

openly champion a plain steal, simply because his party seems to require it?

Does it not occur to the thoughtful man that the republican party requires great sacrifices at the hands of its representatives?

Hemmenway, the man, would not put his hand into the pockets of another to obtain profit for himself. Why then should Hemmenway, the republican, seek to put his hand into the pockets of the people in order that the Standard Oil bank might add to its already large and unholy accumulations?

Arbitration

Governor Adams of Colorado, in his inaugural message, urged the establishment of a permanent state board of arbitration, saying:

While strikes may not be forbidden, we may dream of the reign of justice, we may hope for conditions and laws that will make strikes unnecessary. First among those enactments in obedience to the expressed mandate of the people should be an honest eight-hour law. This both parties promised the people. Let that promise be kept.

Next, an amendment to the arbitration law requiring a compulsory submission of any grievance or difference between employer and employes. This is not compulsory arbitration, nor does it lead to a compulsory decree, but it does compel a conference, and where the parties to an industrial conflict honestly confer, a settlement is almost certain. Such a measure would clip the power of an arbitrary superintendent or manager to order a lockout without reason, or of an equally arbitrary walking delegate to incite a strike without justification.

John Mitchell said "that in the coal industries there had never been a strike where the parties had conferred before the strike had been ordered, and that there had never been a strike except where either employer or employe had refused to confer." If this be true in the coal industries, it will be no less true in other avenues of productive labor. If peace and harmony can be secured by a conference of conflicting interests, the public welfare makes it the duty of the state to compel such conference.

There is seldom difference enough between the parties to an industrial dispute to justify the wide-spread disaster that often follows a conflict. It is not infrequently the case that obstinacy or pure selfishness precipitates labor troubles that affect not only the few hundred directly concerned, but many thousands in collateral industries. In Colorado we have had labor difficulties that have affected the welfare and prosperity of at least one-half the entire population of the state. The rights of these hundreds of thousands of non-combatants are certainly entitled to respect and protection, and if all interests can be protected by compulsory submission, it becomes the imperative duty of our law-makers to investigate and enact.

The distinction between compulsory submission of a dispute to arbitration and the enforced acceptance of the findings is well drawn. There ought to be compulsory submission of every dispute to arbitration when either party asks for arbitration. It is not necessary to compel an acceptance of the finding. In nearly every case public opinion will compel an acceptance of the finding if the board is believed to be impartial. Governor Adams does not go into details but the legislature in carrying out the recommendation should see to it that the board is so constituted as to ensure fairness. If the permanent board is composed of three they should be so selected as to represent employers, employes and that large body of people not strictly in either class. It would be well to provide for the appointment by the board of two extra members to act in the case under consideration—one to be recommended by each side. Each side would then be sure to be represented on the board and a minority report could be presented if the representative of either side thought justice had not been done. Arbitration is the only remedy for labor troubles and Governor Adams deserves credit for the emphatic stand he has taken upon the subject.

Change the Senate

The failure of the United States senate to take up the railroad rate bill and its refusal to impeach Judge Swayne are new evidences of the necessity

of a change in the method of electing senators. Just as long as the corporations can control the senate they can block remedial legislation and protect public officials who are subservient to corporate interests. If President Roosevelt wants to accomplish any reforms he must urge an amendment to the constitution giving the people a chance to elect senators by direct vote. This is the gateway to all other reforms.

Swayne Acquitted; Senate Convicted

The senate has acquitted Judge Swayne but it has convicted itself. When it declares that his conduct was not impeachable it subscribes to his standard of official morality and the members must not complain if the public assume that the senators voting for acquittal would do as Swayne did under similar circumstances. The house by presenting articles of impeachment has shown itself more solicitous than the senate about the honor of the judiciary, and the vote in both houses shows that the democrats insist upon a higher standard than the republicans. The senate's reputation was already bad enough; this new confession of guilt still further impairs it. However, it furnishes additional proof of the desirability of the popular election of senators. When the people select their senators as they now select their members of congress the senators will be more sensitive to arguments addressed to conscience and integrity.

