

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.
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MR. BRYAN SEES THE LIGHT.
 In last week's issue of the Commoner Mr. Bryan advocates what the Kicker advocated in its first issue nearly three years ago. He advocates government ownership of railroads and telegraphs and the municipal ownership of street railways, lighting plants, water works and all the things that the people must use in common and which are now monopolized by organized greed. Speaking of the public ownership of railroads, Mr. Bryan says:

"I have heretofore refused to take a position upon the question of the government ownership of railroads, first, because I had not until recently studied the subject, and second, because the question had not been reached. Recent events have convinced me that the time is now ripe for the presentation of this question. Consolidation after consolidation has taken place until a few men now control the railroad traffic of the country and defy both the legislative and the executive power of the nation. I invite the Democrats, therefore, to consider a plan for the government ownership and operation of the railroads.

"The plan usually suggested is for the purchase of these roads by the federal government. This plan, it seems to me, is more objectionable than a plan which involves the ownership and operation of these roads by the several states. To put the railroads in the hands of the federal government would mean an enormous centralization of power. It would give to the federal government a largely increased influence over the citizen and the citizen's affairs, and such centralization is not at all necessary. The several states can own and operate the railroads within their borders just as effectively as it can be done by the federal government, and if it is done by the states the objection based upon the fear of centralization is entirely answered. A board composed of representatives from the various states could deal with interstate traffic just as freight and passenger boards now deal with the joint traffic of the various lines. If the federal government had the railroads to build there would be a constant warring between different sections to secure a fair share of the new building and development, but when this is left to the state the people in each state can decide what railroads they desire to build or to buy. The maintenance of the track, the care of the stations, the handling of incoming and outgoing freight and passengers—all these things require the employment of men, and if the employment is left to state authorities instead of to national authorities, most of the objections that have been raised to government ownership will be answered.

The question of public ownership will not down. As the Kicker has repeatedly asserted, either the government must own the railroads and other public service corporations, or else the railroads and other public service corporations will soon own the people. Now take your choice. It is the public service corporations that debauch our public servants and threaten the very existence of popular government. Enumerating the various objections to private ownership, Mr. Bryan says further:

"Another objection to the private ownership of railroads has been forced upon me with increasing emphasis during the last few years, namely, the corrupting influence of these great railway corporations over the young professional men of the country. The railroads have lawyers in every county and general attorneys at every state capital. These men stand high in their profession and are usually men of character. Their connection with the railroad has in many instances made them not merely the attorneys for the road in legal matters, but lobbyists for the road in political matters. These men have controlled conventions, dictated nominations, written platforms and so shaped appointments that the masses have been ignored and their interests disregarded. The United States senate today contains so many men who are obliged to the railroads that it has been impossible to secure an amendment of the interstate commerce law, although for years the interstate commerce commission composed of both Republicans and Democrats, has been pleading for an amendment.

And it is so. The corporation lawyers, aided by the tin-horn lawyer-politicians of the various counties who do their bidding, have been running the politics of the country for years—and a pretty mess they have made of it. At the national convention at St. Louis corporation lawyers were in full control. At the state convention at Jefferson City, against overwhelming odds, they succeeded in lauding their tools—Cook and Allen—on the Democratic ticket.

Neither Cook nor Allen had within fifty of enough instructed delegates to elect them, and many of those instructed threatened to bolt, but the representatives of the corporations that these officials had served so well, managed to bring about "harmony."

It's a great system of government, this government by trusts—and thieves.

WALBRIDGE FOR GOVERNOR.
 REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.
 Governor—Cyrus P. Walbridge.
 Lieut. Gov.—John C. McKinley.
 Secretary of State—J. E. Swanger.
 Auditor—H. W. Wilder.
 Treasurer—J. F. Gmelich.
 Attorney Gen.—Herbert S. Hadley.
 Railroad Com'r.—F. Wightman.

The "business interests" of St. Louis that have been running things in Missouri for the past quarter of a century have nominated Cyrus P. Walbridge as Mr. Folk's opponent for the governorship.

