

The Commoner.

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CONTENTS

AVENUES OF USEFULNESS
MENDING GOD'S LAW
ROCKEFELLER'S GOVERNMENT "O. K."
DEMOCRATIC TERRITORY
REPUBLICAN TARIFF REFORMERS
ELECTING SENATORS
THE VOTE TELLS THE STORY
FEEDING THE DISEASE
WILL MR. ROOSEVELT STAND FIRM?
BLACK IS NOT WHITE
COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS
THE PRIMARY PLEDGE
NEWS OF THE WEEK

A GREATER THAN ROCKEFELLER

A New York boy by the name of Morris Schateffer has refused an offer of \$18,000 a year, preferring to continue his schooling. Young Schateffer is only fifteen, but he has won such distinction as an inventor that the General Electric company offered him an extraordinary salary. A newspaper dispatch under date of New York, July 26, tells the story in this way:

Eighteen thousand a year for a boy fifteen! And he turned it down! It came to Morris Schateffer, of 872 Gates Avenue, who solved a problem for signaling for electric roads. His system is in use on a part of the Brooklyn rapid transit lines. According to report, he has been offered \$25,000 for his invention, but he thinks it is worth twice as much. He declined an offer to go with the General Electric company at \$18,000 a year because he wants to finish his course in the public schools.

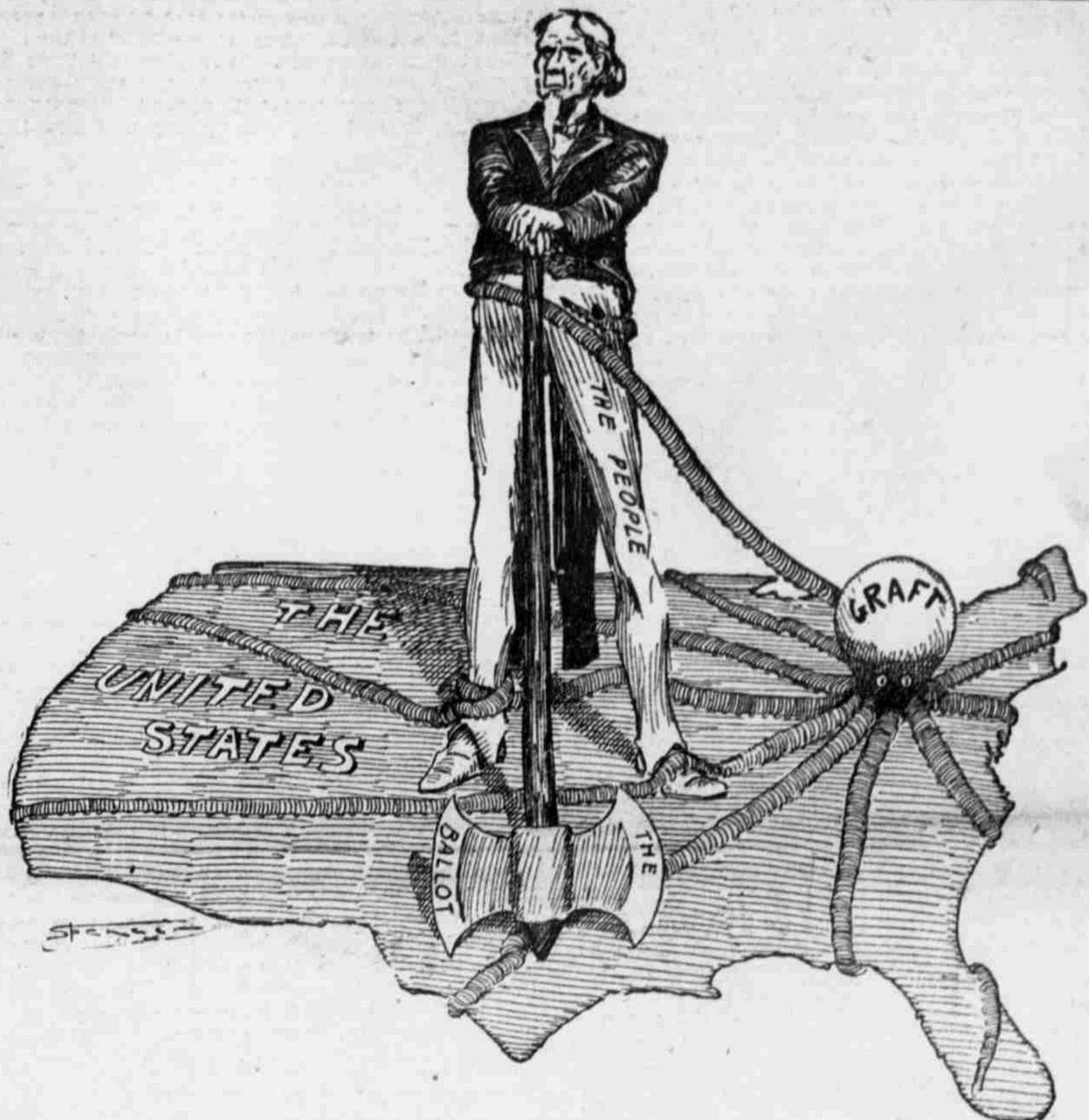
In preferring an education to so promising a position, young Schateffer shows that he views life from a higher standpoint than those do who sacrifice everything to the accumulation of wealth. A well trained mind can furnish the body all it needs, namely, food, clothing and shelter, but a purse, however well filled, can not supply either brain or conscience.

