

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 7, NO. 35

Lincoln, Nebraska, September 13, 1907

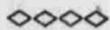
Whole Number 347

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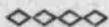
Next Tuesday will be held the first election in the new state of Oklahoma. The democrats of the new state offer a ticket made up of splendid men who are standing upon a platform that means something for the people. The republicans are opposing the adoption of the new state constitution, the only objection to it being that it confers too many powers upon the people themselves and restricts the opportunities of trusts and corporations to exploit the people. Secretary Taft opposed its adoption, one ground being that it conferred the right of trial by jury in all cases of contempt arising from the violation of injunctions. Naturally enough the corporations, and especially the transportation companies oppose the constitution because of this provision, and because of the further provision that it confers upon the people the right to protect themselves against the encroachments of the corporations. The republican leaders are opposing the adoption of the constitution because its adoption means an end to the territorial government which has afforded them such rich political picking. The democrats have taken the people into their confidence and have waged an open fight based upon the plain statement of democratic principles, and they are confident of success.



"THE FIRST IN IMPORTANCE"

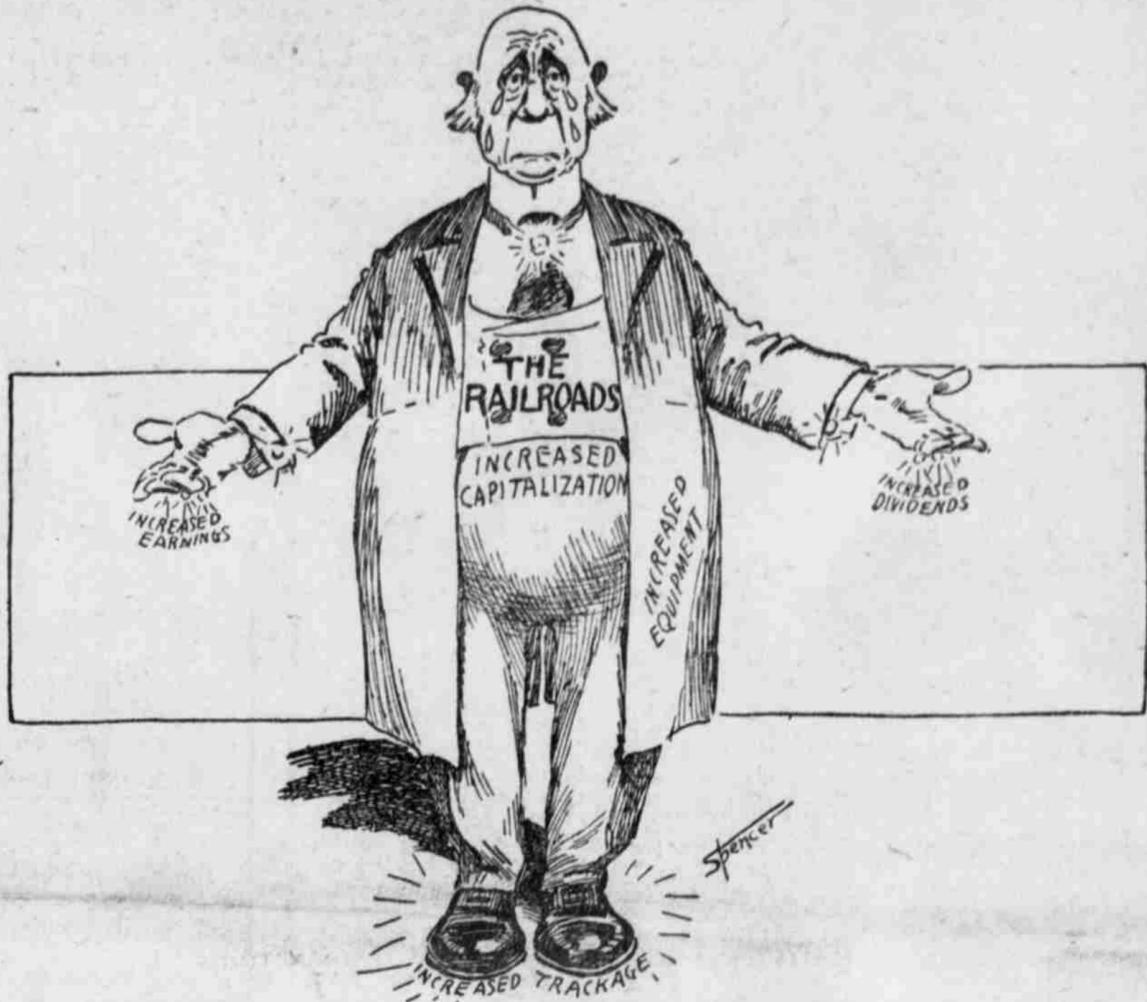
Speaking at Portland, Ore., Secretary Taft said: "The administration of Theodore Roosevelt stands out distinctly and sharply for four or five different issues. The first in importance, possibly, is the regulation of our interstate commerce railways by government supervision and control."