Mysterious Doings

The Denver Post calls attention to the mysterious way in which the railroads fix rates when they are permitted to do so. The Post's correspondent, writing from Fort Collins, Colo., says:

I want to call attention to the way sugar is made and the product is handled by the different wholesale houses around the country. As we buy most of our goods from the Denver jobber we also get our sugar from him. He gives us an order on the factory for the sugar and we go there and haul it away, paying for it at the rate of \$6.30 for each sack of 100 pounds.

Recently a man representing a Kansas City house came along and offered to sell me sugar made in the Fort Collins factory for \$5.50 per 100 pounds, in Kansas City, or the same sugar laid down in Fort Collins for \$6.20 after it had been shipped to Kansas City and back. Please try and have the Denver representative of the sugar company explain this.

This is not a new experience. Every shipper has come into contact with just such discriminations. When a new industry is being located in a town the citizens are told of the great advantage of having the industry there, but when it gets control of the market it often joins with the railroads in depriving the community of any advantage that might naturally be derived from its location. The sugar manufacturers do not seem to be an exception to the rule.

Campaign Contributions

Ex-Congressman Perry Belmont of New York, has written a valuable article for the North American Review on campaign contributions. He says that Buchanan's committee spent but \$50,000 in 1856 and that Lincoln's committee spent only \$100,000 in 1860. He quotes from the messages of Jackson and Roosevelt on corporate contributions and gives the substance of English and American statutes on the subject.

The article is full of information and ought to be in the hands of all who are trying to eliminate the corrupt use of money in elections.

Mr. Garfield's Report

In another column The Commoner reproduces the report on the beef trust made by Commissioner of Corporations Garfield. This report should be carefully read by every citizen.

The Commoner reserves comment on Mr. Garfield's report for a subsequent issue.

Work That Tells

Many Commoner readers are taking advantage of the special subscription offer and the result has

already had a marked effect upon The Commoner's circulation. Every mail brings several letters from men who, sympathizing with The Commoner's efforts, have devoted a little of their time toward the widening of The Commoner's sphere of influence.

A Buffalo, N. Y., reader, under date of February 6, writes: "I enclose herewith postoffice order for \$3.60 to pay for the enclosed subscriptions to The Commoner. If you will send me fifty cards, I think I can fill them with names of new subscribers."

A Fayetteville, Ark., reader, under date of February 7, writes: "Enclosed find list of fifty subscribers, also express money order for \$30 to cover subscriptions for same at The Commoner's special clubbing rate, 60c each. Trusting that this will help to spread the light of true democracy."

A North Manchester, Ind., reader, under date of January 29, writes: "Inclosed please find draft, \$9, for the following fifteen subscriptions to The Commoner at the rate of 60 cents. I did not have the cards and have taken the liberty to get a few subscribers at same rate. If you will send me some cards, will try to sell them for you as I am interested in the cause for which The Commoner is making a noble fight."

A Cuba, N. Y., reader, under date of January 30, writes: "Find enclosed \$2 to pay for last year's subscription; also to renew for The Commoner for 1905. However, I am pleased to say that I would not dispense with The Commoner if it cost me \$10 per year. The Commoner is doing a great work; it is clean, truthful and always pleading the cause of the common people. In order to atone for my apparent carelessness and lack of interest in the past, I will endeavor to make an effort to secure for you 100 new subscribers to The Commoner between now and January 1, 1906."

A San Antonio, Tex., reader, under date of February 4, writes: "Inclosed you will find check, seven dollars and fifty cents. Six dollars of this amount is to pay for ten subscription cards numbers 47856 to 47865. Please send me "Under Other Flags," \$1.25, and "The Democratic Platform Text Book," 25c. Send me ten more subscription cards. No doubt the south will have her democracy on straight in 1908. She probably would not have been led astray last year, if The Commoner had been well circulated in every precinct. The country precinct in which I lived last year was the only one in this large county that indorsed the Kansas City platform and sent an instructed delegation as to candidates. I firmly believe that the several copies of The Commoner which I had sold in that neighborhood held the voters in line to express themselves as they had done in 1900 and 1896. I am glad that you are advocating the people owning all public utilities. I have been in favor of it for fifteen years."

According to the terms of the special subscription 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.

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.

The coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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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.