

even Christian are liable under strong temptation to backslide to barbaric standards which permit war and slaughter to count for a people's greatness and reckon ruthless conquest among glorious deeds. There is one effective and constant preventive against such danger, and that is the sincere acceptance as guidance to national behavior, of the honor the love of peace, the devotion to justice and truth, the forbearance and inviolable good faith which grow out of genuine civilization and Christian spirit."

It is a noteworthy fact that these two eminent men join in giving testimony to the fact that Christian morality is the solution of the problems of government as well as of the problems which confront the individual.

It is a Forerunner

The New York Commercial presents some interesting figures showing that owing to the increase in the number of national banks, there now remains outstanding, available for bank circulation, government bonds to the amount of only \$373,000,000. The Commercial declares that the multiplication of banks can not continue much longer unless there is a radical change in the character of security that is required for bank note circulation, and adds: "A large part of the government bonds that is not now deposited with the United States treasurer is held by financial institutions, insurance companies and private estates and individuals as a form of permanent investment, and such bonds are not likely to be surrendered except at a premium that would render it unprofitable to take out bank-note circulation. Moreover, the interest-bearing debt is being steadily reduced—the reduction since June 30, 1900, amounting to \$128,000,000, thus narrowing to just that extent the opportunity for taking advantage of the banking amendment of March, 1900."

The Commercial expresses the hope that "Congress will have the courage to give the republic a rational, scientific currency system—as the republican party is already solemnly pledged to do—and to put the national banking system on a stable and enduring basis."

Is this the forerunner of a new campaign in behalf of asset currency? Will we soon be told that even though republican organs insisted that asset currency was not an issue, the republican victory in November must operate as a command that the republican party give to the national banks such extraordinary privileges that the republican leaders dared not defend the proposition before the people?

Investor And Consumer

The New York Evening Post seems to have but small respect for Thomas W. Lawson and yet it speaks very frankly concerning the cordial reception the public has given Mr. Lawson's articles on "Frenzied Finance." Referring to the "unrest and distrust which is widespread among laborers, farmers, shopkeepers and persons of narrow incomes throughout the country," the Post says:

These men and women have seen our captains of industry accumulate enormous fortunes with a speed which is to them inexplicable except on the theory of dishonesty; and this theory is not incredible. These plain people know that stocks are watered in the most shameless fashion in enterprises that remain solvent; and that the most barefaced swindling has been practised in bankrupt ventures like the shipbuilding trust—to cite one example from a thousand. Poor men and women have put their slow savings into companies presumably directed by men of intelligence and probity—the Amalgamated Copper, for instance—and have seen their petty provision for the future disappear in a night. Somebody has got away with that money; nobody is prosecuted by our fearless district attorneys. The question of the duped and enraged investor is, "Who is the thief?" Lawson is ready with an answer.

Then this New York paper adds: The enemies, then, which our great financial institutions, our railways, our insurance companies, and our banks, have chiefly to fear are, so to speak, of their own household. When the Huns and Vandals threaten a descent upon our "vested interests" their most terrible weapons will be drawn from the armories of New York Boston and Philadelphia. The men who have promoted the vast and

bottomless undertakings into which a credulous public has poured its dollars are the real begetters of the populist and socialistic parties. From the victims of their rapine, when the day of political judgment dawns, they may expect no quarter.

But the Post forgets—no one would have the temerity to intimate that it prefers to forget—that the evil work is not confined to the men who promote "the vast and bottomless undertakings into which a credulous public has poured its dollars." The investors, it is true, suffer from the machination of these builders of air castles, but the number of investors is inconsequential compared with the number of consumers. Where the investors suffer because they entrusted their small savings to some "wind" affairs the consumers of the country suffer untold misery because of the greed and avarice of the managers of thoroughly solvent concerns, concerns whose stock is not for sale because it has been made precious by special privileges under the law.

Those builders of shaky concerns into which the small investor pours his hard-earned dollars deserve stern condemnation. But why does the New York Post reserve its condemnation for this class? Why not direct some of its power against those men who, while they do not engage in these "wind" affairs, deserve execution because on the one hand they obtain special privileges from public authorities and on the other hand, after establishing their monopoly, they prey upon the necessities of the people and grind, indeed, the very faces of the poor.

