

tween an Englishman and an Indian. They charge also that English rule is expensive, and they insist that the one hundred millions a year spent upon the army should be used for the education of the people and for the development of the country. They point to the progress made by Japan, whose people were able to use their own resources for their own advancement, while something like a hundred millions a year are drained from India to the British Isles.

While only about eight per cent of the total population of India can read and write there is already education enough to make the home rule movement a formidable one, and as learning spreads religious antagonisms grow less violent. When—for political reasons, as the Indians believe—the province of Bengal was being divided, numerous mass meetings were held to protest, and at these mass meetings Hindu, Mohammedan and Parsee speakers appeared on the same platform. When the Mohammedan college was founded at Aligarh, India, some twenty years ago, the influence of the institution was counted against the demand for a native congress, but even in this institution the students are becoming each year more favorable to the home rule idea, and the Parsees who have been regarded as quite pro-English have furnished a number of very intelligent supporters of the native movement.

While some Indians go so far as to advocate absolute independence, the prevailing opinion is in favor of a relation similar to that which exists between Canada and Great Britain. If the Indian people could secure control of their own affairs, with a local parliament to levy taxes and to make the necessary appropriations for the administration of the government, for the development of the country and for education, there would be no serious objections to permitting England to appoint a governor general in exchange for the protection of the navy. That the Indians believe in our theory of government can not be doubted; they are encouraged by the promise of a legislative body in the Philippines and will urge it as a reason why they should be granted representation, just as they use the amazing progress of Japan to prove their own ability to rise if given an opportunity.

The Turkish government is a theocracy and the Sultan rules more through his religious hold upon the people than through the instrumentalities of government, but even the Sultan is in constant fear of revolution and has established a strict censorship over the press and over the books coming into his domain. Some amusing instances are given of the rigor of this censorship. One man had a set of Shakespeare held up at the port because the censor discovered that it contained a description of the killing of Macbeth. (It was not considered safe to allow the people to read of the killing of a king, lest the killing of the Sultan might be suggested to their minds.) In another instance several Sunday-school lessons were forbidden because they recounted the killing of some of the Old Testament kings. One young man was imprisoned because he had in his house a scrap of paper which contained Gladstone's denunciation of the Sultan—the scrap having been given to him because on the opposite side it contained the advertisement of a hair restorer; and another man was imprisoned because in answering an inquiry in regard to an engine, he mentioned the number of revolutions desired—the word revolution having but one meaning among the Sultan's spies. Yet the schools are at work and it is only a question of time when there will be an intellectual force with which the Sultan must reckon.

In all of the governments of Europe there are problems which more or less clearly reveal the never-ending struggle between those who would bring the government nearer to the people and those who would throw obstructions in the way of popular government. The influence of the masses is constantly increasing and monarchy and aristocracy are on the wane. In Norway, while the form of monarchy is retained, the parliament, composed of a single house which is elected by universal suffrage, is supreme. In Denmark, the parliament has recently won, after a contest of a quarter of a century, the right to dictate the ministry, while Switzerland has carried government "of the people, by the people and for the people" to the point of permitting the voters to decide all questions, local and national, by means of direct legislation. I venture to suggest that this complete reliance upon the popular will accounts for the fact that Switzerland, composed of a German, a French and an Italian section, is as harmonious a nation as can be found in Europe.

In Hungary and Bohemia there is a strong sentiment in favor of local self-government which makes it more difficult for Austria to hold them under her authority. The opposition to government from without is so great that the German language is becoming more and more unpopular

among both the Hungarians and the Bohemians. In Italy and Spain, where they have long had parliaments, there is a gradual broadening of the foundation upon which the government rests. As education increases in both countries there is a well-defined movement that has for its object the extension of the influence of the average man—of the common people.

In France, where they have a republican form of government, and, therefore, less to correct in method, the government is being brought nearer to the people and public sentiment as expressed among the masses is more and more controlling.

In Germany the socialistic movement, which has grown so rapidly as to alarm the government, is, in part, political rather than economic. It is more a protest against undemocratic methods than a demand for the application of socialistic theories to industry.



#### THE NEW SENATE

The election of Frank O. Briggs to succeed Senator Dryden of New Jersey, completes the new senate with the exception of two places. The fight in Rhode Island continues, and although Senator Bacon of Georgia will doubtless succeed himself, the legislature which elects will not convene until June. Hence from March 4 until the election in June Georgia will have but one senator. Eight western states nominated senatorial candidates in state convention and submitted the names to the people. These states were Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Oregon and Washington. Seven southern states, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas, did likewise. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, commenting on this new plan, says "it will gradually alter the character of the men who will go to the senate, but whether the change will be for the better or the worse cannot be stated beforehand with any positiveness."

