

and admired especially those he had delivered on the compromise of 1850.

"The broad sweep of philosophical reasoning, and the boldness of statement and prediction I found in them, as well as the fine flow of their language, had greatly captivated my imagination. I had pictured him to myself, as one is apt to picture one's heroes, as an imposing personage of overawing mien and commanding presence.

"I was much disappointed when I first saw that quiet little man who, as he moved about on the floor of the senate chamber, seemed to be on as friendly terms with the southern senators as with the northern—his speeches were always personally polite to everybody—and whose elocution was of dull sound, hardly distinct, and never had a resonant note of personal attack or defiance in it.

"But he made upon me, as well as upon many others, the impression of a man who commanded hidden, occult powers which he could bring into play if he would. Indeed, I heard him spoken of as a sort of political sorcerer who knew all secrets and who commanded political forces unknown to all the world except himself, and his bosom friend, Thurlow Weed, the most astute, skillful, and indefatigable political manager that had ever lived.

"My most distinct recollections are of the senate. The most conspicuous figure in that body was Douglas. He was a man of low stature, but broad-shouldered and big-chested.

"His head, sitting upon a stout, strong neck, was the very incarnation of forceful combativeness; a square jaw and broad chin; a rather large, firm-set mouth; the nose straight and somewhat thick; quick, piercing eyes, with a deep, scowling menacing horizontal wrinkle between them; a broad forehead; and an abundance of dark hair which at that period he wore rather long, and which, when in excitement, he shook and tossed defiantly like a lion's mane.

"The whole figure was compact and strongly muscular, as if made for constant fight. He was not inaptly called the Little Giant by his partisans.

"His manner of speech accorded exactly with his appearance. His sentences were clear-cut, direct, positive. They went straight to the mark like bullets, and sometimes like cannon balls, tearing and crushing. There was nothing ornate, nothing imaginative in his language, no attempt at beautiful speaking.

"But it would be difficult to surpass his clearness and force of statement when his position was right; or his skill in twisting logic or in darkening the subject with extraneous, unessential matter when he was wrong, or his defiant tenacity when he was driven to defend himself, or his keen and crafty alertness to turn the de-

fense into attack, so that even when overwhelmed with adverse argument he would issue from the fray with the air of the conqueror."

**GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP IN A DEMOCRACY**

When the opponents of government ownership theory need a thirteen inch gun to finish their antagonists they admit that Germany has been successful in running its railways but that its ability to do so is to be credited to its monarchical and bureaucratic rule, things which are wholly incompatible with American institutions. Naturally such an argument puts something of a damper on the government ownership enthusiast who does not want to surrender American institutions no matter how great the consideration.

But the fallacy of such an argument is proved by the success which Switzerland, the most democratic country in the world, has achieved. Germany's success is made despite monarchical institutions rather than on account of them. The Swiss venture is only five years old but Carl Vrooman, an American student of the railway problem who has just returned from an eighteen months' tour for the study of railway conditions abroad, vouches for the great success achieved by the mountain republic, as Charles Edward Russell has done before him.

He found that Switzerland, which is a more democratic government than the United States, has given governmental ownership a severe test and the experiment has been a "wonderful success." In Germany the earnings of the railways go into the general treasury, but in the mountain republic the surplus has been used to cut rates, increase wages and improve the service. At the same time the bonds issued to pay for the roads are being provided for and will all be redeemed within sixty years out of the earnings, leaving the roads a clear asset of the republic. The public has been benefited and the hours of employes have been reduced.

And the republic's test has been made under unusually difficult conditions for the cost of construction is higher because of the mountainous character of the country than in any country. The success of this democratic country, with its party government, has been so great that Russell in his series of articles on the "Common Good" holds it up as a model for the world. So that the theory that monarchical and bureaucratic government is essential to successful governmental ownership has not a foot to stand on. And to show that the experience of the Swiss is not unique under modern governmental conditions, there is Vrooman's reference to conditions in Belgium, a constitutional monarchy with an extremely democratic government. Belgium is the pioneer in government ownership and has achieved noteworthy success. Belgium has a greater amount of mileage in proportion to its territory and lower freight rates than any country in Europe with the consequence that its great port of Antwerp is rapidly forging ahead of the rival French port of Havre, which has been dependent on the service of private railway corporations. And Belgium's industry is greatly benefited, too.—Sioux City, Ia., Tribune.

