

situation so far as the soft coal fields are concerned. The organization of the independent operators who were holding out against granting the advance demanded by the miners at a meeting tonight decided to give up the struggle and will sign the scale. All those at the meeting were representatives of the operators who had bound themselves not to sign the scale. A number of other members were wavering as to entering the agreement. These latter were not present, but it was assured that they would sign up on learning the action of the meeting tonight."

As a result of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius the people in the vicinity of that volcano are in a condition bordering on panic. Many homes have been abandoned.

A plan is on foot to give Secretary of the Treasury Shaw a banquet at St. Louis, April 26. General John W. Noble, former secretary of the interior, was chosen as grand marshal, and Col. George D. Reynolds was named on the reception committee, but both of the gentlemen declined to serve. Chairman Neideringhaus of the republican state committee, has announced that he would not attend the banquet. The affair is to be given under the auspices of the Missouri League of republican clubs, and while the secretary of the league says that it is to be a non-partisan affair, it is understood as the beginning of Mr. Shaw's presidential boom.

General Ramon Blanco, Spain's last governor general of Cuba died at Madrid, Spain.

Governor Cummins of Iowa, and George D. Perkins, his republican opponent, will engage in joint debate.

Chancellor Von Buelow fainted while attending the sitting of the Reichstag at Berlin. The chancellor was unconscious for some time. He was taken ill while listening to a speech delivered by Herr Bebel, the socialist leader.

Senator Chauncey M. Depew has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election as a member of the board of trustees of Yale college. A movement was on foot to defeat him. Senator Depew's physician says he is suffering from a nervous breakdown, the result of prolonged strain.

Secretary of War Taft delivered an address at Tuskegee, Alabama, in which he approved the south's restrictions on the ignorant negro vote.

David E. Sherrick, former auditor for the state of Indiana, has been refused a new trial. He will serve from two to twenty years in the penitentiary.

## Cannot Rest

Your appetite is gone. What little you eat distresses you. Strength is failing—are bilious. You have headache, backache, feel blue and melancholy—and cannot rest or sleep. The fact is your nerves are unstrung, and you are on the verge of nervous prostration. They must be strengthened, renewed. They will not cure themselves, but must have a nerve remedy. This you will find in

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It is prepared for just such ailments, and is a never-failing remedy, because it soothes, feeds and builds the nerves back to health. If allowed to continue, stomach, kidney and liver troubles will soon be added to your already overflowing measure of misery. "I suffered from nervous prostration. When I began taking Dr. Miles' Nervine I couldn't hold anything in my hands, nor get from one room to another. Now I do all my own work." MRS. CHAS. LANDRUM, Carthage, Mo. Nervine seldom fails to do all we claim for it, and so we authorize druggists to refund money if first bottle does not benefit.



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St. Louis, Mo.

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## Editorials by Commoner Readers

Charles W. Bowne, Odessa, Washington—The Roosevelt policy is "much powder and little shot." If the democrats hope to succeed by the use of a little more powder and a little more shot they will fall between the devil of republicanism and the deep seas of socialism. There is no room for two parties with conservative tendencies. All civilized nations are travelling toward government ownership of public utilities. If the democratic party would succeed it must become something more than a party of negatives. The people want something; they do not know just what, but if democrats do not offer a definite measure of relief the first panic that comes—and one is about due—there will be a mighty migration to a party with a program. Unless the democratic party has a progressive platform and a campaign of education from now on, it will be worse off than in 1904. Nearly every paper and magazine in the United States is helping to make the people dissatisfied, but the only party that offers any real relief is the socialist party. The republicans do not want to give relief and it remains to be seen whether the democrats do. The socialist party is gaining, not because of the preaching of socialists but because the fostering of special interests are driving people to socialism for relief.

William Miller, Quitaque, Texas—Enclosed find a clipping from the Chicago Inter-Ocean on the subject: "What is a republican?" It seems to me that this alone should be sufficient to change any honest man who is a republican, and cause him to take up the cause of democracy. Yours for the success of the principles you advocate.

Henry C. King, San Antonio, Texas—Availing myself of your invitation to offer suggestions and comment, I add a few lines, not that I have any especial suggestion for the betterment but to express the great satisfaction which all democrats must feel that the party, and the country, have so able an exponent of the true principles upon which our government must rest if it is to endure and to remain a government of the people. I must beg to say also that The Commoner is to be congratulated upon having secured the editorial services of Mr. Metcalfe, whose work makes so effectively for righteousness, for humanity, and all the better things of life. He is a worthy coadjutor of his eminent chief, the Hon. W. J. Bryan. The writer has had the honor and pleasure of meeting Mr. Bryan on his visits to this city, and has

been a subscriber to The Commoner since its first issue. Mr. Bryan today stands first in the hearts of all democrats. Best wishes for the continued success and usefulness of The Commoner.

W. R. Stokes, St. Paul, Minn.—You speak of the facts concerning child labor in this country as disclosed in a recent book by Mr. John Spargo. You indulge a few remarks deploring and deprecating the facts, and say: "It is high time the fathers and mothers of America arouse themselves to a realizing sense of the danger that threatens their children." But not a word do you offer as to what in particular should be done either by them or by anybody else in reference to the matter. True you also say: "The demand for 'cheap labor' is responsible for this criminal condition of affairs" etc. But what would that demand amount to if those who respond to it were independent of it? And why are they not independent of it? If there was the chance for men to take their choice between working for themselves or working for somebody else, do you suppose that conditions would be as they are described in the book mentioned? I take it that you must answer no. Then why isn't the great question of all questions this: Why is it that men do not have the chance to take their choice between working for themselves or working for somebody else? As I see things, that which gives human beings gainful vocation and calling is exploitation of natural resources. That is, the use of natural resources is the basis, either direct or indirect, of all gainful functioning. And hence if the individual does not have access to land he is wholly dependent upon employment by somebody else for his chance to make a living; yet no one in the whole wide world is under any obligation whatever to employ him. And what is the result? All who are in this position must compete with each other to get employment from those who command the natural resources; or, of course, from such others as may be in a business which is itself supported through the using of land by yet others. Then what is necessary in order to relieve those who are in this predicament of being without land to exploit? Isn't it obvious that part of the land must be freed from the dominion of private ownership and made public again so that it may be acquired by these landless people? I suppose you have now already thought of both socialism and the single tax scheme. But I propose neither: am in fact opposed to both.

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