

## Editorials by Commoner Readers

H. W. Bergey, Madisonville, Ohio—Secretary of the United States Treasury Shaw reports that \$65,726,312.38 is on deposit among 835 banks. These same banks are paying 3 per cent interest on individual deposits and if "Uncle Sam" was paid the same interest on his balance say \$50,000,000 it would earn \$1,500,000 yearly. Who receives the benefit of this interest since "Uncle Sam" receives none? If the secretary of the treasury was a "grafter" wouldn't it be possible under the present system of depositing United States money for the secretary to receive "graft" from the favored banks? Yearly deposits are worth 3 per cent in dribs, "Uncle Sam's" millions are worth as much at least. Now can you or anybody else explain why "Uncle Sam" continues to be fleeced out of his interest?

H. E. Dye, Visalia, Calif.—Enclosed find a very plain and simple article on the money question. It is so simple that even bankers who think it is impossible to understand the money question, may be able to catch on. President Roosevelt, please tell congress that money ought by no means to be made of something hid in the earth lest enough not be found and its scarcity effect the prices of things; whereas supply and demand should do that. Or too much might be found. Paper makes the best money in the world and, like postage stamps, any boy or girl knows how many postage stamps are needed—enough to run the business. And when it needs increasing the government could issue new money to pay some of its debts to the extent it might be deemed best to be increased—say to the amount it is now yearly increased by gold and silver. All the people would share in the government's thus paying its bills, whereas now a few individuals, successful miners, enjoy a monopoly of keeping up the money supply.

William H. Hawken, Denver, Colo.—In reading the president's message, that part relating to the admission of the four territories as two states, I was struck with the manner in which he dismissed the subject. I do not mean, nor do I desire to appear, as censorious in speaking of same. It strikes me, however, that the subject is dismissed in a very arbitrary manner. He says:

"There is no obligation upon us to treat territorial subdivisions which are matters of convenience only, as binding us on the question of admission to statehood."

From this I take it that the principle of the right of the people to self-government has at last become of no effect, and the government must not be bothered, wearied, or troubled further by the people who feel that

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this question of separate or joint statehood should not be settled until it is settled right, not even if "nothing has taken up more time in the congress during the past few years, than the question as to the statehood to be granted to the four territories above mentioned." The president recommends the admission of the four territories as two states, and further says "there is no justification for further delay."

Now, sir, I believe the majority of Arizonians are opposed to this joint statehood measure. It is this: If these four territories are admitted as two states, then the financial interests of the east will only have two more votes to overcome, instead of four.

I only touch on this question of representation for the reason that at the last session of congress this language was reported in the daily press as having been used on the floor: "The representation west of the Mississippi must be kept at the lowest possible notch."

Now, as I have stated at the beginning, I do not question the motives of the president in his advocacy in his message of this measure, yet I believe that the time has arrived when the states west, not only of the Mississippi, but of the Alleghenies as well, should stand together and manfully fight against any and all measures that tend in any way to limit or reduce their just representation, and this measure, I believe, sir, is of this character and will, undoubtedly, be introduced at this session.

Believing that I have stated this proposition fairly, and while a Missourian, I take great interest in Arizona and for that reason send you this communication, trusting that it may aid somewhat in fighting against this outrage that may be perpetrated on the people of Arizona.

A. J. Doremus, Minneapolis, Minn.—There was a statement in The Commoner some time ago that, when the matter of a primary election law was before the legislature of Texas, some one proposed an article for the law, to the effect that there might be placed upon the ticket a resolution or statement of principle forming a platform for which the voters wished the nominee to stand. If such an article was not secured then, I hope the people of Texas will roll up their sleeves and go for it again and again till they get it. Let other states which have a primary election law put such an article in it, and the states which have no such law go about getting one, if for no other reason than this of platform making by the people. Then the people can make it positively known that they want and mean to have popular election of United States senators. In the matter of election of senators by the people, the citizens of any state, very desirous of having it for themselves, need not wait for the slow and cumbersome process of amending the constitution. Let them amend their own constitution so that it shall require that the voters at the proper election, shall elect a senator and that this election shall be binding upon the legislature, whose sole function it shall be to declare that the said man is elected senator, then the certificate of election which the senator-elect shall present at Washington, will correspond exactly with that which he presents now. This last phase of the process is to forestall any possible quibbling in the senate as to his election; also to avoid any quibbling as to the constitutionality of the constitution.

W. Carey Carson, Falmouth, Ind.—Believing, as you do, that all good government must come directly from the people, I have formed a plan to

aid in bringing the people into closer touch with the affairs of government, and would like your opinion of it. I am but eighteen years old but I have been interested in politics every since I could begin to see its importance. I believe the true democratic party represents the principles on which the best government of this country depends and I wish to do all in my power to aid in carrying out these principles. My plan is as follows:

"That the democrats in each township of each county organize a club or assembly that shall meet not less than once a month at any place most suitable to all parties concerned. That this club shall be organized for the purpose of promoting the principles of democracy in every possible way. Each club of each township shall select three persons to represent their respective townships in a committee that shall be known as 'the county committee.' This committee shall meet not less than once a month and its date of meeting shall be previous to that of the township clubs. The purpose of this committee shall be to investigate the political affairs of their county and especially to investigate the character and political beliefs of the persons most likely to be chosen to represent the democratic party in the county offices, and to report the result of these investigations to the township clubs; the members of the committee reporting to their respective clubs.

"Each county committee shall select one of its own members to represent its respective county in a committee that shall be known as 'the state committee.' This committee shall meet not less than once a month and its date of meeting shall be previous to that of 'the county committee.' The purpose of this 'state committee' shall be to investigate the political affairs of the state and especially investigate the character and political beliefs of the persons most likely to represent democracy in the state offices and to report the result of these investigations to the county committees; each member of the state committee reporting to his respective 'county committee.' The 'county committee' shall then transmit this report to the township clubs; each member of the 'county committee' reporting to his respective club."

If desired a national committee could be formed in the same manner as the state and county committees and reporting to the township clubs in the same manner. As you see the result of this plan would be to keep the people posted on all the political affairs of the county state and nation and would give them a better chance of selecting honest and capable men at their primaries. Your primary pledge could be used in connection with this by having each member of the township clubs sign and keep the pledge.

As you will doubtless perceive, the plan is shown here in a very crude form for I have not had the time to develop it, but if improved and developed by older and wiser heads than my own I believe it would be useful in bringing the affairs of government nearer to the people.

H. A. Jerauld, National City, Calif.—I suggest that the national democratic convention meet January 8, 1908, in San Diego or Los Angeles, and adopt short platform and principles. This will, by the associations of the day, emphasize Jackson's methods, and if we make a good nomination the candidate will get the benefit of Jackson's old shoes. In the next presidential campaign the personality of the presidential candidates will count. Stealing is not confined to republican ranks. The people want a clean and firm leader, and a fighter.

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