Ed Butler's paper and Billy Barnes' paper have each bolted Folk and declared for Walbridge. This would appear encouraging were it not for the fact that Butler, aided by the police machine and the election commissioners, can produce any desired result in St. Louis.

That the Republican and Democratic machines work hand-in-glove in Missouri as in the nation admits of no doubt. Two years ago, when a fusion had been agreed on between the Republicans and Public Ownership parties in St. Louis to defeat the Democratic ringsters, the state chairman of the Republican committee took a hand.

Mind you, this was a local fight, confined to the city of St. Louis. Republican and Public Ownership voters were alike disfranchised by the workings of the Indians and the police machine. Hence they agreed to pool their strength and overthrow the ringsters.

Why, acting under orders from the Democratic machine the chairman of the Republican state committee called a meeting of his committee and unseated a majority of the members of the St. Louis city committee who had been duly elected by the Republicans of St. Louis and APPOINTED men in their places who were opposed to fusion.

This action was without precedent and in violation of law. They had no more right to unseat the central committee of St. Louis than the Democratic state committee would have a right to come down here and unseat the central committee of Scott county.

But they did it. And their action was sustained by the Butler-Seibert supreme court.

COCKRELL WANTS HARMONY.
 Senator Cockrell is the one man responsible for the nominations of Cook and Allen. Only for him the Democrats of the state would have a clean ticket in the field today. He wanted harmony. And he figured that if the Folk forces took half of the jobs and the machine got the other half, all would be satisfied.

THE CONLAN CASE.
 The arrest of J. V. Conran of New Madrid in St. Louis last week on a charge of forgery caused quite a sensation among his many friends and acquaintances in Southeast Missouri. About the facts in the case the Kicker knows nothing. However, it seems reasonable to presume that there is a mistake or misunderstanding somewhere.

Mrs. M. H. Powell, a widow, sold her dower to farm lands and city property in New Madrid to Mr. Conran. She claims that she was to receive monthly payments during her life time and that Mr. Conran so altered the deed as to make the consideration a lump sum of \$1000. Of this deed the New Madrid Missourian says:

"The writer closely examined the original deed in question and saw no signs of erasures or changes of any kind. The words 'one thousand' were written plainly and showed no signs of having been changed. Our citizens were shocked upon hearing of this charge against Mr. Conran, and the universal opinion was that surely there had been a mistake made and that Mr. Conran was not guilty of such a crime. Certainly the charge of altering the deed can be easily disproved by anyone who may see the instrument. It shows no sign of having been changed in any manner."

While Jim Conran will "do things" in politics the Kicker is not ready to believe that he would act dishonestly in a business transaction. He comes of one of the oldest and best families of New Madrid county, and is personally pleasant and popular.

The worst that can be said of him is that he is a lawyer and a strong supporter of the state machine.

HE WANTS TO KNOW.
 Referring to the Kicker's comments on the Speed-Lyons-Cook bribery transaction, a Sikeston subscriber writes to know who got the \$800 paid by Speed. He calls attention to the fact that only Speed, Lyons and Cook were present at the time of the transaction and while all admit that Speed paid the money, Lyons denied receiving it. Howrites: "I have seen no denial by Cook that he got the \$800. Speed says he paid it, and Lyons says he did not receive it, so who did get the money? Cook, if you will read his statements closely, does not say that Lyons got the \$800."

My friend is evidently trying to pry into the "confidential affairs" of the Democratic party. These fellows do not post it on bill boards who got the money. That Senator Lyons would deny getting it is perfectly natural. And Cook would deny his presence at the deal had not the grand jury got Dick Speed in a tight place and pumped it out of him.

And this same hoodler, Dick Speed, was honored with the position of assistant sergeant-at-arms at the present state convention that so violently denounced hoodling in its platform.

Mothers seldom realize what influence they exert on the discipline of the school by words dropped here and there in the presence of their children. Obedient, faithful, trustful children in school but reflect the home relations. On the other hand, indifference, indolence and sometimes insolence on the part of a pupil may often be traced to weak discipline or wrong teaching at home. Happy the school and fortunate the children when home and school influences supplement each other in fixing correct habits of obedience, of trustful and hopeful relations.