**Perfectly Familiar**

Minister—Are you sure you know your catechism, my boy?

Boy—Sure! Dere's four ink spots on de front cover an' de back's tore off. I'd know it anywhere.—Judge.

**Three Points of View**

"When a boy has a fight, mother says, 'Did you get hurt?' Father says, 'Did you spoil your clothes?' Brother says, 'Did you lick him?'"—"A Cheerful Year Book."



**Let Me Quote You My Direct Prices On Split Hickory Buggies**

I am willing to take all chances on your not liking one of my Split Hickory vehicles. Every buggy I sell goes out on trial, subject to being returned, and refunding every cent of money, if not satisfactory. My FREE catalog of Split Hickory Buggies shows over 15 different styles of buggies, and a complete line of High-Grade Harness. I want you to have this book. No matter where you buy, you ought to read what I have to say about my direct method of selling at prices that are from 25% to 50% lower than you can buy a buggy of as high quality elsewhere. All my Split Hickory vehicles are guaranteed 3 years. The Buggy shown in this picture is my 1907 Split Hickory Special. I have an entire factory devoted to the making of this one job. Write today for catalog. A postal—NOW—and you get it by return mail, with low prices on the best Buggies and Harness made. Address me personally.



**Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine**

Published Monthly at Atlanta, Ga. Subscription price \$1.50 a year  
HON. THOMAS E. WATSON, Editor.

By special arrangement with Mr. Watson we are able to offer a year's subscription to Mr. Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine and a years subscription to The Commoner  
**BOTH FOR . . . \$1.85**

ADDRESS ALL THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

**BECK IDEN LAMP**

A lamp that gives more than twice the light of city gas—a white light, almost as easy to read, write or sew by as daylight. A gas light controlled by no gas company or public-service corporation, a complete gas plant within the lamp itself—automatically regulating its own supply, burning steadily, without heat, odor or dirt. This modern adaptation of acetylene gas-lighting to household use provides a better, safer, and more economical light for city or country houses than any other yet produced. For description, method of operation, cost and all particulars, write for booklet No. 16. ACETYLENE LAMP CO., 50 University Place, New York. Also Montreal, Canada.

HOME MADE GAS LIGHT

**Get This Gold Pair Free!**

Spectacle-wearers! Listen! I want to prove to you positively that the Dr. Haux famous Perfect Vision Spectacles are ever so much better than any you have ever used before. That is the reason why I am making the following very extraordinary offer. Send me your name and address and I will mail you my Perfect Home Eye Tester, free. Then when you return me the Eye Tester with your test I will send you a complete five dollar family set of the Dr. Haux famous Perfect Vision Spectacles for only \$1, and this will include a handsome pair of Rolled Gold Spectacles absolutely free of charge.

I also hereby positively agree to return you your dollar willingly if you yourself don't find them to be the most perfect-fitting, clearest and best you have ever bought anywhere, at any price. Send for my free Eye Tester today. Address, DR. HAUX SPECTACLE CO ST. LOUIS, MO. IF I WANT AGENTS ALSO.

**Grip Pains**

It would be utterly impossible to imagine anything more distressing than La Grippe pains. They are simply indescribable, and seem to be composed of all the misery sensations known. Yet they can be relieved, and in a very short time by taking

**Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills**

the greatest remedy on earth for pains of any kind. Their soothing influence upon the nerves is felt throughout the entire system. "I had La Grippe pains all over me, and I was in such distress I thought I could not endure it. I thought of Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills, and after taking 3 doses the pain disappeared, and I slept peacefully. My brother has a swelling on his neck, and uses them, as they ease the pain, and leave no bad effects like quieting powders."  
—ADELIA LANE, Portage, Mich.  
If they fail to help, your druggist will refund your money on first package.  
25 doses, 25 cents. Never sold in bulk.

**'LETTERS TO A CHINESE OFFICIAL'**

BY William Jennings Bryan

Being a Reply to "LETTERS FROM A CHINESE OFFICIAL"

"A superb vindication of Anglo-Saxon civilization and ideals, written by Mr. Bryan in answer to the famous "Letters From a Chinese Official," an inspiring and eloquent confession of faith in the standards and purposes of our race, and more particularly those of the American people, permeated with a wise and serene optimism. There are passages that no man can read without elevation of his moral nature."

SUBSTANTIALLY BOUND, POSTPAID 55 CENTS.  
ADDRESS THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Nebr.