

FROM THE PEOPLE

C. B. Cole, Wyandotte, I. T.—I would like to say a word to The Commoner readers in regard to The Commoner Condensed, or Commoner in book form. I fear that a great many Commoner readers have overlooked the value of this work. I have taken every copy just as fast as they have been put out, and added to my collection of books, and have none that I prize more highly than The Commoner Condensed. They cost practically nothing. I would not take \$5 per volume for them, if I could not get them again, and I would like to urge every Commoner reader who has not got them to take all back numbers and also take the volumes as fast as they come out, and add to their library. As a reference book on all political subjects it has no equal.

John R. Bartron, Madison, Ind.—Residing in the country now, and being in my 79th year, my opportunities to aid in the good work advocated by The Commoner are quite unfavorable to the task duty would seem to impose on the patriotic and intelligent voter. I was an early republican. I was a soldier in the civil war. I witnessed the money power enthroning itself with the support of lawmakers whose legal opinion was worth to an "individual" \$10,000 a year. It is said Lincoln expressed his views thus: "I tremble for my country in view of the enthronement of corporations." Our debt contracted for payment "in currency," known as greenbacks, was made payable in coin. It (coin) has been cut in two. "Vote as you shot, boys, vote as you shot" to the soldier; to the negro, "don't let them put you back into slavery." My vote has been for democracy ever since Grant's first inaugural address. I, too, could see many reasons to tremble with fear of the consequences of special privileges to rob and plunder in the interests of corporations. I will do what I can in my humble way to promote our party interests and the circulation of The Commoner.

William Peebler, Nelson, Neb.—I believe The Commoner is doing and has done a great work of education, but there is much yet to be done along that line. Allow me to make a suggestion to the subscribers of The Commoner, a plan I have followed from the first copy issued and I have never missed one to date. First, let each present subscriber get as many new subscribers as possible, thereby broadening the paper's educational possibilities, and second, never destroy a single copy of The Commoner, but after having read them, be sure and hand them to a voter and call his attention to some particularly excellent article, thereby doubling the value, educationally, of each subscriber. Yes, sir, I am as optimistic as the next one, though we are temporarily beaten, yet the people, though bribed by this promise, and betrayed by that leader, will learn that if they themselves would govern, they must educate in the way of true democracy, that is, equal rights to all and special privileges to none. You may count on me every step in the road to do my part in the educational stunt as far as my ability will permit. But there is one recent bunch of recruits that is trying to scramble into the democratic band wagon, that I beg our tried leaders to scan with a wary eye. I refer to the "political train robbers," as Mr. Bryan denominated them. You know the certain personage who took the Master up onto the high mountain and offered Him all the glories of the earth and didn't own or control a foot of it. These recent recruits are ready to offer and are offering much the same way. I say scan and weigh them and their offers warily.

W. H. Allen, Brooklyn, N. Y.—What has become of the enormous increase of gold currency of which we have heard so much in recent years? Five years ago United States Treasurer Roberts predicted that as a result of this increase gold coin would soon be circulating as freely here as in other countries. But this prediction has come far short of fulfillment. Bank holdings show but little evidence of the increase, and the only explanation offered by the experts is that the coin must be in hand to hand circulation; people, it is said, now carry around \$20 in gold where they formerly carried but \$5. That people are handling more money than they did a few years ago may be admitted, but that they are handling four times as much gold is extremely doubtful. I have questioned people who have traveled all over the country and their experience is that so far from being more plentiful, there seems to be actually less of the yellow metal in circula-

tion now than there was before 1896. A friend of mine wrote to United States Mint Director G. E. Roberts on this subject, and in reply the latter states that "without doubt there has been a large increase in these ten years in the amount of gold coin held in actual circulation in the western states, particularly the Pacific coast states which have increased largely in population and business, and where coin alone is the money of circulation." Well now I should like to hear from those readers of The Commoner who reside on the Pacific coast and other western states on this subject. Does their experience confirm Mr. Roberts' view that there has been a large increase of gold coin in circulation in their section of the country?

Charles Stephens, Denver, Colo.—A proclamation requiring prospective homeseekers to register at a place in the vicinity of the territory sometime before the drawing takes place works a great hardship on many of the most deserving homeseekers and benefits nobody but the railroads and a few hotel men. I can not see any reason why every proper person can not be given a chance to draw for such land by registering at the place in which they live. This could be done by having them appear before a notary public, some county officer or the postmaster, and making the application on forms to be furnished by the government officials. The day and hour of the making of such application could be marked on same by said official, and if need be, witnessed by two or more disinterested persons. These applications could then be forwarded to the land office in the vicinity of the land and numbered either in the order in which they were made or the order in which they were received. This would enable thousands of worthy people to register who can not afford to make the trip so long before the drawing and either remain there until the drawing takes place or return to their home and make the second trip in order to attend the drawing at the time their name is called. Each time such a land opening takes place we find all the railroads of the country making every effort to advertise same, and as a rule the railroads receive more from the people who go to register than the land to be opened is worth. In order to keep the people on the move and following up these lands opened, they are being divided into comparatively small tracts, such as the Rosebud, Ninta, Crow, Shoshone and Flathead reservations instead of having one registration for them all and then giving plenty of time to each lucky party at the drawing in which to make his selection out of any of them. I believe the influence opposing the latter plan could be found among the railroads.

