

What Fault Will You Find With These Questions?

Quincy (Ill.) Journal: We print on this page of today's Journal what has been termed Bryan's "catechism" of democratic presidential candidates.

Of course it is the business of republican editors, and some "near" republican editors, who claim now and then to be democratic, to find fault with everything that Mr. Bryan does. These republicans, and near republicans, read the so-called "catechism" and see in it Bryan as a dictator cracking the whip over a subject party.

What tommyrot all this is! Hasn't Bryan the same right to express his opinion that any other democratic editor has? He certainly has! Hasn't he the same right to express his opinion that these republicans, and near republicans, have? He certainly has.

The fact is that the habit of criticising Bryan has become chronic with these fellows, and they have to criticise him in order to feel natural or to enjoy good health.

What sensible human being can find any fault with Mr. Bryan's article as it appears in full on this page of today's Journal? That person must

be hard up for a chance to find fault who finds fault with that editorial. Read it for yourself and see how true it is, how reasonable it is, and how modestly and becomingly the whole thing is set forth.

Mr. Bryan says: "The Commoner SUGGESTS that its readers put questions to those that are in the attitude of candidates for the presidential nomination. Every student of public affairs should be able to frame his own questions; but for convenience sake AND BY WAY OF SUGGESTION, The Commoner submits some of the queries that may in all fairness be offered to every man who is regarded as a candidate for the democratic nomination. If his answers are uncertain and ambiguous, he may be set down as friendly to some particular interests. The genuine reformer is not afraid to speak out. Every candidate is, to be sure, entitled to his opinion, but the people have a right to know what it is in order that they may act intelligently when they come to choose their party's candidate for the presidency."

Is there anything unfair about this. Is there

anything foolish about it? Is there anything dictatorial about it? Is there anything in any way improper about it?

As we say, a man must be mighty hard up for a chance to find fault, who finds fault with an article as fair as this one is.

Mr. Bryan has no occasion to live the life of a dummy or of a mummy. There is no valid reason why he should not take an active part in politics and express himself as freely as he pleases. Mr. Bryan is an exceedingly capable man, and a good one, too. The position he occupies he does not owe to accident, but to commanding intellectual ability and sterling goodness of heart. Mr. Bryan is an intellectual, a moral, and a political force that must be reckoned with; and he who doesn't know this has something important yet to learn.

It is all right for republicans and near republicans to criticise Mr. Bryan in season and out of season, but democrats ought to keep their hands off part of the time. Mr. Bryan has the same right to speak his mind freely as has any other citizen of the United States; and, this right Mr. Bryan will freely exercise to the joy and the satisfaction of millions of his good friends in this country.

"ASK THE CANDIDATE"

Commoner readers everywhere are advised to submit to the various presidential candidates questions something like the following:

- 1 Question—Do you favor tariff for revenue only?
- 1 Answer
- 2 Q—Do you favor free raw material and the placing of a revenue duty only on manufactured goods?
- 2 A.....
- 3 Q—Do you believe that in the revision of the tariff the element of protection should be given consideration?
- 3 A.....
- 4 Q—Do you believe that the three branches of government are co-ordinate and that each one should keep within its constitutional sphere?
- 4 A.....
- 5 Q—Do you approve the recent Standard Oil decision wherein the United States supreme court legislated the word "unreasonable" into the Sherman anti-trust act?
- 5 A.....
- 6 Q—Do you favor the repeal of the criminal clause of the anti-trust law or do you believe that in view of supreme court legislation congress should make it clear that all restraint of trade is unreasonable?
- 6 A.....
- 7 Q—Do you favor the election of senators by the people?
- 7 A.....
- 8 Q—Do you favor the income tax?
- 8 A.....
- 9 Q—Do you believe that it is the duty of the American people to promise independence to the Filipinos immediately and to give it in the same way in which they gave independence to the Cubans?
- 9 A.....
- 10 Q—Do you believe in the publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures both before and after election day in order that the people may know in advance the

character of support each party and candidate receives?

- 10 A.....
- 11 Q—Are you willing that the source of every dollar of contribution made to your campaign fund either after your nomination or during the contest for the nomination shall be made public prior to election day?
- 11 A.....
- 12 Q—Do you believe in the support of the state governments in all their rights?
- 12 A.....
- 13 Q—Do you indorse the labor planks of the 1908 platform?
- 13 A.....
- 14 Q—Do you believe in the strict regulation of railroads?
- 14 A.....
- 15 Q—Do you indorse the democratic platform of 1908 respecting trusts wherein it declares that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable" and presents a remedy?
- 15 A.....
- 16 Q—Do you approve the plan known as the Aldrich currency scheme?
- 16 A.....
- 17 Q—Do you favor asset currency in any form?
- 17 A.....
- 18 Q—Do you believe in the establishment of what is known as a central bank?
- 18 A.....
- 19 Q—Do you favor legislation compelling banks to insure depositors?
- 19 A.....

Let democrats everywhere ask questions and secure answers, thus finding out just what every candidate stands for. In this way democrats may be able to determine with some degree of intelligence as to the available candidate.

The Commoner will be glad to print the replies made to these questions by gentlemen whose names have been mentioned in connection with the democratic presidential nomination.