Is It Significant?

James H. Eckels, Mr. Cleveland's comptroller of the currency, who left the democratic party because he could not advocate bimetallism, finds that he can not support Mr. Roosevelt in his railroad policy.

At a banquet held recently in Chicago, John M. Harlan, a republican, endorsed the president's railroad policy, and said:

It is utterly out of the question that a puissant people like we are will tolerate the idea that public carriers—common agencies established to transport produce and passengers—can be used to disturb the natural law of commerce and competition. We are too powerful a people to submit to such an injustice.

Newspaper reports say that Mr. Eckels "rallied to the defense of the railroads on the ground that they had been great agencies in developing the country" and said that the fewer statute restrictions placed on them the better would be the facilities they offer.

Replying to Mr. Eckels, Mr. Harlan said: I was talking not of the special privileges conferred on the railroads, but of special privileges conferred by the railroads. No one but an ignoramus would be guilty of titling at the railroads. Of course the development of the country was due to them. Of course it was necessary to give them special privileges at that time, but now it is a question of the special benefits they are granting themselves. We have created the roads for our own convenience, not for their delectation. If it costs A \$1 a ton to ship his produce, it ought to cost B \$1 a ton to ship his wares to the same market.

It is a bit significant that most of the men who left the democratic party on the money question find themselves unable to support their new party's president in his efforts to bring about reform on the railroad question. Can it be possible that any blow struck at special interests is, in the opinion of such gentlemen as Mr. Eckels, undemocratic, un-republican, unpatriotic and unbusiness-like?

A Bishop Defends War

The Chicago Inter-Ocean asks whether war is an education and quotes Bishop Foss, of the Methodist Episcopal church, as saying in defense of war:

I venture to say to our peace friends here in Philadelphia that they have overrated their anti-war doctrine which they say will overcome war entirely. I know no more important element in our character building than is exemplified by war and its consequent lesson of strict attention to duty. I, as a minister, very much wish that eternal peace might be assured, but we have not yet arrived at that point. At this time much must be done by force, and that is why every young man must learn to

fight to the last and if necessary die at his post.

This is strange doctrine to come from a follower of the Prince of Peace. If war furnishes so important an element in character building, how can he wish for eternal peace? And is he likely to hasten peace if he really believes that "at this time much must be done by force?"

It is now nineteen hundred years since the gospel of peace was proclaimed to the world and still Christian ministers can be found who cry "not yet" and rebuke "our peace friends." If any young man tells Bishop Foss that he has "not yet arrived at that point" where he is ready to become a Christian, that he has much to do that must be done by unchristian methods, what does the bishop say? And yet the young man's excuse would be no more absurd than the bishop's. The value of war in character building is small compared with the evil influence which it exerts. Many reformed men have turned their experiences in sin to advantage when warning others, but who would advise young men to sow wild oats in order to use their immoralities as a warning? War will not be abolished any too soon even when all the Christian influences are united against it. It is to be regretted that any minister should so misinterpret his Bible as to become a champion of war.

Lively Interest

A Sturgeon Bay, Mo., reader, under date of January 23, writes: "I enclose postoffice money order for \$4.80 in payment of eight subscriptions to The Commoner. I regret very much that I did not start the good work long ago, and I shall do all I can to spread the gospel of democracy. Please send me sample copies and subscription cards."

A Placerville, Calif., reader, under date of January 21, writes: "I herewith enclose a postoffice money order for \$38.40, in payment of the within list of sixty-four subscriptions to The Commoner for the year ending Jan. 31, 1906. I shall endeavor to procure a further list if time permits."

An Aztec, N. M., reader, under date of January 22, writes: "I herewith enclose postoffice money order for \$6.60 on account of the within club of eleven subscriptions. Please send me more subscription blanks. I feel a lively interest in simple democracy and can get many more subscriptions."

These are but samples of the letters that are received every week in The Commoner office. They show that many Commoner readers who are in sympathy with the work of this publication are disposed to lend a hand in order that The Commoner's sphere of influence may be widened.

Everyone who desires to assist in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation may find the special subscription offer a practical opportunity for doing so.

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 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

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