

up force must break its way out. Then, too, an official needs the aid of his enemies. They point out mistakes and utter warnings against errors. An enemy is often more frank than the friend and therefore is often more useful. "O, that mine enemy would write a book!" is the greatest tribute ever paid to the value of free speech and it is at the same time a tribute to the wisdom and sincerity of the one who uttered the sentiment. The ruler usually has to pay his friends for their assistance but with free speech and a free press he secures the service of his enemies without compensation as promise of reward. Free government is impossible without freedom of speech and press; despotism is impossible when speech and press are unfettered. The czar has earned the gratitude of his countrymen and the respect of the world by the evidence which he has just given of his progressive spirit. Now, if he will permit the people to participate in the making of the laws and invite them to express themselves freely on public men and public measures, he will not only immortalize himself but still further endear to the masses the child whose birth has already brought benefactions to the nation.

State Ownership of Railroads

Commenting upon Mr. Bryan's statement that "it would be as easy to provide for interstate commerce over state railroads as it is now to provide for through freight and passenger rates over different routes," the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, a republican paper, says:

It would seem that one thing the distinguished and eloquent Nebraska might study to advantage is the difference in the form of government existing in the German empire and in the republic of the United States. Under our constitution certain things are reserved to the general government, while rights not reserved to the general government inure to the states. The right "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian tribes," is reserved to the general government. It is not with Germany Mr. Bryan has to do so much as with the constitution of the United States. Mr. Bryan at the outset spoke of a commission to act under the authority of the states. No commission to the end in view would be possible except as it had creation under authority from the general government.

The Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph, a democratic paper, suggests that one way to overcome the objection that a thing is unconstitutional is to amend the constitution. The Telegraph adds: "But this would not be necessary and Mr. Bryan did not have a constitutional amendment in mind. The federal government, under the powers conferred upon it by the constitution, regulates interstate traffic on railroads owned by private corporations. State ownership does not imply a denial of the federal government's right to regulate such commerce; the simple change in ownership would not involve any part of the federal constitution. As to the commissions to act under the authority of the states, the Journal is aware that we now have a commission—useless and ornamental and expensive, it is true—but we have it. Other states have like commissions. They are not unlawful organizations, nor would they be if the state owned the railroads. With the latter condition obtaining, we might transform them into serviceable bodies, make them supreme in the management of the railroads within the state's territory, yet keeping their powers purely within the state's rights. These commissions, getting together, could severally and jointly agree on such tariff or service arrangements as would not conflict with the power of the general government. And while they could not themselves usurp the authority of the general government, they could and would provide for interstate commerce."

The Monetary Problem

Remembering that we have so often been told that the money question has been settled and is no longer a proper theme for discussion, it is interesting to read in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal, an editorial entitled: "The Monetary Problem."

Lately, the Journal has had a series of editorials, some relating to "the new money issue," others to "deposit currency," and others to "the money of the future." The Journal says that these editorials have brought many letters of comment, and adds that they "display the remarkable interest which is taken in the money question and

show how widely the problem is being studied. While admitting the existence of "considerable intelligent interest," the Journal would have it known that whatever changes are to be made "must come gradually and slowly and as the result of a general consensus of opinion." The Journal takes great pains to say that it is highly important that our monetary system shall represent "the general favor of the people;" and then this Wall street publication concludes that "it would be worse than useless to attempt any changes that do not meet with the favor of the public opinion of the world."

Is an injustice done the Wall Street Journal when it is suggested that in order to ascertain "the general favor of the people" we must ascertain what the financiers want? Is it not strange that at this moment when republican newspapers are assuring us that the money question is entirely dead perhaps the most conspicuous financial publication of the country confesses that there is a widespread interest in the monetary problem?

The Wall Street Journal circulates largely among financiers. It can not be that the editor of the Journal would restrict the discussion of the monetary problem to the circles where financiers most do congregate. All the people are deeply interested in any problem affecting our monetary system and if the financiers are manifesting such a deep interest in the problem that even the Wall Street Journal is required to confess that this subject is now seriously discussed who will say that it is not entirely proper for the people generally to participate in this discussion?