Referring to an article that appeared in The Commoner recently Bishop C. C. McCabe, writing from Janesville, Wis., says: "I never said that I was opposed to a labor organization. I said I was in favor of labor, not only sixteen per cent of it that belongs to the labor unions, but also of the eighty-four per cent that does not belong to labor unions. In short, that I was in favor of one hundred per cent of labor and not a fraction of it. My position is unassailable. It represents the Methodist Episcopal church. I have explained this several times before."

FOR THE SCRAP-BOOK

An' J But Tent Thy Faither's Flocks

In summer time the wee lambs broose,
The loch lies blue in shadow,
An' little breezes tell thy name
To a' the ferny meadow.

When mither left me, puir lone lad,
An' a' the warl' was dreary,
Sae kind thou cam'st to comfort me,
Wi' blue eyes, soft an' cheery.

It is na wise to love sae weel,
An' thou sae grave an' tender,
But whan thy blue eyes pitied me
'Twas a' ane holy splendor!

An' I but tent thy faither's flocks,
Auld Angus Donald's laddie,
Sae meanly clad the bitter wind
Sweeps thro' my scanty plaidie.

I maun's weel try to gain a star
As thy sweet lips, my dearie,
I maun's weel try to clasp the cross
Of gold on Kirk o' Mary.

—The Bohemian.

OBSERVATIONS

The beef trust has raised the price of shoes by shipping cattle abroad and the leather trust has aided in this popular enterprise by storing great quantities of hides, with the practical result of a scarcity of leather. In 1894 a fifty pound upper leather hide cost \$1.75, now—January, 1906—it costs \$6.75. But where does the cattle-man come in? Since the bottom fell out of the cattle business in '85 who, but the packers, have profited?

Once the American people are made to laugh heartily at any witticism uttered in or emanating from a serious consideration, not all the wrongs and dangers imaginable can induce them to seriously fear any consequences from any given condition of public affairs. Men who have a knowledge of human nature, and whose methods are dishonest and corrupt, are quick to seize upon this weakness of the people, and they play upon their temperament as a musician upon an instrument. A scoundrel who mingles his bribes and corruptions with a wit to provoke people to laughter, disarms them of suspicion, by prompting their sympathetic indifference. The clown of the circus attracts the little people, but how wonderfully young all people seem in his presence. The American people have been kept laughing almost constantly the last fifteen years or so and they are very difficult to bring to a serious contemplation of their own most important affairs.

Lincoln said "You can fool some of the people all the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

And ever since the great man said it we have been patting ourselves on the back, wagging our wise heads and mumbling our satisfaction in the conceit that you can't fool all of us all the time.

Who has ever tried to fool all the people all the time?

Who has ever even tried to fool all of the people part of the time?

The republican party has been fooling part of the people right straight along and from her success at it that is all that is necessary. Wherefore, whilst the words of the great Lincoln have proven of some merit to evoke the enthusiasm and self confidence of the people, they are wholly destitute of that technical accuracy that visits the science of logic upon the formation of sentences in a full conception of the purport of the words used.

The monopolies, the trusts, "Uncle Joe's" congressional committees, Senator Aldrich's committees, only need "some"—just one more than half!—and there you are!

All they want is to "fool some of the people all the time"—and they have been and are doing that very thing, and unless the people turn the scales on them and make their protest in a greater number than heretofore, Lincoln's words, that he meant to have but little meaning, will contain all the meaning; i. e. "You can fool some of the people all the time."

To make this so plain that a five-year old boy may understand it, and we seem often worse than childish, let us presume the people to number, all told, one hundred and one. Now fifty-one is a majority. The majority rules. Also, fifty-one are "some of the people" and if you "can fool some of the people all the time," as Lincoln said, that is all you want, and that is exactly why and how such men as Aldrich, Steve Elkins, Depew, Hopkins, Foraker, Knox, Spooner, et al, are in the senate; why and how "Uncle Joe" manipulates his house of representatives.

In view of the fact that we are divided into states, whose legislatures elect the senators, and, therefore, provide that "some" that may be fooled "all the time;" and districts whose people must furnish the "some" that are to be fooled "all the time," the opportunities are scattered and abundant to exert an influence to so fool that "some" of the people that it is not so easily discernible.

Wherefore it is necessary that "some" of the people, unless they wish to be fooled "all the time," must establish themselves in the majority in their respective districts to prevent themselves from being fooled "all the time."

Indianapolis, Ind.

W. S. RYAN.