

## A Business Man for President

An editorial in the Saturday Evening Post of October 4th last made a plea for a business man for president. The appeal so touched the heart of the Simmons Hardware company that it put it in pamphlet form, the reason given being "Because these sentiments seem to us to be so thoroughly sound, so well expressed, and so entirely non-partisan, we have reproduced it in this form for the benefit of the traveling salesmen who may not have had an opportunity to read it."

The high standing of the Saturday Evening Post would in itself call attention to the editorial, and the endorsement of so prominent a business firm as the Simmons Hardware company emphasizes the importance of the subject treated. A careful perusal of the editorial, however, reveals the fact that no one is mentioned as an illustration. A good business man would not be apt to buy an article offered for sale unless he was permitted to examine a sample, and, so, in considering the merit of the Post's argument, a sample would be enlightening. What business men have the Post and the Simmons Hardware company in mind? The requirements, as stated by the Post and endorsed by the Hardware Company, are, to say the least, quite exacting. Here, for instance, is what the business man must be: "Our problems are first and last economic—that is, straight business problems—concerned with production and distribution—greater production, better distribution. Only a broad-gauged, sympathetic, common-sense, close-to-the-ground man, understanding farming and its problems, manufacturing and its problems, selling and its problems, will fit the issue. He must be a man who will play no capitalistic favorites for the sake of friendship, and no labor favorites for the sake of votes. He must be a man who will give short shrift to anyone who plays it heads-I-win, tails-you-lose. He must believe in profit-sharing and loss sharing too. He must not be afraid to go after anyone who tries to assume power without responsibility or accountability; who breaks his word or his contracts, individual or collective. Such a man's creed would be: A fair chance for all classes, and no looting of any one class for the benefit of the other. He would be an American of the Americans and concerned about what kind of men become Americans. He would give more attention to the quality of immigration than to its volume, and he would start a little involuntary emigration."

Out of some forty million voters, men and women, we ought to be able to find several persons who would, to a reasonable degree, meet the requirements of the above description. But would the Post and the Hardware man agree on the one selected? And, even if they could agree, what of the other business men? Would they endorse the selection?

Of course, the man would have to be a SUCCESSFUL business man, and successful as measured by present day standards. That is, he would have to be engaged in BIG business, for it would be humiliating for big business men to join in the support of a little business man. What big business man would the Post and the Simmons Hardware company suggest? The only business mentioned in the editorial is the steel business, and the suggestion then made is that "A manager for a steel company is not chosen because he comes from Indiana and is popular with the boys out there, etc." I wonder if Judge Gary is the dark horse? Or might it be Mr. Swift or Mr. Armour or Mr. Schwab? Or some railroad president? Or possibly, a Pullman car company official? Give us his name that we may examine his record before the convention meets. If this ideal business man is old enough to be president he has lived during an eventful period and, unless too much absorbed in business, must have taken a position on the epoch-making reforms that have been adopted.

Was he for or against election of the United States Senators by the people? The last fight against this great reform was led by that distinguished business man, Chauncey M. Depew. Was this business man's candidate for or against the income tax? A good many successful business men opposed it and insisted that the poor man should pay his own taxes and, in ad-

dition thereto, a part of the taxes that the rich ought to pay. And where does this business man stand on the currency question? The big bankers, almost to a man, opposed the currency law, and yet it has given us the best currency system we have ever had. What has he done to curb the trusts? And might it not be interesting to know the views of the Post-Hardware candidate on the subject of profiteering? Is he FOR it, or IN it or AGAINST it?

The Post and the Hardware Company seem to regard popularity "with the boys" as a fault rather than a virtue. Are we to have a new method of selecting presidents whereby the candidate will be unavailable in proportion as he is popular and available in proportion as he is unpopular? By what machinery are we to exclude the man whom the people prefer and set above the voters a man whom they dislike? Name the candidate, please; give the people a chance to look him over. Boy, page Mr. Business Man Candidate. W. J. BRYAN.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITION

The following account of Senator Fall's recent visit to the White House, and his description of the president's condition, was carried in the press dispatches:

"The whole conference was declared to have been of the most friendly nature, the president closing it with a story about an Irishman, who, when asked whether he thought the United States would take Mexico, replied: 'I think we will. It's so contagious to us.'

"At another point, when jests were being exchanged about the president's health, Mr. Wilson was said to have referred to the statement made in a letter by Senator Moses, republican, of New Hampshire, that the executive was reported to have a brain lesion.

"The president remarked," Senator Fall said, "that as a result of the conference he hoped the senator would be reassured, although he might be disappointed."

"Senator Fall gave a detailed account of the White house visit. He said Dr. Grayson received them and took them up to the president's bedroom, where Mr. Wilson shook hands with each senator.

