

by direct vote of the people. We should have the initiative, referendum and recall. We should elect all our federal and United States judges and the president of these United States. We should have the privilege of making law primarily or vetoing law made by our representatives, and recalling any of our officials when it pleases the people to do so. I am for Wm. J. Bryan for presidential candidate.

F. W. Brehm, Nebraska.—I would suggest W. J. Bryan as the candidate for president. One of the planks in the platform should be against universal military training.

Chas. E. Foulke, Delaware.—I am proud of the fact of having voted for you every time I have had a chance heretofore, and say to you in all sincerity that if living I expect to have the pleasure again in 1920. That you will be the nominee and will be elected to the presidency by the largest popular vote ever cast is to my mind a foregone conclusion. The people, after a period of sixteen years, have at last awakened to the fact of your true worth and fitness as the Moses to lead them out of the wilderness of unrest into a land of peaceful content and happiness. They have been asleep a long while, but take my word for it, they are fully awake now and not only waiting another chance to put you where by all means you rightly belong—in the presidential chair. May God grant it and richly bless you and preserve your health and splendid mental faculties to us for many years to come. My voice is only one of many in this city. You have plenty of staunch friends in this city who will pull and push for you in 1920.

A. R. Moss, Virginia.—I voted for Samuel J. Tilden at twenty-one years of age. I have voted every time for the nominee, but have had my doubts some times of their real democracy. I am for William Jennings Bryan, a man whose heart is close to the people, for president. Mr. Bryan is a real democrat of the Jefferson and Lincoln type. He is strong with the prohibitionists, the chautauqua or church people and the suffragists. He was with the boys and for the boys during the war and was all American. He is opposed to militarism in peace times, and he believes in just compensation for labor with the right to organize and bargain collectively. He is right on the league of nations; he believes in government ownership and control of railroads, telegraphs and telephones. His many bills laughed out of court by the republican millionaires have become the law of the land today. This will be a campaign of big business and money by the republicans, the democrats must have a real man and not a millionaire for their leader. Mr. Bryan is the only one that I know of that can win.

Robert F. Coll, Oklahoma.—If we are going into next year's election with no other thought but capturing the election and the spoils thereof we deserve defeat. To my mind there are clear cut issues that call for an unequivocal declaration on the part of the democratic party.

The dual plan of ownership as a solution of the railroad question meets with my approval. To my mind there has not been enough said about immigration. With the great foreign born population which we have—unassimilated and undigested—it is high time that we take steps to shut out all aliens who cannot speak, read and write the English language. Politicians who are angling for the foreign vote will not commit themselves outright to any drastic policy along this line, but I believe such a platform will meet with the approval of the majority of thinking Americans. We need candidates therefore who will not trim. I only know of one public man available whose record is entirely free of this fault. I voted for Mr. Bryan in 1896 and every time he was a candidate thereafter. We met defeat each time but there was no sting because we knew that we and our leader were right. We may meet with defeat next year but even so let us, by all means, meet the issues fearlessly knowing from past history that the truth cannot suffer defeat. The question of prohibition has not yet been settled. We must beware of the influence of the liquor interests who will be on the job. Of course the party cannot take a backward step on suffrage and we must see to it that our financial system is not tampered with as was done after the civil war.

I have and do express as my first choice for President the Hon. William Jennings Bryan. I know that if the call is loud enough that he will respond. Next I favor Josephus Daniels, a cabinet officer who has made good and I would also

support A. Mitchell Palmer if the judgment of the party favored him. The signs of the times portend a republican victory but with a leader and a campaign like 1896 I believe we can triumph, for the people are ready to listen to the forward looking men regardless of party.

E. T. McGehee, West Virginia.—In calling a leader for 1920, the American people should unhesitatingly choose the man who has proven his worth and whose career has been absolutely clean from every viewpoint, giving his life and service to establish and maintain the principles of right and justice above all special and predatory interest. When such problems as world peace, prohibition and industrial settlements call for prompt and resolute methods, I have faith in the American people to believe that the large majority of them fully realize and appreciate the ability and great virtues which lie within the soul of William Jennings Bryan.

Above all things we need a man at the helm who has always and still stands for peace with honor, as it is very evident to all clear-minded people that the vicious forces of militarism are striking with might and main to fasten their bloody and deadly fangs in this great governmental machinery of ours. Is it not plain that we must have a leader who has always stood and stands for the best interests of the common people under all circumstances, and who has been known to fight militarism, special interests and all evil influences with all the power at his command.

At this critical period of our national life. I do not believe that anything could more strengthen the courage and faith of our American people in the principles that are so dear to their hearts than the nomination and election of Mr. Bryan, which would be a complete vindication of civic righteousness and Godliness, and America would honor herself infinitely more than she would honor Mr. Bryan, for she would thereby prove to the world and herself that she held the principles of right and justice far above any partisan or special interest.

Harry Baxter, Delaware.—I hope that you are nominated for next president. If you are I will surely vote for you and do all in my power to get others to vote for you. I would rather see you elected than any man on the earth.