The people, however, are convinced that the change will be for the better, and until senators are elected by popular vote the nomination plan will grow in favor. The Globe-Democrat specifies two instances in which the plan has, in its opinion, made a change for the worse. But the Globe-Democrat will hardly have the hardihood to claim that either one of the specified instances is half so bad as the election of Guggenheim in Colorado by the old methods so well known to corporations and other selfish interests.



#### SAFE

Senator Dryden was defeated in New Jersey, but inasmuch as he picked his successor it is safe to say that insurance interests will not be jeopardized by the new senator from New Jersey giving undue attention to public interests.



#### EXPLAIN IT

A London physician says people would be healthier if they ate less. Maybe that explains present day high prices. Maybe the republican party is so concerned for the health of the people that, in the public interest, it has permitted the liberal contributors to campaign funds to run the price of the necessaries of life almost to the prohibitive point.



#### MAKING CONFESSION

In spite of the fact that congress has just decided to reduce the appropriation for carrying the mails by about \$10,000,000, the Burlington railway management has just made tacit confession that even the new rate is too high. Rather than lose a very profitable contract for carrying the trans-continental fast mail the Burlington offers a reduction of 7 per cent, which approximates \$65,000 a year. A little figuring will show that the Burlington must be receiving close to \$1,000,000 a year for this service. And the Burlington, like all other railroads, is carrying express matter for one-eighth what it charges the government for carrying the mails.



#### SAND

At the school of commerce dinner given in New York recently, Col. George Harvey, editor of Harper's Weekly, told a story to explain the reason of President Roosevelt's popularity. He said that in a New England town when he was a boy, a certain horse jockey became very much impressed during a revival of religion, and went to a deacon of the church, who kept a grocery store, for guidance. He told the deacon that he would like to "jine" the church, but, as a horse jockey, he would have to do certain things that might not look well in a church member.

"Oh, don't trouble yourself about that," said the deacon. "I have been putting sand in my

sugar for thirty years, but it makes no difference whether you put sand in your sugar or not provided your heart is all right."

Commenting on this story, the Wall Street Journal says: "In other words, it didn't make any difference what Roosevelt did, the people were convinced that his heart was all right. But hasn't Colonel Harvey mistaken the real truth concerning the president's strength with the people? Does not his popularity rest upon the fact that he has told the great trading and transporting corporations of the country, 'no longer shall you put sand in the sugar?'"

Perhaps it rests upon the fact that in several important public matters he has moved along the lines suggested in good old democratic platforms and no one gets "sand in the sugar" when good old democratic platforms are put into practical operation.



#### WHY?

Some of Mr. Roosevelt's critics say that the avowed purpose of the president to appoint a negro to the office of surveyor of the port, is to annoy Senator Foraker. But why should Senator Foraker be annoyed by such an appointment? If it is proper to appoint "deserving negroes" to federal office in southern states why close the door of hope to the "deserving negro" in the north? It has always been a mystery to a considerable number of people why so few negroes have been given office in the north when so many have been honored in the south. There have been many negro postmasters in the south, but we do not recall one instance where a negro has been appointed to a post-office in the north.



#### 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 straightforward 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 14.

#### A SONG OF WEALTH

My diamonds droop from grassy blade  
In the early morning sun;  
They sparkle yellow, blue and white;  
Who covets? Ah, no one.

My pearls are strung on spiders' threads  
In the rosy rays of dawn,  
In circlets, strands and rare design;  
By them no thief is drawn.

My rubies rest in rosebud hearts,  
Red leaves curl over them;  
Glad teardrops for the birth of morn;  
None robs me of my gem.

My laces are the leafy screens  
Between the sky and me,  
And morning mists o'er marshy lands;  
None covets these from me.

And I may travel far away  
In Fancy's carriage free,  
O'er hill, in vale and long delay;  
But none doth envy me.

My pictures are of earth and sky  
In changing light and shade;  
And they are free to every eye;  
Their beauties never fade.

My music is the trill of bird,  
The sound of falling rain,  
The tender tone from loving lips;  
And all may hear the same.

My home is domed with heaven's blue  
And lighted by the stars;  
'Tis covered by the softest hues;  
No life its beauty mars.

For all is thine as well as mine,  
And we are kindred clay.  
Why should we lust for dying dust?  
Throw lasting wealth away?  
—Dorothy Dubbleaye, in Omaha World-Herald.