Mont.; H. M. Chitwood, La.; J. P. Spohr, Pa.; J. P. Law, W. Va.; Mrs. E. D. Hurst, Neb.; J. W. Benear, Kan.; B. C. Bradshaw, Mo.; Jno. Shea, Mo.; Mrs. Jno. Elliott, Mo.; J. T. Scott, Pa.; B. A. Kirchner, Ia.; Jno. Simpson, Ia.; S. W. Denson, Mont.; Wm. G. Hinze, Ill.; Dan'l. Jones, Ia.; Homer Abell, Mo.; G. C. Martin, Fla.; J. W. Kilgore, O.; H. Cramps, Pa.; C. E. Blydenburg, N. Y.; W. H. Ruvey, N. C.; Frank Hammer, Ida.; A. L. Back, Wash.; R. T. Thompson, O.; W. K. Bortleson, Fla.; J. Edwin Wood, Va.; J. C. Custer, Mo.; Austin Colglazier, Ind.; C. E. French, Colo.; G. C. Shaw, Ky.; E. G. Harn, Neb.; J. Kensinger, Jr., Cal.; J. F. Fassett, Cal.; Al. Zeigler, Pa.; E. M. Taylor, Wis.; C. C. Cannon, Ia.; Eli Gerber, Ind.; J. A. Allen, Ind.; Chas. H. Ketchan, N. Y.; S. J. Jenson, Ia.; S. P. White, Ky.; B. B. Workman, O.; Chas. J. Van Stralen, Wash.; L. L. Ray, Ky.; F. E. Corachels, N. D.; J. B. Williams, O.; M. E. Shepler, Ia.; E. C. Perkins, Wis.; W. H. Reedy, W. Va.; Jno. J. Keating, Ill.; A. J. Waldberry, N. Y.; Silas K. Germond, N. Y.; A. A. Paul, Cal.; A. V. Mounce, Ida.; Gilbert Faber, Ill.; M. L. Norton, Tex.; H. W. Graham, Ind.; F. H. Heydon, Minn.; F. W. Partridge, Minn.; W. J. Sellers, Ky.; F. M. Wilson, Pa.; J. J. Reiter, Minn.; C. C. Davidson, Mo.; M. L. Boyd, O.; P. W. Whatley, La.; C. E. Pullin, W. Va.; Jos. E. Shufelt, Fla.; Jno. Mickelson, Ida.; W. G. Epley, Pa.; T. H. Burgess, Mo.; F. F. Plouf, Minn.; F. H. Spon, Wash.; Wm. Reedy, Kan.; A. H. White, Okla.; Stephen F. Beer, O.; J. P. Brown, Ind.; R. W. Tuttle, Colo.; Grover F. Housman, O.; D. G. Foster, Ill.; Erasmus Peterson, Neb.; R. D. Robinson, Mo.; C. J. Nagy, Ia.; Mace Parrietta, Ia.; C. F. Michael, Conn.; H. E. Wilson, Neb.; A. M. Smith, Kan.; C. Cooper, Ill.; L. Phenix, D. C.; A. B. Moores, O.; Chas. H. Bush, Ind.; F. T. North, Kan.; H. Vinceton, Pa.; Cyrus E. Fink, Ind.; A. M. Brown, Okla.; I. W. Enman, Ind.; Jno. N. Shaw, Ill.; J. H. Byran, Cal.; Robt. Weirs, Md.; W. A. Pixlee, Wash.; B. F. Johnson, Ind.; Jno. Shelley, Ore.; J. E. Anderson, Ia.; D. E. McClelland, Ia.; Dr. D. L. Mitchell, Minn.; G. M. Morriset, Wis.; Geo. H. Burkhalter, Kan.; J. E. Penny, O.; J. R. Churchill, O.; C. L. Maloy, Ia.; Albert White, Nev.; F. H. Goff, Tex.; I. E. De Shazo, Cal.; L. M. Montgomery, Ind.; M. D. Dodez, Ill.; Jno. McConough, O.; J. B. Shilhouse, Va.; Wesley B. Frey, Wis.; W. W. Palmer, Kan.; Eli Pringle, Ind.; A. A. Ayars, N. J.; T. Layton, Ill.; G. H. Gray, Ia.; W. Gillilan, Wis.; Wm. Penlsten, Kan.; T. H. Aakhus, Minn.; M. C. Coplen, Ind.; W. A. Wells, Ore.; W. S. Siers, W. Va.; C. T. Black, Tex.; C. Scott, Ia.; J. H. Ball, Tex.; W. J. Dent, Miss.; Alfred Dicus, Colo.; R. J. Fernandez, P. I.; Wm. P. Gregg, N. J.; Frank Roberts, N. Y.; Marlin Grass, N. Y.; Theo. C. Swenson, Wis.; Ole C. Olson, Ida.; J. P. Calvin, La.; M. L. Fuller, La.; Albert A. Mann, Colo.; Thos. Houghton, Ind.; R. Q. Baker, Fla.; H. A. Hughes, Ariz.; B. S. Hinds, Colo.; E. V. Blystone, Pa.; J. P. Quinlan, Colo.; J. M. B. Catron, Va.; L. B. Sanborn, O.; A. F. Seagmiller, Ida.; M. D. Spencer, Kan.; C. E. McCulloch, N. C.; E. M. Parker, Cal.