

of markets and by the bankruptcy of rivals. The money collected has in many cases been collected by means which are immoral if not illegal, and society could justify a claim to a part as a fine.

But, after all, there is a better remedy than the inheritance tax if the real purpose of the tax is to be levied as a punishment. Instead of allowing the government to grant privileges, to create favors and to sell immunity to great high-waysmen, why not restore the government to its legitimate functions and take away the special advantages which have been granted by law? If each individual is put upon his own merits and left to secure only so much as he can earn, the fortunes will not be so fabulous as they are now. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure according to the old proverb, and it is certainly wiser to prevent unjust accumulations than to permit them to extend through a life on condition that the government shall at the end of the life receive a share of the plunder.

However, the discussion of the income tax and the inheritance tax will educate the people as to what has been going on in the United States. There has been a good deal of education already, and there will be more when public thought is turned upon the question of taxation.

AN OBJECT LESSON

The democratic vote in Illinois in 1900 was 503,061. That was when the party stood for a positive and progressive democracy. In 1902 Mr. Hopkins was chairman of the state committee and conducted the campaign. The democratic vote that year was only 360,925. In 1904 Mr. Sullivan became a member of the national committee, and he and Mr. Hopkins controlled the state organization. That year the democratic vote fell to 327,606 notwithstanding the fact that it was a presidential campaign. In 1906 Hopkins-Sullivan influence still controlled, and the democratic vote fell to 271,984. Here was a falling off of 231,077 in six years—a loss of almost fifty per cent. Query: How long will it take that sort of party management to build up a democratic party in the state of Illinois? Is it not about time for the rank and file of the party to bring the Illinois organization into harmony with the democratic voters?

DANIEL B. SHIPMAN

Mr. Daniel B. Shipman, paint manufacturer and director of one of the banks of Chicago, died recently leaving an estate of something over a million. Practically all of it is given to some charities in which he was interested, Glenwood School for Boys, Chicago Home for Incurables, Chicago Old People's Home, Hahnemann Hospital and St. Luke's Free Hospital receiving an endowment of \$240,000 each. Mr. Shipman did not leave as much money as Mr. Field did, but he left it in such a way as to do a great deal of good. It will not be difficult for the average Chicagoan to decide which was the more successful business man. Mr. Field amassed more money but he allowed it to so dwarf his moral perceptions that he died alone while Mr. Shipman grew in his sympathies as he grew in wealth and at death linked himself with institutions through which he will confer blessings on generations yet unborn.

ROOT EXPLAINS

Secretary Root has given out an interview explaining his New York speech. He denies that he had any intention of overriding the constitution or proposing any change in it. He insists that he merely intended to point out the failure of some of the states to perform their duty and to suggest that their failure, if prolonged, would lead the country to look around for some federal means of protecting themselves.

It is well that Secretary Root has made this explanation, for, being the spokesman of the president, his speech was regarded as a notice of some important move on the part of the administration. It has served a useful purpose, however, in that it has shown how quickly the people resent any attempt to interfere with the reserved rights of the states. Even republicans were not slow to dissent from Mr. Root's speech when it was construed as an attack upon the constitution.

It is a healthy sign when the people are so zealous in guarding a sacred—and the doctrine of local self-government is sacred—doctrine. The division of powers between the state governments and the federal government, instead of being a source of weakness, is a source of strength. The nation is stronger because each community is a law unto itself in its local affairs. The nearer

the government is to the people, the more closely they watch it, and the more effectively they control it. Centralization is hateful to the people because it saps the strength of the republic and leads directly to the inauguration of evils which in their very nature menace the existence of a republic.

When the president suggested legislation for the protection of the Japanese, some of his supporters rushed to the conclusion that a treaty could override the constitution and that the federal government was in duty bound to disregard the constitution if by so doing they could carry out the provisions of the treaty. It ought to be unnecessary to suggest that a treaty made by the president and the senate can not nullify a constitution made by the people. If a treaty attempts to nullify the constitution, so much the worse for the treaty, but it does not destroy the vital force of our organic law.

The Japanese are not only a progressive people but they are an intelligent people. They know what constitutional government is, and they understand the binding force of a constitution. Whatever congress may see fit to do to show consideration for those who enter into treaty obligations with us, it will not attempt to interfere with the right of the people of the states to control their educational systems. Neither will congress attempt to take out of the hands of the states the power to regulate domestic commerce and to deal with foreign corporations doing business in the state. The remedies which the federal government sees fit to apply will be added remedies. It is not necessary to take away from the states the power that they now have in order that the federal government may exercise such power as it has. There is no conflict between the sphere of the state and the sphere of the nation. Congress can control interstate commerce without interfering with the rights of the state. Secretary Root has served a good purpose in bringing acutely before the country the question of the state's position, and the good which the discussion has done will not be undone by his explanation.

