

Brought forward ..... 2

Passing amendment for election of Senators by direct vote of the people ("an epoch-making reform") ..... 1

Corrupt practices act. ("Carries out the last Democratic national platform . . . broadened and improved in the Senate and the President has signed it. This is a distinct victory for the party. Mr. Taft emphatically opposed the idea in the last campaign") ..... 1

Keeping faith with the President in supporting the reciprocity agreement ("a step in the direction of tariff reduction") ..... 1

Passage of wool bill, vetoed by the President. ("Would have given the people a large measure of relief . . . More relief had it become a law in the form in which it passed the House . . . Still more satisfactory had it been framed on the basis of free wool") ..... 1

Passage of farmers' free list ("a very meritorious measure . . . The farmers ought to remember that in this matter the President deliberately surrendered them to the greed of the protected interests and cast in his lot with those who furnished his campaign fund") ..... 1

Passage of cotton reduction bill. ("Bill was good and the Senate amendments made it better") . . . 1

Action on Arizona and New Mexico Statehood. ("The first resolution permitted Arizona to vote out the recall of judges and permitted New Mexico to change her Constitution so as to make it more easily amendable. When the President vetoed this, Congress wisely changed the resolution to compel the elimination of the recall of judges [the provision can be reinstated by the State] and thus secured Statehood for both Territories") ..... 1

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A credit balance of 4 points out of a possible 14 makes a hopeful showing, to be sure; but unless at the next session this credit is very largely increased, those voters who look upon the matter as Mr. Bryan does—and they are not so very scarce, either—may lack the enthusiasm a year hence that the rank and file of a progressive party must have in order to win.

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### Bryan and Presidential Nominations.

William J. Bryan is under a constant fire of charges from all directions, mostly from old enemies or cold friends, the substance of which is that he is "butting in" to boss the Democratic party in the choice of its Presidential candidate for 1912. But if there is one man whose duty it is more than any other's to "butt in" at this time, that man is William J. Bryan.

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Some protest that Bryan has had honor enough in three nominations, and should now be a "silent

sage." Whoever looks upon Bryan's nominations in that way exposes himself as a politician instead of a patriot. An honor, yes; three times an honor, yes; but only as it is always an honor to be trusted by millions as the representative of their interests and aspirations. A mere offer of office, by preference of one man over others, just to please his pride, simply for the sake of the office—a Presidential chair or a kingly crown—there would have been no honor in that. If the man accepted his nomination in that spirit, it dishonored him; if his constituents proffered it in that spirit, it dishonored them. But if both were actuated by a better spirit, then and only then were the nominations honors. But in that case the honors rest upon both. The fact that this honor was bestowed thrice, imposes no obligation upon Bryan to retire or upon those who trust him to retire him. In fact it makes his participation in politics now all the more imperative as a duty, and his advice all the more valuable.

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But what is it that Bryan is doing, over which old enemies and cold friends make such an uproar? They say that he is trying to dictate the Presidential nomination. Let's see. In the Commoner of September 1, Mr. Bryan's position is stated, doubtless by himself, in these terms: "Mr. Bryan has but one desire in the matter, namely, that the best man may be chosen. *He has hesitated to urge any one man over others because he is anxious to have the benefit of all the light possible. Many have already reached a decision for one candidate or another and Mr. Bryan is glad to see such organize and present the claims of their choice.*" This is precisely in accord with the attitude Mr. Bryan has maintained from the start; and he has recently put himself squarely on record as advising a choice from four men—Clark, Wilson, Folk and Marshall.

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As to one person, and only one, has Bryan discriminated. This is Governor Harmon; but he discriminates *against* Harmon. We can therefore understand why Harmon's supporters roar. They know that with Bryan's advice hostile, Harmon can hardly be nominated, and if nominated will certainly be defeated at the polls. But how shall the other roar be explained? Supporters of any of the four men Bryan has named favorably and with no discrimination, upon what theory do any of them complain that he is dictating the nomination? We can think of none except that he names four men instead of one. But if that is their

reason, are they not in effect asking Bryan to do the very thing for their candidate which they mistakenly complain of him for doing for some other candidate? Bryan has no right to be a boss, of course; but on the other hand hasn't he the right not to be bossed?

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### Perquisites of a Railroad President.

An interesting example of how railroad presidents can make money on the side was told in a recent editorial note in the Brooklyn Eagle, called forth by a protest meeting of the commuters of the Long Island Railroad, who had long endured poor service. This road serves a territory of good farms and popular summer resorts, none of them very far from New York. It is now part of a large trunk line, but has its own administration. Commuters had noticed that first one place and then another would be favored with more and faster trains, for a time, each place being neglected when the next sprang into favor. This was a mystery until some thoughtful observer discovered that the phenomena coincided with the household migrations of the president of the road. That foresighted gentleman would settle in a place but little known, buy much land thereabout, and advertise it for development. The excellent train service would then bring homeseekers. But after a season or two, the president, having garnered a harvest of unearned increment, would move to another place where the same phenomena recurred, plus neglect of train service to the former place. There has been a disposition among the commuters to condemn the president of the road, but why? To be sure his use of official authority to throw increments of social values into his own pockets, instead of letting them drain into the pockets of other land speculators, furnishes them grounds for charging him with playing the game with cards up his sleeve. But when you consider the stakes, they don't belong to anybody that would have got them if he had played fair. Land values are not earned by particular land owners who happen to own land to which they attach, any more than to railroad presidents who water them with temporarily good railroad service. To borrow a favorite expression of men who get something for nothing and boast of it, if that railroad president was "smart enough to turn the trick why aren't the profits his?"

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### Preparing School Children for the Market.

The factory methods of education which the Commercial Club of Chicago has begun to boom again, call out from one of its organs the remark

that this new boom "should stir our educators to a desire for closer relations with the world of industry." The idea behind those words was more candidly expressed by a certain Secretary of the Treasury when at a school teachers' meeting in a rural region he said: "Prepare your children for the market, the same as you prepare your cattle and your hogs."

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### An Attractive School Bond Proposition.

Somebody showed a good deal of financial sense at the recent convention of the National Educational Association. His name, whoever he may be, is John F. Murray. The great complaint at that convention, as everywhere, is that our school system is crippled for want of funds.

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Mr. Murray was able to see, as many others do not, that one of the causes for this obstacle to public education is manipulation by bankers. They deal in bonds, gilt edge securities, as a village storekeeper does in muslins and calicoes; and like the storekeeper, the banker must keep a good stock on hand. Consequently the whole banking interest is keen for public bonding propositions, and opposed to having communities pay as they go through equitable taxation. Hence school bonds, and more school bonds, and refunded school bonds, etc., etc., etc., to the squeezing of teachers' salaries and the prosperity of bankers who "place" the bonds and the big investors who get them.

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Now read Mr. Murray's resolution at the National Educational Association:

Whereas, The average school district bond is issued for a period of twenty years and draws 6 per cent interest, thus clearly showing that when the taxpayers of a school district tax themselves \$2.20 for school purposes they give the children \$1 and the money-lender \$1.20; and

Whereas, If the Federal government would recognize school district bonds as a proper security, and would issue currency thereon, as it now issues currency to national banks, it would save hundreds of millions of dollars to the school fund; therefore, be it

Resolved, We favor the Federal government permitting, in such manner and under such conditions as it may prescribe, school districts voting bonds and municipalities issuing bonds for school purposes, to deposit such bonds with the Treasurer of the Federal government—in such sub-treasuries as he may designate—and the issuance thereon of government currency to the full amount of such school bonds, at the cost of issuance to the government.

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Why isn't that a good financial plan for schools?