

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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A LITTLE FAMILY MATTER

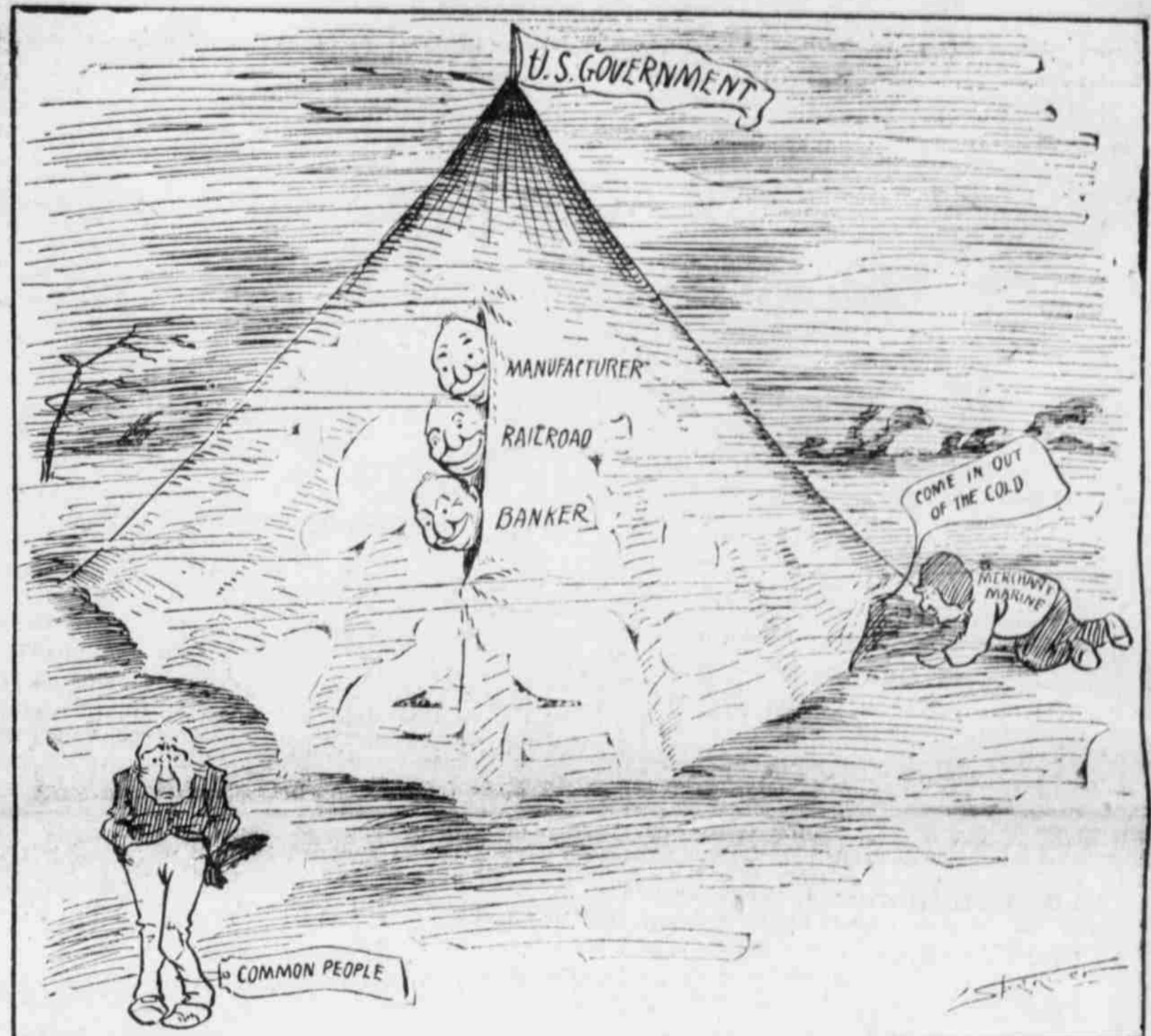
O, tell me, Pa McCurdy, are there any more at home like these?
Any other sons or daughters, son-in-law or cousins, please?
I really want to know, you know—my premium now is due—
O, tell me, Pa McCurdy, are there any more depending on you?
Your son has made a million,
And your son-in-law has, too—
O, tell me, Pa McCurdy,
Are we still in debt to you?
Answer quickly, Pa McCurdy—we are "mutually" in doubt—
Any other "poor relations?" Has our policy run out?