A CHILD LABOR BILL

On another page will be found a copy of Senator Beveridge's bill for the prevention of the employment of children in factories and mines. The plan of the bill is very simple. It provides that corporations employing children under the age of fourteen in factories and mines shall not be permitted to ship their products over the railroads from one state to the other. Congress has tried to control interstate commerce, and this bill invokes the power of congress over commerce for the protection of children. It is a perfectly legitimate use of congressional authority, and the bill ought to have the support of all, whether democrats or republicans, who are anxious to protect the children of the country from the physical, mental and moral impairment that comes from employment at too early an age in factories and mines.

Democrats will be especially glad to support the bill because it recognizes a principle which the democratic platform of 1900 sought to apply to the trusts. In that platform a license system was recommended under which a corporation would be compelled to take out a license before engaging in interstate commerce. Where a license is required, it can be granted upon conditions which prevent a corporation from attempting a monopoly of an industry.

Let the Beveridge bill be passed, and then let the same principle be applied to the trusts, for congress has the same power to protect the people from the extortion of the trusts that it has to protect the children. A law denying interstate commerce to any corporation controlling as much as fifty per cent of any article of merchandise would be a death-blow to the trusts. If the principle is once established in regard to child labor or in dealing with child labor, it ought to be easy to apply it afterwards to the trusts. By arbitrarily fixing the proportion of the total product that one corporation would be permitted to control, private monopoly could be prevented.

POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS

The Des Moines conference, called by Governor Cummins, and participated in by a number of men from various states, adopted resolutions which will be found on another page. The resolutions favor the amending of the constitution through a convention called by agreement among two-thirds or more of the states. The constitution provides this method of submitting an amendment, and those who were present at the Des Moines conference believe that the time has come to

apply this method to the popularizing of the election of United States senators.

The house of representatives has five times passed by a two-thirds vote a resolution proposing the necessary amendment, but the senate has each time stood in the way. If it were certain that the senate would continue to block this reform, there would be but little objection to the convention method of submitting an amendment, for there is no doubt that the people are determined to secure the election of United States senators by direct vote.

The Commoner cordially approves of the work of the Des Moines conference, but it hopes that pressure will be brought upon the senate to pass the necessary resolution and thus make a convention unnecessary. Surely the states that joined in the call for a convention ought to be able to coerce their senators to vote for a resolution submitting the necessary amendment. It is hardly conceivable that the senators representing the state would attempt to thwart the will of the people of the state when expressed in a resolution in favor of a convention, and it is even less conceivable that people who are in favor of electing senators by direct vote would elect senators without first pledging them to this reform. A number of senators will be elected in January, and everyone of them should be pledged in advance to vote for a resolution submitting an amendment providing for the popular election of senators. The resolutions adopted at Des Moines are all right, but it is to be hoped that the senators may be coerced into respecting the wishes of the public before a separate convention can be convened.

HOW?

The Wall Street Journal gives an interesting reminder and propounds a pertinent query when it says: "Attorney General Moody has now become Justice Moody. The supreme court consists of nine members. Since 1894, when the income tax was declared unconstitutional by a majority of one, five new justices have been appointed in place of five who have died or retired in that time. Of these five—now a majority of the court—three have been appointed by President Roosevelt. Query: How would an income tax stand before the supreme court now?"

CONGRATULATIONS

The Commoner extends congratulations to Collier's Weekly. Its editorial page has, during the past year, presented some excellent arguments in support of reform propositions. It is just now speaking in favor of legislation directed against child labor. The paper's large circulation gives it a tremendous influence, and it is gratifying to see that influence thrown upon the right side of so important a proposition.

ELASTIC

The bankers want an elastic currency, and they want to hold both ends of the elastic. Jefferson complained that he was called a lunatic because he objected to giving to the financiers this control over the currency, but experience has demonstrated the correctness of his position.

THE PRAYER PERFECT

"The Prayer Perfect" was written by James Whitcomb Riley, and may be found in "Rhymes of Childhood," copyright 1900, and published by the Bowen-Merrill company. It is necessary to say that these verses are used by special permission of the publishers, but they are so beautiful that every one should know them:

"Dear Lord, kind Lord,
Gracious Lord, I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love
Tenderly today!
Weed their hearts of weariness;
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angel wings
Winnowing the air.

Bring unto the sorrowing
All release from pain;
Let the lips of laughter
Overflow again.
And with all the needy
O divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content
That is mine today!"