

"PERFIDY AND DISHONOR"

Those members of congress who thought they had Mr. Bryan muzzled on the surrender of free wool can not derive much comfort from the utterances he puts forward in The Commoner after he has had a week or so to think it over. He makes good his promise not to advocate a bolt of the caucus or a vote against the Underwood bill; but he makes it very clear that he deprecates the retreat from this time-honored democratic doctrine.

Democrats have reason to regret, he says, "that the committee abandoned the free wool principle, and still more reason to regret that a democratic caucus indorsed the committee's action." If the democratic party can be scared by the bleat of a sheep, he says, "what will it do when it hears the bellow of the bulls and the growl of the bears on Wall street?" He pronounces it "a step backward, at a time when the tariff reform sentiment of the country is moving forward."

It is hardly fair to Mr. Bryan to say that he merely criticises, as has been charged, but proposes nothing positive. He does propose something, for he says that free wool would be better for the party to adopt. He would have the party not be deceived by the sophistical advice to adapt the house legislation to what it is thought the republican senate would pass, but to show the country what it may expect of the democratic party if it should come into full power—not concessions to the protected interests, but redemption of pledges and relief for the consumer.

Mr. Bryan is also honest enough to repudiate wholly the dishonest pretense that the wool tariff is retained because of the revenue extremities of the treasury. He knows, as well as everybody else knows, that this is a palpable fraud. You can defend every protective tariff in that way, he says; and he characterizes the plea of revenue necessity as "absurd." It is a "specious" argument, he says, and will not deceive either the consumer or the country. "If the democratic party is to be of real service to public interests rather than the slave of special interests," Mr. Bryan says, "it will be controlled by the voice and conscience of the rank and file and in accordance with the party's principles."

Mr. Bryan's conduct in this matter is above reproach. He does not use any violent or unkind words or resort to exuberant oratory, but he tells the truth about the surrender on free wool in restrained and simple language, which make his meaning clear without vituperation or abuse. It seems a far cry from his youthful ardor of expression to this well-poised statesmanlike mood; and it is both an impressive and a pathetic thought that if Grover Cleveland were alive today, this utterance of Mr. Bryan could hardly fail to draw these two great democrats together; for it was precisely upon just such a betrayal of democratic principles as this (though the malefactors of Mr. Cleveland's time did not dare to tamper with free wool) that drew from him the letter in which he characterized the surrender of free raw materials as an act of "perfidy and dishonor."—Indianapolis Star.

EVEN UP

The Richmond (Virginia) Times-Dispatch continues to burden Governor Wilson with its support, but Leslie's Weekly has recently denounced the governor and that may be an offset to the Virginia handicap.

What is the democratic congress going to do on the trust question? Are there any "revenue necessities" that make it necessary to keep silent while the supreme court repeals the criminal clause of the anti-trust law?

HERE'S A HARD ONE

To the editor of the New York World: With regard to the recall of United States senators or representatives, would any business man, house or corporation hesitate or delay one moment to recall an agent or "drummer" who did not properly, truly or honestly represent their interests, whether it was a matter of dollars and cents or a question of public policy? I guess not. JUNIUS. Stonington, Conn., June 18.

WRITE YOUR SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN

A democrat who has ever been true to democratic principles writing to Mr. Bryan from Washington, D. C., says: "I am truly delighted with The Commoner of June 16th and the previous week, wherein you discuss the tariff question, the wool schedule, and caucus action. I want you to know I am in hearty accord with you in those views. Your utterances just preceding our caucus on the wool schedule met my hearty approval. Of course, as a citizen you were right in raising a voice of warning against the step in favor of protectionism, which was taken by the caucus. Nobody seemed to howl when those representing the protection interests in behalf of the wool growers and wool manufacturers were quietly getting in their work here, but when a citizen and friend of the people spoke out, these sympathizing with protection complained violently. Of course, I voted for free wool in the caucus. It is the democratic position. Now let me assure you advisedly that there is hatching and will be pressed in every state, a propaganda to put a "REVENUE DUTY" (as the protectionists will call it) on wool, lumber, iron ore, coal, and some other items. The conspiracy is to have the next national democratic platform to declare for such a policy. I am SURE of it. Let us raise the flag against it. In other words, the quasi democrats on the tariff intend to try to reverse the Denver platform by a specific plank repudiating those utterances. We must have a candidate for the democratic nomination for president who believes in free wool, free lumber, free iron ore, etc., and in the historic position of the democratic party. Let him not be tainted with protectionism in any kind of guise. Let us find the man who will be true to the faith. Make all aspirants spell out in honest, specific and unequivocal terms. There are strange things going on in Washington, as the above ideas will suggest. We can avert it only by finding the candidate who stands for the right principles, hoist our flag and send the information to the honest democratic voters throughout the country. That is the only forum in which to pitch the contest."

Democrats everywhere ought to make it clear to the men who assume to be democratic leaders that no conspiracy will be tolerated. They ought to make it clear to these gentlemen that the rank and file of the party intend to watch the platform builders as closely as they are watching the tariff makers.

Write to your senator and congressman and tell them about the public sentiment in your community with respect to maintaining the democratic position on the tariff question as on other questions. Ask your democratic neighbor also to write similar letters.

PROGRESS OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT

Senator Jonathan Bourne, jr., president of the national progressive republican league has given the following statement showing progress in the adoption of popular government:

The states in which the initiative and referendum have been adopted as a constitutional amendment are: Oregon, Oklahoma, Nevada, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, Arkansas and Maine. Utah has adopted an initiative and referendum which is inoperative because of failure of the legislature to enact necessary legislation.

The states in which the initiative and referendum amendment has been submitted by the legislatures but has not yet been voted upon by the people are: California, Washington, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Florida and Idaho.

The states that have adopted the Oregon plan of popular election of senators are: Oregon, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Kansas and California.

The states that have adopted the Oregon plan of popular vote for candidates for president and vice president are: Oregon, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

WATCH IT GROW

Mr. Bryan has given instructions that every new subscriber shall receive The Commoner for a period of two years (which will carry it beyond the presidential election of 1912) for the sum of one dollar. Every Commoner reader is asked to secure at least one new subscriber. Many will be able to secure more than one. Everyone, however, may render some aid in this work.

New subscribers have been sent in by Commoner readers and are as follows:

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APPRECIATED IN OHIO

Z. P. Adkins, Ohio—Inclosed find \$3.00 for which send The Commoner to the enclosed names. If I had time and space I would like to say a few words complimentary of The Commoner and all who aid in its publication and distribution. I believe it to be the ablest, the most honest and the most truthful political publication in the United States. I am an old soldier and was a Lincoln republican, now I am a Bryan democrat.