O, tell me, Pa McCurdy, are there any not yet on your roll?
Any others in your family pouring premiums in a hole?
Have you any aunts or uncles who have failed to make a touch?
O, tell me, Pa McCurdy, are there very many more of such?
Tis but a family matter
But an answer is my due—
O, tell me, Pa McCurdy,
Any more at home like you?
Answer quickly, Pa McCurdy—we are "mutually" in doubt—
Any other "poor relations?" Has our policy run out?

O, tell me, Pa McCurdy, does your salary meet all desire?
If not, remember, papa, tell us just what you require.
If you have more relations do not hesitate, I pray,
But get 'em on the payroll quick—you should not long delay.
The men who pay the premiums
Meet them promptly when they're due,
They know well, Pa McCurdy,
There are more at home like you.
Answer quickly, Pa McCurdy—we are "mutually" in doubt—
Any other "poor relations?" Has our policy run out?
—THE POLICYHOLDER

Mr. Carnegie asserts that a university training unfits a man for business. Perhaps for some lines of business, but Chauncey M. Depew, and Richard A. McCurdy are university graduates, and recent disclosures point to the fact that they have been eminently successful in some lines of business.

AND ONE OTHER



"We have protected and encouraged every interest but our merchant marine, and every protected industry has flourished."--Secretary of the Treasury Shaw.

ADVICE TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS

The Omaha (Nebraska) Bee, a republican newspaper, referring to Mr. Bryan's open letter to President Roosevelt says: "Admitting his good intentions, is it not a little presumptuous for Colonel Bryan to offer advice continually to Mr. Roosevelt on the subject of running the government?"

The special interests have had under the Roosevelt administration—as under all administrations—representatives who were in position to offer advice. No one knows better than the editor of the Omaha Bee that the counsel reaching the president from these inner circles is frequently sugar-coated, and that a man isolated as the president of the United States naturally is can not always determine either upon the wisdom or the disinterestedness of such counsel.

A public official will be best helped by advice publicly given. Not that all advice, even though given in a public way, is the best advice—but given as it is it becomes subject to criticism and the public officer to whom such advice has been offered has the advantage of weighing the original opinion with the criticism.

But special interests "doth so hedge a king" that it is not at all strange that public officials, depending upon the counsel of their intimate, and all too often particularly interested, associates, mistake partisan suggestion for patriotic advice.

If it were true that in his open letter to the

president Mr. Bryan gave any advice not in keeping with public interests, then he would be open to criticism. But in our form of government public interests are best secured when the humblest citizen in the land feels free to offer suggestion, even to the highest public servant.

"Admitting Mr. Bryan's good intentions," the Bee, as a newspaper published in a republic, has estopped itself from all criticism of Mr. Bryan's suggestion to the president of the United States, at a critical period in our history, that the best service he can render to his country—or to his party—would be by rigid adherence to the declared policy of requiring the railroads to do justice to the people.

If it should be established that counsel offered, even to the president of the United States—counsel whose wisdom and patriotism may not be successfully assailed—is to be regarded as presumptuous when given by a citizen of the republic, then the men who at one moment contribute other people's money to republican campaign funds, only in the next moment to profess their devotion to high ideals, would very soon run away with the government.

Incidentally, The Commoner does not mind saying that no one understands these truths better than the editor of the Omaha Bee, a man who has on many occasions found it necessary to give "presumptuous" advice to the leaders of his own party whom he has suspected of a disposition to pull the corporation chestnuts out of the fire.