W. W. Woodfill, Ohio.—The nominee must be a real man. After looking over the field and taking an inventory of their stock (they must be up to the times on all issues.) I find only one man to fill the bill complete—that is W. J. Bryan.

J. P. Briggs, District of Columbia.—The letters from Commoner readers which you have lately published please me immensely, and they show for Mr. Bryan as the next democratic nominee. Justice and wisdom both dictate that he shall again be our standard bearer.

Having done more than any other man to place the democratic party on the right side of all important questions now before the country, such as prohibition, woman suffrage, government ownership, capital and labor, world peace, etc., he is entitled to lead the fight for complete victory on those questions. He could draw more heavily than anyone else on the independent and progressive republican voters. He would receive practically the solid support of the prohibitionist, and a very large share of the woman vote of the country. The churches would throw their great influence enthusiastically in his favor. It is perfectly logical to expect the accession of the forces I have enumerated. Mr. Bryan's strong character, his ideal public and private life, and his ardent championship of all moral reforms, have attracted to him the elements that make for good citizenship and moral advance.

The hundreds of thousands of Chautauqua patrons who have been inspired and won by Mr. Bryan's lofty purposes and his magnetic personality will be likely to share their admiration for him at the polls. He is the democrat for whom opportunity now waits. His possibilities whom opportunity now waits. His possibilities for good have constantly increased with the years, and he now stands rightfully as the best known, most loved and ablest of living democrats, and the surest winner his party can pick for the next election.

R. B. Brehant, Ohio.—Mr. Bryan's plan is good, very good. I do hope to see him at the head of this government to save us from going to pieces. It looks to me as if this was the time when our prayer should be answered and the way opened to Mr. Bryan to make this nation

in truth a Christian country. I hope the readers of The Commoner and all friends will do their best to elect the only man strong enough to do the job.

D. L. DeVane, Arizona.—I think McAdoo is the man.

W. A. Hodges, Arkansas.—In answer to questions in issue for October, will say: 1. Prohibition. 2. Let the people rule. 3. Free speech and free press. 4. W. J. Bryan for president. Best wishes for The Commoner.

E. E. Hunt, Mississippi.—I think one of the most important duties we have to perform is the guarding of our financial system so that the money sharks do not get control and contract the currency as they did soon after the close of the civil war. Let all money be issued and controlled by the government, and the postal savings and federal loan banks be made to do better service. If the prohibition and woman suffrage questions are not settled before that time they should be prominent. I am in favor of public ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephones, coal mines and all other natural products. All disputes between capital and labor should be settled by arbitration. As to a candidate, my first choice is W. J. Bryan, and my second would probably be Joseph W. Folk.

(Continued on Page 14)

MR. BRYAN ADDRESSES ROTARIANS

(From Hot Springs, Ark., New Era., Nov. 20.)

Colonel William Jennings Bryan came in late to the regular meeting of the Rotary Club Wednesday and was called on by President Reynolds to explain the reason for his tardiness. In explaining, Mr. Bryan said to the Rotarians:

"I am too much perplexed by the news of the day. The morning papers announce that the bullion in a silver dollar is now worth five cents more than the bullion in a gold dollar. The shock upsets me. I am not able to speak with composure. My thoughts insist on running back to 1896, when the self appointed champions of an honest dollar vociferously declared that their consciences would not allow them to pay their debts in any but the best money. I am patiently waiting for the afternoon papers to learn whether these men are paying their debts today in silver dollars at a premium or whether they are using the cheap gold dollar for liquidation purposes. If I find that they are using gold coin, now five cents below the silver equivalent, I shall suggest the appointment of a congressional committee on conscience to ascertain why these men who used to profess so high a standard of patriotism and honor, have fallen from grace.

"What will the youth of our land think if these men who have claimed a monopoly of financial virtues become repudiators. If I were a cartoonist I would represent the Wall street financier standing by an open grave marked 'Cheap Money' and holding in his hand a skull inscribed 'A 95c gold dollar.' In the distance I would represent a silver dollar splitting its sides with laughter while the Wall street man, looking at the skull, soliloquized 'Alas poor Yorrick, I knew him well.'"

THE MESSAGE FROM EDWARDS

(From The Austin, Texas, Statesman.)

President Wilson also sent a congratulatory message to Governor-elect Edwards of New Jersey. Edwards was the democratic candidate, but his platform declared the league of nations covenant "should not be approved without giving recognition to the Irish republic." That part of the platform Mr. Wilson probably did not approve. The big issue, however, was prohibition, and the big plank in the Edwards platform was the following:

We pledge ourselves to oppose by all lawful means the ratification or enforcement of the so-called prohibition amendment to the federal constitution, and to lead the movement which will eventually result in its repeal.

That was the plan which elected Edwards, in a state normally republican. Whether Mr. Wilson agrees with it or not we do not know. May-be he congratulated Edwards merely because the latter was a democratic candidate. But this is what Edwards said in one of his speeches:

If I am elected governor I will make New Jersey as wet as the Atlantic ocean. And the president said in his telegram:

Please accept my hearty congratulations upon your election.