Even though we admit that the single gold standard has been "irrevocably" established, as one candidate puts it, or "permanently" settled as the republican campaign book has it, are not the American people deeply interested in the proper settlement of questions involving asset currency, branch banks, the destruction of the silver dollar, the retirement of the greenbacks, and other features that are by no means disposed of?

Of course, these questions are not likely to be largely discussed during the present national campaign and yet the Wall Street Journal is eminently correct when it testifies to the deep and abiding concern which a very large number of the American people display concerning "the monetary problem." It is also a solemn fact that however much campaign managers may attempt to ignore this problem, sooner or later, the American people will be brought face to face with the necessity for an intelligent solution.

A Nation's True Glory

At this time, when the republicans seem disposed to measure a nation's greatness by the size of its army and its navy, and its future by its wealth, it will not be out of place to recall the words of Bishop Whipple, which present a higher national ideal. The words are worth remembering. Bishop Whipple says:

"The true glory of a nation is an intelligent, honest, industrious Christian people. The civilization of a people depends on their individual characters; and the constitution which is not the outgrowth of this character is not worth the parchment on which it is written. You look in vain in the past for a single instance where the people have preserved their liberties after their individual character was lost. It is not in the magnificence of its palaces, not in the beautiful creations of art lavished on its public edifices, not in costly libraries and galleries of pictures, not in the number or wealth of its cities, that we find a nation's glory. The ruler may gather around him the treasures of the world, amid a brutalized people; the senate chamber may retain its faultless proportions long after the voice of patriotism is hushed within its walls; the monumental marble may commemorate a glory which has forever departed. Art and letters may bring no lessons to a people whose heart is dead. The true glory of a nation is the living temple of a loyal, industrious, upright people. The busy click of machinery, the merry ring of the anvil, the lowing of the peaceful herds, and the song of the harvesthome, are sweeter music than the paeans of departed glory, or the songs of triumph in war. The vine-clad cottage of the hillside, the cabin of the woodsman, and the rural home of the farmer are the true citadels of any country. There is a dignity in honest toil which belongs not to the display of wealth or the luxury of fashion. The man who drives the plow, or swings his axe in the forest, or with cunning fingers plies the tools of his craft, is as truly the servant of his country as the statesman in the senate, or the soldier in battle. The safety of a nation depends not alone on the wis-

dom of the statesman, or the bravery of its generals. The tongue of the statesman never saved a nation tottering to its fall; the sword of a warrior never stayed its destruction. "Would you see the image of true national glory, I would show you villages where the crown and glory of the people are in common schools, where the voice of prayer goes heavenward, where the people have that most priceless gift, faith in God."

Fusion in Nebraska

The democrats and populists of Nebraska have put up separate electoral tickets, but have fused on a state ticket.

The gentlemen nominated for state offices by the two conventions stand well among their neighbors and may be depended upon to give the people of this state faithful service in the event of their election.

George W. Berge, the fusion nominee for governor, is one of the best known residents of Lincoln. Mr. Berge is a successful lawyer, and, while affiliating with the populist party, is a thoroughgoing democrat in the best sense of the term.

Mr. Berge was the fusion candidate for congress in 1900 in the First Nebraska district and made a creditable race. Democrats who know him well and who have worked shoulder to shoulder with him upon the lines of reform have the same affectionate regard for him that populists have.

Mr. Berge is an able, sincere and upright man. Should he be elected to the office of governor, Nebraska will have a chief executive who will discharge his duties faithfully.

The international geographical congress meets in Philadelphia next month. We hope it will succeed in making two Manchurian maps look alike.

The Sioux City Journal declares that the packing house strike was on the "open shop" issue. The esteemed Journal understands the industrial situation fully as well as it does the political situation, and as the Journal is a republican organ its ignorance of both is evident.

Special Offer

The Commoner is receiving many returns from its special subscription offer and it is evident that those who sympathize with the principles and policies for which The Commoner stands are determined to do their part in the good work. Those who sympathize with The Commoner's views are invited to assist in widening The Commoner's sphere of influence by increasing its circulation. The special offer provides an opportunity for participating in this work.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3.00 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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5	I subscribe to the Commoner; I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.
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50	Name
75	Box, or Street No.
100	P. O. State
	Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.
If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.	