "the sun imparts life." All meat is rigorously excluded from this new dietary, on the ground that flesh implies the loss of life to the animal, and therefore, by metaphorical implication, to the man who consumes it. But on this theory it would surely be permissible to eat, for instance, fresh oysters. As they have a larger share of vital force than, shall we say, a cabbage stalk, they ought to impart a greater degree of vital force to their consumer. The chief merit of this strange system lies in the necessity it lays upon its supporters to consume large quantities of fruit. It is probable that the ordinary man's diet would, from the point of view of health, be greatly improved if he ate something like 20 times as much fruit as he does.

## Farmhand Goes for a Fortune.

Peter N. Oague, a farmhand who has worked near Piedmont, S. D., for several years, left for Denmark, to take possession of his share of a fortune amounting to \$11,000,000. For 20 years relatives of the man have been looking for him. He dropped his last name when he came to America and was known as Peter Nelson. By accident he learned of his good fortune. He showed important papers proving his identity. He is related to some of the wealthiest men in Denmark, including some of the officers of the army. After he had purchased his ticket here for Denmark he was nearly penniless.

## Showman Punished for Faking.

A mob at Wichita, Kan., wrecked the tent of Hi Ki, a wild man, because he didn't eat raw liver, as the bills said he would do. And a local police judge upheld the act, on the ground that when people pay out good money to see a man eat raw liver, they have the right to see him eat raw liver or know the reason why.

About 10,000 letters of local origin for local delivery are sent to the dead letter office from the Chicago postoffice every month.