Mr. Taft neglected to say that "the first in importance" was proposed in three consecutive democratic national platforms, the republican platforms being silent on the subject.



TEXAS

Texas has driven the harvester trust out of the state. It is just such "hardships" that "national incorporation" is intended to prevent, and that is the reason why national incorporation will not be popular with the people when it is understood.



"THIS ANTI-RAILROAD AGITATION IS SIMPLY RUINING ME!"

MR. BRYAN IN OKLAHOMA

Mr. Bryan delivered several speeches in the Oklahoma campaign which campaign terminates Tuesday, September 17, when the election will take place. On the first day he spoke at Vinita, Tulsa, and Sepulpa, Indian Territory; at Bristol, Chandler and Oklahoma City, Okla. On the second day he spoke at Woodward and Alva, Oklahoma.

Concerning Mr. Bryan's speech at Oklahoma City the Associated Press said:

"Ten thousand persons heard William J. Bryan here tonight reply to the recent address of Secretary of War Taft upon the Oklahoma-Indian Territory political situation, in convention hall, and 3,000 persons, unable to secure admittance to the auditorium, attended an overflow meeting nearby. Mr. Bryan was enthusiastically received."

An abstract of Mr. Bryan's speech at Oklahoma City follows:

Secretary Taft, in his speech made in this territory a few days ago advises the people to reject the proposed constitution and postpone statehood until another enabling act can be secured. At first blush one might suspect that the secretary's advice was due to his personal interest in the next election. He might be accused of advising the postponement of statehood with a view to keeping seven electoral votes out of the democratic column, but the more generous view taken in the matter is that

his advice resulted from his habits of thought. He is inclined to postpone everything. He promises to acquire the title of The Great Postponer. In a speech made not long ago at Columbus, Ohio, he announced himself as in favor of tariff reform, but he would postpone it until after the next election. He also made an elaborate argument in favor of the income tax, but he would postpone it indefinitely. He agreed with the president in regard to the wisdom of an inheritance tax, but that, too, he would postpone until a more convenient season. He did not seriously object to the valuation of railroads, but he did not declare for it immediately. He is on his way to the Philippines to tell the Filipinos that, while he thinks they ought to have self-government after while, he wants it postponed for the present. It is not strange, therefore, that he should yield to his ruling spirit in the matter of statehood and tell you to put it off.

He holds out the hope of another enabling act, but what assurance can he give that a republican congress will act immediately to bring in a democratic state just before a presidential election? You have been struggling for statehood for some fifteen years and now when it is within your grasp, he asks you to exchange a certainty for the delusive promise of another chance. Does he control the congress to such an extent that he can guarantee immediate action? The two senators from his own state do

See That This Copy of the Commoner Gets in the Hands of Some Oklahoma Voter