

## "Hew to the Line, Let the Chips Fall Where They May"

No man who is financially connected with a corporation that is seeking privileges ought to act as a member of a political organization, because he can not represent his corporation and the people at the same time. He can not serve the party while he is seeking to promote the financial interests of the corporation with which he is connected.

### The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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Kansas republicans are sweating at every pore.

Senator Dryden's grip on a re-election scarcely has the "strength of Gibraltar."

The "standpatters" doubtless realize now that they exhibited entirely too much neck exposure.

If the new theatrical trust will restrict output it will earn a little gratitude from a long suffering people.

When the "big stick" returns from Panama it is to be hoped that the big shovel will begin active duty down there.

Doubtless the administration organs will concede that the constitution follows the flag under which the president sails.

Perhaps the administration is encouraging the base ball craze in Panama in order to have some place to score the errors.

Those rebellious Utes seem to be very human, after all. As soon as their stomachs were filled they forgot all about their troubles.

Speaker Cannon is out in opposition to an income tax. "Uncle Joe" is putting an awfully high tax on the patience of the people.

Secretary Shaw's home county, Crawford, seems to have overlooked the secretary's "convincing figures" of tariff-made prosperity.

A sporting friend, after reading the election returns, ventured the assertion that in the next inning the "standpatters" will draw cards.

That low chuckling sound from the vicinity of the Western Reserve is merely your old friend, General Grosvenor, figuring up the vote of the gentlemen who swiped his congressional nomination.

### A STUDY OF GOVERNMENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

public servants. Hamilton, on the other hand, believed in a strong centralized government in which the officials should be removed as far as possible from the voter. His plan of government, carefully prepared and presented at the time of the formation of the constitution, provided for a president elected for life or during good behavior, or for governors of the several states appointed by the president for life or during good behavior. No one would propose such a plan at this time, so great has been the advance toward democracy. This growth is indicated by the fact that the national house of representatives has four times declared in favor of the election of the United States senators by direct vote of the people and by the further fact that more than two-thirds of the states of the union have by legislative action declared in favor of this change. The unpopularity of the latter part of Hamilton's plan, namely—the appointment of governors by the president, is shown by the fact that territorial government under which the governors are appointed by the president, not for life but for a few years, is deemed satisfactory. The people of a territory are always wanting statehood, and the main reason is that they desire to elect their own officials.

The democratic idea is growing—the term is not used in a partisan sense but in that broader sense in which it describes government by the people. There is not a civilized nation in which the idea of popular government is not growing, and in all the semi-civilized nations there are reformers who are urging an extension of the influence of the people in government. So universal is this growth of democratic ideas that there can be no doubt of the final triumph of these ideas. Monarchies, at first unlimited, are now limited, and limited monarchies are recognizing more and more the right of the people to a voice in their own government. Monarchies and aristocracies tend toward democracy, and republics tend to become more and more democratic in their forms and methods.

When the seed, planted in the earth, sends forth the tender leaf and then the stalk; when the grain appears upon the stalk and supplies the bread necessary for the support of our bodies, we know that there is back of the seed a force irresistible and constantly working. As irresistible and as ceaseless in its activity is the force behind political and moral truth. The advocates of the American theory of government can, therefore, labor with the confident assurance that the principles planted upon American soil a century and a quarter ago are destined to grow here and everywhere until arbitrary power will nowhere be known, and the voice of the people will be recognized, if not as the voice of God, at least, as Bancroft defines it, as the best expression of the divine will to be found upon the earth.

In republics, as in other forms of government, there will at times be disturbances, but these come from a failure to recognize and respect the current of public opinion. If we stand by the side of a stream and watch it glide past us, we can in safety listen to the song of the waters, but if we attempt to dam the stream we find the water rising above the dam. If we make the dam higher still, the water rises still more and at last the force of the obstructed water is so great that no dam made by human hands can longer stay it. Sometimes, when the dam is washed away, damage is done to those who live in the valley below, but the fault is not in the stream but in those who attempt to obstruct it. So in human society, there is a current of public opinion which flows ever onward. If left to have its way it does not harm anyone, but if obstructed, this current may become a menace. At last the obstruction must

yield to the force of the current. In monarchies and aristocracies the dam is sometimes built so high that it must be removed by force that the waters may have their way, but in republics the ballot can be relied upon to keep the channel of the stream open, or if obstruction is placed there, to remove it while yet it can be removed with safety. The advantage of a republic is that the people, through their representatives are able to give public opinion free play, and the more democratic a republic is, the more nearly does it conform to the wishes of the people.

No one can study the governments of the old world without a feeling of gratitude that in the new world the science of government has been carried to its highest point and that the people enjoy the privilege, and bear the responsibility, of leading the world in recognizing the right of the people to devise and to direct the government under which they are to work out their destiny.

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### MISTAKES ON GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

(Continued from Page 5)

monopolies, is not socialism for the reason that under private ownership competition has ceased to exist, or never did exist.

The elimination of competition between parallel railways is rapidly being accomplished and will continue regardless of laws and commissions, just as occurred in England and Europe. Those who cry "socialism" to frighten the people into opposing government ownership look with indifference upon the gigantic railway combinations, as is well illustrated by the following quotations:

In his lectures on commerce, Chicago University in 1904, ex-Secretary of the Navy Paul Morton said: "I do not view the ownership of all the American railroads by a single company or interest with the slightest alarm." Mr. Morton formerly pretended to be a democrat, but he has found his proper place in the republican party. Mr. H. T. Newcomb, editor of the Railway World, says in an article in the Review of Reviews, 1901, Vol. 24, page 174: "The economic advantages of absolute unification are so great that it may be expected that the movement will not cease until unification has been completely accomplished."

Mr. Newcomb did not indicate who would reap the advantages of absolute unification of railway interests, but it was hardly necessary.

The discussion of the question of public ownership of railroads will be carried on by the republican editors and speakers along the same lines that the money question was discussed in 1896, and the voter who is looking for facts and seeking truth should closely investigate and study their extravagant claims and misrepresentations. The annual reports of the interstate commerce commission from 1887 to the present time should be thoughtfully read and studied, and if this is done there will be no doubt as to the outcome.

### THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 16.