

While the harsher features of government are destined to diminish, the co-operative part of government is likely to increase. That is, the government will find it wise to do, as a community, what individuals can not so well do for themselves, and what private corporations can not be trusted to do. For instance, the federal government has found that it can distribute the mails better than they could be distributed by a private corporation, and probably better than they could be by any voluntary co-operative society.

In the cities it has been found necessary to furnish water from some central source. In the modern city or even in any town of any considerable size the system of individual wells is not possible. The city must either supply this water and distribute the expense, or it must be supplied by a private corporation. Experience shows that the government, acting for the people, can furnish a better service at a lower price than it is furnished by private corporations.

To be sure, if every citizen lived according to the ideal presented by Tolstoy, the evils that have attended the private ownership of city water plants would largely disappear, but the universal acceptance of this ideal, desirable as it is, is still some distance away.

While Tolstoy has been described as a philosophical anarchist, he must not be confused with the anarchist of whom the various countries have practical knowledge. The man who argues that the individual members of society should be so regenerated that no compulsive force would be necessary to maintain order and establish justice, and who seeks to secure this regeneration by moral suasion and the practice of non-resistance to evil, is a very different man from the one who with knife or pistol or bomb attempts the removal of those in authority. The former is a leavening force which makes for the betterment of the individual, while the latter is a destructive force and retards the progress of reform.

Tolstoy asserts "That the only possibility of a change of the general policy of the government lies in perfecting the individual morally and religiously. When there is a general respect for others," he declares, "lack of gentleness, hatred and brute force all disappear."

In comparing Russia with other countries, Tolstoy says that while other countries have a so-called "free and independent press, its freedom is only apparent." He declares that the whole press is controlled by wealthy persons who admit no advancement of the people. While it is true that a great many papers are controlled by corporations and used to advance schemes of spoliation, it is not true that all of the press is so controlled or employed. There are in all countries papers that are strenuously defending the rights of the people and the rights of the people are better protected where these papers exist.

The industrial question which Tolstoy regards as most important to the people is the land question. He declares that the central problem is the nationalization of land, he being a believer in the single tax theory advanced by Henry George.

But whatever one may think of Tolstoy's views of the ultimate substitution of self-control for government, no one can doubt that he has contributed enormously to the moral forces which tend to lift man above the brutal, the physical and the material into the realm where reason and conscience direct and guide.

WORTH REWARDED

Mr. Wm. H. Berry has been elected mayor of the city of Chester, Pa. This item might seem of little importance to the casual reader, but when it is remembered that Chester is strongly republican and that Mr. Berry is a radical free silver democrat, it is a matter of more significance. It is gratifying to know that a man of his character and ideals is put in a position where the public can profit by his services. It is a tribute to the intelligence of his community as well as to himself. The Commoner extends congratulations.

AN HEROIC ATTACK

Rev. Washington Gladden, pastor of the First Congregational church of Columbus, Ohio, and moderator of the general council of Congregational churches of the nation, in a sermon recently delivered in his own pulpit, directed a philippic against the acceptance of the \$100,000 offered by Rockefeller to the board of missions of the Congregational church. It is a bugle note and, coming as it does from one so high in his denomination, will have great weight. It is an heroic attack upon the plan proposed by the trusts for subsidizing our churches and colleges into silence upon the

iniquities of the private monopoly. Mr. Gladden's remarks are quoted on page six, under the head of "Current Topics."

MEXICO DESERTS SILVER

The press dispatches announce that President Diaz has agreed to the suspension of the coinage of silver with the value of the silver dollar fixed at 50 cents as compared with gold. This action is hailed with great delight by the advocates of

the gold standard. The editor of The Commoner believes that Mexico has acted unwisely in yielding to the demand of the money changers, but it is hardly to be expected that Mexico could hold out when the United States—so much greater in its commercial strength—has witnessed a triumph of the financiers over the producers.

Every new nation going to the gold standard increases the demand for gold and hastens the time when another era of rising dollars will compel the world to study the money question again.

FROM ALL SECTIONS OF COUNTRY

From all sections of the country come substantial assurances that The Commoner's efforts are appreciated. The special subscription offer appears to be growing in favor.

John W. Miller, Snohomish, Wash., under date of March 25, writes: "Enclosed please find postoffice money order for \$3 in payment of the enclosed list of five subscribers."

A Seattle, Wash., reader, under date of March 25, writes: "Herewith money order for \$3 in payment for the list of five subscribers enclosed, according to the terms of your lots of five plan."

A Kansas City reader, under date of March 27, writes: "I hand you herewith draft for \$12 in payment for the enclosed list of twenty subscribers, at your rate of 60 cents per year in lots of five or more. It required two hours to get this list. I expect to add to it soon."