THE PRIZE-WINNING LIE.
 Very few of the Sam Cooked newspapers make any attempt at a defense of his rotten record, but, with an eye single on the constitutional amendments money they expect to draw from the state treasury next winter, they tell the people that Cook is a capable officer and a loyal Democrat.

The Mexico Intelligencer is said to be Sam Cook's property. Last week it attempted an "explanation" that didn't explain. Of it the Post-Dispatch says:

"In the Daily Intelligencer of Mexico, Mo., James Newton Baskett writes a column and a half to explain in favor of Secretary of State Cook the opposition of the metropolitan dailies to Mr. Cook's candidacy. Referring to the Post-Dispatch, Mr. Baskett says:

"As to the Post-Dispatch, its case is simple. Mr. Cook, on the state board of equalization of taxes, simply saw that it was paying on a valuation which was cheating the people out of taxes, and he had it raised. That's all."

"This is a prize-winning campaign lie. The state board of equalization has nothing to do with the assessment of the Post-Dispatch's property. The Post-Dispatch holds no franchises nor special privileges, and its property is assessed as other personal and real property, by the assessor in the City of St. Louis."

"But even if this were true, what bearing would it have on the facts about Mr. Cook? It would not explain away the fact that Mr. Cook was admittedly a participant in a boodle deal. It would not do away with the fact that Mr. Cook advised his friend Speed, then coal oil inspector of St. Louis, in the payment of \$800 to Senator Lyons to suppress a legislative bill reducing the compensation of Mr. Speed's office. It would not excuse Mr. Cook before a grand jury, if the statute of limitation had not run, as an accessory to the crime of bribery, and for having concealed guilty knowledge of that crime. It does not justify Mr. Cook's services to the franchise corporations, whose assessments are determined by the board of equalization. It does not clear him of the charge that he has acted as an ally of the corrupt lobby and as a lobbyist in promoting bills through the legislature by bribery. It does not excuse his violation of the corrupt practices act in taking campaign contributions from corporation attorneys and lobbyists, and concealing the source thereof."

"Mr. Cook's record is sufficient ground for the opposition to his candidacy of all honest men in Missouri, and no kind of misrepresentation will divert public attention from the facts."

The above excerpt is taken from the editorial columns of the Post-Dispatch. I want to call the reader's attention to it that the P.-D. does not mince words. Its charges are positive and direct. It says: "Mr. Cook was admittedly a PARTICIPATOR IN A BOODLE DEAL."

How could language be made any plainer? And the Post-Dispatch is responsible! All along the Sam Cooked organs shouted: "Why don't Folk bring suit against the St. Louis World if its charges against him are not true?" The Kicker explained why Mr. Folk would have no show in the courts with the World. Will the Sam Cooked organs please explain why Mr. Cook does not file suit against the Post-Dispatch? Unlike Mr. Folk, Mr. Cook has the courts and the machine at his back. In a legal battle with the P.-D. Mr. Cook would have every advantage—except that the charges made by the Post-Dispatch are based upon Mr. Cook's own admissions.

CLEARING SALE!
 In order to reduce our stock and make room for our new fall line which has already begun to come in, we are going to sell goods cheaper than they were ever sold in Scott county.

JUST A SPECIMEN.
 21 lbs. of Sugar for \$1.00
 Calico, per yard - Four Cents
 Shoes at 25% off regular price.

Good Smoked Bacon, 10c per lb.
 Clothing of all kinds 25% less than regular price.

It will pay you to come 10 miles to spend \$10 at our store. If you miss this sale you lose money.

REMEMBER THE PLACE,

Dabbs & Woodward,
 VANDUSER, MO.

The St. Louis Chronicle announces that "several of our politicians are going to Rosemount-on-the-Hudson to sojourn for a while." Wonder why the farmers, in whose interest the politicians claim to labor so untiringly, never have the means nor the time to sojourn at Rosemount-on-the-Hudson, or any other summer resort. Wonder why?

