SUGGESTIONS FOR FIRST VOTERS

In Mr. Bryan's Commoner under date of November 16th, appeared the following article admonishing all young men as to their duty, and the importance thereof, when they come first to exercise the privilege of the franchise for the first time.

Young man, great responsibility attaches to your first vote. As you begin, so you are likely to continue. The momentum that carries you into a party at the beginning of your political life is apt to keep you in that party unless some convulsion shakes you out of it. Start right and in order that you may start right, examine the principles of the parties and policies which they advocate.

There are two great party organizations in the United States, one fifty years old, and the other more than a century old. The Republican party has been in power almost uninterruptedly for more than a half century, and under its reign abuses have grown up which threaten the perpetuity of the government and endanger our civilization. So great are these abuses that Republican reformers are now pointing out that something must be done—and what can be done? The first thing is to undo the things that have been done, and the party to undo these abuses is not the party which has done them, but the party which has protested against these abuses and pointed out remedies.

The Republican party has turned the taxing power over to private individuals; it has allowed monopolies to grow up and assume control of the industries of the country by granting privileges by law and by giving immunity to the large violators of the law; the Republican party has permitted the fortunes of the predatory rich to become so large that government is corrupted, politics debauched and business polluted.

The Democratic party proposes to withdraw the taxing power from private hands, to so legislate as to make a private monopoly impossible and to enforce the law without discrimination. It proposes to protect legitimate wealth and punish those who attempt to plunder the public for private gain. On which side do you stand, young man? Are you with the masses in their effort to restore the government to its old foundation and make it a government of the people, for the people, or are you with the Republican leaders in their effort to perpetuate the party in power by selling immunity to robbers for campaign contributions.

There are always two parties in the country, and one is never quite as near to the people than the other. In this country the Democratic party is nearer to the people than the Republican party. Its leaders have more faith in the people and are more anxious to keep the government under the control of the people. Take the election of United States senators by the people as a test. The Democratic party gave us the reform, and the Republican party has opposed it in the Congress of the United States and in the legislatures of the states. The Democratic party has given us the initiative and referendum, and the Republican party has opposed them. The Democratic party has given us the direct primary, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a tariff for revenue with protection only incidental, and the Republican party has given us a tariff for protection with revenue only incidental. The Democratic party has given us a graduated income tax, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a postal savings bank, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions without notice, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in labor cases, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in railroad cases, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in anti-trust cases, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in interstate commerce cases, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in criminal cases, and the Republican party has opposed it. The Democratic party has given us a law to prevent the issuance of injunctions in any case