

# The Commoner.

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### SUNSHINE AND SHADOW

One peak, mayhap the one I mount,  
Is glad with spangled light;  
And one that riseth far ahead  
Is hid in shadow-night.

Nay, oft the summit that I seek  
Is dim with fearsome gloom,  
While all around me bursts the day,  
Like gardens, into bloom.

One life is bright and fair with joy;  
One way serene with peace;  
And one is wan with many thorns  
And winds toward Calvaries.

If on my path Thou pourest, Lord,  
Thy favor like a flood,  
Oh, teach me pity for the pain  
That dims my brother's road.

If o'er the toilsome course I tread,  
I grope, tho' it be day,  
Oh, make me thank Thee for the sun  
That gilds another's way.

—Maurice Smiley in the Youth's Companion.

### JOHN A. CREIGHTON—PHILANTHROPIST

The death of John A. Creighton, upon whom the pope had conferred the title of Count, removes one of the greatest philanthropists of the west. Mr. Creighton was a democrat of prominence and a leader in the business world, but he was above all a big-hearted, open-handed benefactor. His money was his servant and he delighted to bestow it upon worthy enterprises. Rev. M. J. Dowling, president of Creighton University, whose intimate acquaintance with Mr. Creighton qualified him to speak, delivered an eloquent and well deserved tribute at the funeral. Count Creighton's life is additional proof of the truth of the statement that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

### THE DIRECT PRIMARY

Democrats may differ among themselves and from republicans as to the details of a direct primary bill, but these differences will not lead them to oppose the direct primary. It is democratic and no democrat can afford to vote against it. The expense of the primary should be borne by the city, county or state rather than by the candidates, for a tax upon the candidates tends to restrict the offices and make money the test in office holding.

The Commoner prefers the plan which compels the voter to announce his party affiliations, for without this the majority party might make the nominations for the minority party as well, but this is a detail. When the democrats have done their best to perfect the bill they should support it and correct the defects in the measure later.

## IS THIS "SOCIALISM," MR. REPUBLICAN?



THE LONGEST STEP YET TAKEN

## GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE

Sweden is stirred by an agitation which has for its object the extension of the suffrage. One reason for the friction between Norway and Sweden was that in the former country the government was much more democratic than in the latter. But the heaven is working in King Oscar's dominion and ultimately the government will be in the control of those who oppose artificial distinctions and build on the broad foundation of equal rights.

Already the position of the king has undergone a great change in most of the countries of Europe. He no longer rules by divine right and without limitation. He is now largely ornamental and is regarded more as the social head of the nation than as a real political power. He does not attempt to shape the policy of the government or to impress his own ideas upon legislation. He visits, and receives visits from, other potentates, holds receptions, lends dignity to important gatherings and allows his advisors to speak for him on all subjects. He makes no effort to be consistent; he is with the party in power, and may next year, if a new party carries the election, stand for something directly opposite to that for which he is supposed to stand now. No parliament can change more quickly than he.

England furnishes a good illustration of the overshadowing influence of parliament in the modern monarchy. Two years ago the conservatives were in power and the king's advisors were conservatives; they had held the reins of government so long that they felt themselves almost indispensable to the throne. But the voters made up their minds that a change was desirable and they swept the conservatives out of power and gave the liberals two hundred majority in the House of Com-

mons. And, presto, change! The king, long a conservative, becomes a radical of radicals. His advisors proceed to map out a course quite opposite on several questions to the course pursued by his late advisors. As a conservative, the king sided with the established church on matters of education; now he is the champion of the non-conformists in their effort to free the schools from church control.

Once the mainstay of the landed aristocracy his cabinet now plans to deprive the landlords of their multiple vote and to protect the political rights of the tenants. The new government is a very democratic one, the premier, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, being one of the greatest apostles of democracy now living. He stood like a rock against the Boer war when the supporters of Mr. Chamberlain denounced him as a "little Englander," and his sympathies are with the taxpayers rather than with those who, through appropriation, devour the substance of the people. He and his associates have already proposed a reduction in the army appropriation and plan to diminish the annual appropriation for the navy. Their progress also includes laws in the interests of labor and a measure of home rule for Ireland.

Thus far the main interest seems to be centered in the educational bill. It absorbed attention in the Commons to the exclusion of nearly everything else and is now being discussed in the House of Lords. This bill seems likely to become historic, not only because of its subject-matter, but because it promises to bring a clash between the House of Commons and the hereditary branch of parliament. While the liberals have a large majority in the popular body, the conservatives control the House of Lords by more than ten-to-one.