The public schools of St. Louis cost last year for current expenses \$18.30 per pupil enrolled; of Kansas City, \$20.80; of St. Joseph, \$15.70; of Springfield, \$8.40; of Joplin, \$10.80; of Sedalia, \$13.20; of Hannibal, \$13.50; of Cartage, \$13.80; of Webb City, \$9.70; of Independence, 15.50; of Nevada, \$12.05; of Moberly, \$14.15. These are the twelve largest city systems in the state. The average cost in rural districts for same purposes is \$6.15 and in cities and towns is \$14.40. Including new buildings, the average cost per pupil enrolled is \$7.00 in rural districts and \$18.00 in cities and towns.

PUBLIC SALE.
 I will sell at the Andy A. Schoen place, 2 1/2 miles northeast of Benton, near Benton and Commerce road, on Thursday, August 11, 1904.
 Three work mules, brood mare, 3 cows, 3 calves, 15 shoats, 4 brood sows, 2 horse wagon, mower, wheat drill, hay rake, self binder, 2 section harrows, wheat fan, 2 3-horse plows, cultivator, corn plow, cross-cut and one-man saw, harness, hay, old corn, household and kitchen furniture and other things.
 Terms: Five dollars and under, cash; over \$5 a credit of 8 months will be given, purchaser giving 6 per cent note with approved security. No interest will be charged if paid at maturity. MARTIN P. SCHERER.

AT OUR NEW STAND
 READY FOR BUSINESS!

You will find us on the corner at Mr. Baudendistel's old stand, where we propose to please the trade by giving full value for the money. On summer goods we are offering special inducements.

Lawns that were 15c per yard go at 12 1/2c.
 " 20c " 15c
 Shoes that were \$1.50 per pair go at \$1.
 " \$2.00 " \$1.50.

And so on all along down the line of summer goods. We cannot afford to carry these goods over and must dispose of them. We want your trade and will do our best to please you.

DRURY & CO.
 KELSO, MO.

SOUTHEAST SIFTINGS.
 Howell county has a fruit farm with 65 acres in grapes and 150 in peaches. Ninety acres of the peaches are bearing and the super-abundant estimates that from 20 to 30 carloads will be shipped this year. Thirty hands are engaged in picking and packing. There are 100 trees to the acre. The vineyard is expected to produce 60,000 gallons of wine. On the premises are two wine cellars—one 25x100 and another 30x180—and casks holding 3,000 gallons each. There are 11,000 acres in the farm. Of course it is owned by New York and Chicago capitalists.

The Fredericktown Tribune, a newspaper supposed to be the property of J. E. Franklin, says that the damage suit of the Peñicor county fisherman against Mr. Franklin has not yet been decided by the higher court. If this be true, then it is a little strange that a month ago the Tribune gave to the public what was alleged to be a supreme court decision in the matter. Was that only an advance tip?

The Mississippi county delegation to the state convention wore badges on which was printed: "We are not Sam Cooked." The editor of the Charleston Enterprise was a delegate and he will have no more show of getting in on the constitutional amendments graft this fall than has the Kicker.

It is at Uncle Ben Curd's, at Morley, Where you get the greatest values FOR YOUR CASH MONEY.

TO THE PUBLIC:
 On and after August 15, 1904, I will sell only for cash, or its equivalent. I am getting too old to keep books or be annoyed with the credit system. And if you will give me your cash trade I will give you full value for your money. Those owing me will please settle either by cash or good note prior to the above date and avoid costs.

Prices on meat remain about the same. Smoked Bacon, 7 1/2 to 10c. Breakfast Bacon, 15c. Flour is a little lower in price. Call and see me.

B. S. CURD, - MORLEY.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Martin Koenig, Jr., Administrator of the estate of MARTIN Koenig, deceased, will make final settlement of his accounts with said estate on the 15th day of August, 1904, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, in the Court of the Probate Court of Scott county, Mo., in the town of Benton, in said county, Mo. All persons having claims against said estate are to present them to the undersigned on or before the date above named.
 MARTIN KOENIG, JR., Administrator.

MISSOURI STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
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 Well equipped departments in English language and literature, history, mathematics, physics, physiology, chemistry, agriculture, biology, nature study, Latin, Greek, German, French, elocution, manual training, drawing, music and pedagogy.
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