DEMOCRATIC TERRITORY

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal quotes Senator Dolliver of Iowa as saying: "Two years ago, before a great audience in Des Moines, I denounced publicly the whole system of rebates, secret agreements, and other discriminations practiced by railroad companies, calling special attention to the fact that such abuses had done much to build up the trust system in the United States, and that speech created no comment whatever in any quarter, though several distinguished gentlemen have acquired national reputation by uttering similar sentiments since that time."

Senator Dolliver did very well indeed, but he must not forget that nine years ago democrats denounced these evils publicly and repeatedly. During a presidential campaign in which the trusts were supplying the republican party with its campaign funds democrats directed attention to the fact that "such abuses had done much to build up the trust system in the United States."

When Senator Dolliver favored these reforms two years ago he stood upon democratic territory; and Mr. Roosevelt stands upon democratic territory in every popular reform he has so far advocated.



But ARE the People Powerless?

AVENUES OF USEFULNESS ..FARMING..

The Commoner will not live up to the purpose of its founder unless it makes itself indispensable to all the members of the family. While its main aim is to assist others in the intelligent and patriotic exercise of the suffrage it strives also to commend itself to the housewife and to the children. In fact, it can not more surely win the confidence of the parents than by stimulating the boys and girls to worthy effort by presentation of high ideals of life. There is but one measure of greatness—namely, service—and service is the measure of happiness also. Only those find life worth living who devote themselves conscientiously to some work which satisfies the conscience and contributes to human welfare. Money is useful as a servant, when honestly acquired, but money does not buy happiness. Social intercourse is necessary for recreation and for the study of human nature but nothing is more empty than a life wholly devoted to society. Even public service returns more sorrow than satisfaction if it is undertaken from selfish motives. Each one needs a life work which, while furnishing food and shelter and clothing, will yield a surplus of advantage to the public at large. The avenues of usefulness are innumerable and one has no difficulty in selecting one so congenial that work will become a pleasure. Some of these will be

suggested from time to time in these columns.

Let us take, first, work upon the farm, as it demands a larger number than any other branch of industry. Without attempting to distinguish between agriculture and horticulture, consider the inviting field that opens before the farmer. The study of the soil, to learn what crops are most suitable; the examination of seeds, to ascertain which are the most potent; experimentation with methods of culture, to determine which gives the best results—all these are alluring departments of work. Then, the insects which must be fought and the blights which must be avoided—these open up interesting lines of study.

And the breeding of horses, cattle, hogs and sheep—what an opportunity they furnish for intelligent selection and scientific care. Idleness ought not to be described as luxurious or even tolerable when farming is so much more fascinating. The latter furnishes food and exercise for the body, activity for the mind and occupation for the beast, while the former rusts the physical and mental faculties and corrupts the morals. Besides the crops and herds the farmer has the orchard, the berry patch, the vineyard, the garden and the flower beds to develop—here also is an opportunity to employ brain as well as muscle and to enjoy the consciousness of con-