"The president shook hands with each of us," Senator Fall continued. "He was lying in bed, flat on his back. His shoulders were propped up slightly. His bed was in a shaded portion of the room. He greeted us pleasantly and while his articulation seemed somewhat thick, during the entire conference I could understand perfectly every word he said.

"I think he was covered up to his chin, with his right arm out. I sat a little to one side and slightly below him, near a table, and he frequently turned his head to talk to me. He also reached over to the table several times of obtain papers on it."

### BOOZE AND UNREST

In so far as industrial unrest is due to the low wages it will be difficult to connect it with prohibition. If a man has difficulty in living on his wages WITHOUT liquor, what would be his condition if he spent a part of his earnings on drink?

### THE FINANCIERS' DILEMMA

The financiers are in a dilemma. To be consistent with their contentions in 1896 or to abandon them—which? That is the question. They said in 1896 that it mattered not whether the country had much money or little just so it was all good. They ridiculed the quantitative theory and swore by the melting pot test. Now they have to explain high prices and, to shield the profiteer, they are compelled to throw the blame on the INCREASED VOLUME OF MONEY. Yes, they surrender unconditionally—the quantitative theory has triumphed. But is the increased volume of money entirely to blame? No. Here are the figures from the comptroller's office:

Per capita in 1916 .....	\$39.28
Per capita in 1917 .....	45.74
Per capita in 1918 .....	50.81
Per capita in 1919 .....	53.50

The figures would account for some increase in prices, but not for the increase that has taken place since 1916. In 1913, the year before the world war, the per capita circulation was \$34.56; it is now \$53.50—less than 60 per cent increase, while prices have increased 131 per cent above the pre-war level. The profiteer must have a share of the blame.

W. J. BRYAN.

## Catechism of the Reactionary

Question. What is a reactionary in politics?  
Answer. One who objects to reforms and yearns for the "good old days" when predatory corporations pillaged without let or hindrance.

Q. To what party do the reactionaries belong?

A. Most of them are members of the Republican party; a few, however, call themselves Democrats, but they act with Republicans whenever their vote is needed to protect the predatory interests.

Q. What do the reactionaries in the Republican party do?

A. They lead it and dictate its policies in spite of the fact that a large majority of the members of the Republican party are progressive.

Q. What do the reactionaries in the Democratic party do?

A. They disgrace it by bringing suspicion upon it.

Q. Why do not the reactionaries in the Democratic party go over to the Republican party where they belong?

A. Because they know they can do the predatory interests more good by keeping progressives out of the Democratic party than they could by calling themselves Republicans.

Q. What are the reactionaries doing now?

A. They have several schemes on hand.

Q. Which is their most important scheme?

A. Turning the railroads back into private hands and giving the railway magnates the biggest private monopoly in the world.

Q. What else are they planning?

A. They want to abolish the Federal Trade Commission.

Q. Why.

A. Because it makes the predatory corporations mad by exposing them.

Q. Why does exposure make them mad?

A. Because the people will not consent to being plundered when they know what is going on and who is exploiting them.

Q. What is that noise that we hear that seems to come from the suburbs of Chicago?

A. That is the packers squealing. Their protests drown out the squealing of the hogs they are killing.

Q. Who has been investigating them?

A. The Federal Trade Commission.

Q. Does that explain why some of the reactionary republican senators are demanding investigation of the Trade Commission?

A. Yes. The reactionaries do not investigate those who plunder the people; they only investigate the committees and commissions that investigate plundering.

Q. Will the Democratic reactionaries join the Republican reactionaries in the effort to abolish the Trade Commission?

A. They want to do so, but the people may awaken before the commission can be abolished and the reactionaries go slow when the people are watching.

Q. When should the people be on the watch?

A. All the time; vigilance is the price of liberty. W. J. BRYAN.

### WHY NOT JUDGE WEBB?

On another page will be found a report of Judge Webb's first charge to a jury. It is worth reading. Judge Webb will be remembered as the North Carolina congressman who gave his name to the Webb-Kenyon law and led the fight for prohibition in the District of Columbia and for the prohibition amendment. The democrats seem to be at a loss for a presidential candidate. What's the matter with Judge Webb?

### AN UNPOPULAR SLOGAN

"We don't know where we are going but we're on the way" seems to be the platform of most of the would-be candidates for the democratic presidential nomination. It is not likely to prove a popular slogan.

### REJECTED THE LOTTERY

Great Britain has rejected the bond lottery scheme by a "smashing" majority in parliament. Good. That is a higher moral standard than Germany and France established when they made gambling in bonds a matter of patriotism.