C. Wichterman, Woodsfield, Ohio, under date of March 25, writes: "Herewith find money order for \$3 in payment of enclosed list of five subscribers, according to your club rates."

W. A. Werts, Sr., Aledo, Ill., under date of March 27, writes: "You will find enclosed money order for \$4.20 for which you will please send The Commoner one year to the enclosed list of seven names."

Mrs. Rebecca C. Thomas, Nelson, Pa., writes: "Herewith find money order for \$3.60 to pay for the following list of six subscribers."

Mrs. Sarah J. Wright, Montrose, Iowa, writes: "Enclosed find money order for \$3 to pay for the following list of five subscribers."

A St. Louis, Mo., reader writes: "Enclosed find my check for \$15 to pay for the enclosed list of twenty-five subscribers to The Commoner."

W. D. Burditt, West Lafayette, Ind.: "I hand you herewith list of five subscribers and money order for \$3 in payment of the same."

D. H. Sweet, Thompsonville, Ill.: "I am pleased to hand you herewith list of five subscribers and \$3 to pay for the same."

D. N. Clark, Tarkio, Mo., under date of March 3, writes: "I enclose herewith \$3 to pay for five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner."

W. T. Bland, Bourbon, Ind., writes: "Herewith find money order for \$6 to pay for the enclosed list of ten subscribers. I have gotten up a club for The Commoner each year since it commenced publication."

N. P. Rasmusson, Valley City, N. D., March 24, writes: "Enclosed find my check for \$3 to pay for The Commoner for one year to be sent to the enclosed list of five subscribers."

C. J. Donahue, East Smithfield, Pa.: "I hand you herewith list of six subscribers and money to pay for the same, at your sixty cent rate."

A Clinton, N. J., subscriber writes, under date of March 22: "Herewith find list of six subscribers and \$3.60 to pay for the same at your sixty cents clubbing rate."

A New York reader, under date of March 23, writes: "I hand you herewith list of nineteen subscribers and check for \$11.45 to pay for the same, according to your sixty cent clubbing rate."

Dr. Robert T. Miller, Logansport, Ind., March 23, writes: "The following named ten men all live at Logansport. I enclose money order for \$6 to pay for The Commoner to be sent each of them for one year."

Triplett & Reynolds, Perry, Ill., March 25, writes: "Kindly send The Commoner to the following five named persons. Enclosed find money order for \$3."

John M. Reiss, Louisville, Ky., writes: "Enclosed find money order to pay for five subscribers for The Commoner as follows. Later I may get two or three more subscribers."

J. F. Howard at Stockpoint, Ia.: "Herewith find \$8.40 to pay for the enclosed list of thirteen subscribers."

An Oklahoma City, Okla., reader writes: "Find herewith money order for \$3 to pay for the enclosed club of five subscribers."

G. W. Foster, Noble, Okla., writes: "I am glad to hand you herewith five subscriptions and money order to pay for the same at clubbing rates."

W. C. Payne, at Keonava, W. Va.: "Herewith find money order for \$3 to pay for enclosed list of five subscribers."

Henry Ulrich, Dillonvale, Ohio, writes: "Please send The Commoner one year to each of the following five names. Find money order enclosed to pay for same."

John M. Wickizer, Argus, Ind.: "I hand you herewith five new subscribers and money order for \$3 to pay for same."

John N. Peters, Copeland, W. Va.: "Herewith please find money order for \$3 to pay for the enclosed list of five subscribers."

Dr. L. J. Bavery, Aldreson Va., writes: "It affords me pleasure to hand you herewith list of five subscribers and money order for \$3 to pay for the same."

Dr. C. F. Tallafarro, Birchwood, Tenn.: "I hand you herewith seven subscriptions to The Commoner and \$4.20 to pay for same according to your clubbing rates."

R. L. Edwards, Dexter, Ore., writes: "Herewith find money order for \$3.60 to pay for the enclosed list of six subscribers."

Elbridge Miller, Watertown, Ohio: "Please send The Commoner one year to each of the following five names. Find money order enclosed for same."

Eugene Karts, St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Find herewith list of nine subscribers with money order for \$5.40. If my health gets better I expect to do some hustling for you."

A Valley Junction, Wis., reader writes: "Please send The Commoner to the following five names for one year. Find money order for \$3 to pay for same."

R. T. Daly, Renville, Minn., writes, under date of March 25: "I herewith enclose check for \$3 to pay for list of five subscribers."

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 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 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.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER

Application for Subscription Cards

5	Publisher 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. Name _____ Box, or Street No. _____ P. O. _____ State _____ Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.
10	
15	
20	
25	
50	
75	
100	

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.