

sands pushing against the prison gates. Cavalry and foot soldiers pushed back the morbid throngs until they were able to form a hollow square before the walls. The curses of the sullen crowd as they reluctantly gave place were received with indifference or coarse jests. A few minutes later the guillotine was brought from the railroad station, where it had been received from Paris. Deibler, the executioner, by lantern light superintended the placing of the uprights, the erection of the platform and the disposition of the death basket and the blade. In the prison the four men were still sleeping. No word had been given them of the fact that they were to die. As no murderer had died in France recently, they expected the usual reprieve and later a commutation of sentence. Abel Pollet, the leader of the band, was the first to awaken in his cell. He heard the clamor of the crowd and then the procureur-general's substitute entered his cell and read the death warrant. Pollet was greatly agitated. 'Courage!' admonished the official. 'I shall have courage!' cried the bandit, and he mastered his emotion. Then he wrote his last note, made his last spoken request. Both were to the same effect. He admitted his guilt, but declared that his wife was innocent of all his crimes, and begged mercy and pity for her. He left a farewell for her and his children."

ONE ALMOST feels like offering an apology for the publication of the details of this awful story, but that it occurred in the year 1909, the time when all the world is presumed to have its face toward the light of civilization, makes its publication not only permissible but advisable. This is the terrible story as told by the World's Bethune, France, correspondent: "Theophile Deroo was the first prisoner led forth to the guillotine. He didn't see the dread instrument standing by the prison door, and when the crowd yelled with rage at his appearance he seemed dazed. He looked more dead than alive. He was fastened on the plank. With a click, it sprang forward and slid under the descending knife. His head tumbled into the sawdust in the basket. 'Bravo!' yelled the crowd, and the clamor could not be silenced by the soldiers. Canut Vromant was the next. In that brief interval when his head rested on the block and his popping eyes gazed on the severed head in the basket beneath them there was an inarticulate murmur and his body writhed so that Deibler's assistants had to hold him under the descending knife. Auguste Pollet, brother of the leader, was greeted with wild cries by the crowd. 'Vengeance! Vengeance! To death with him!' shrieked the mob of blood-crazed peasants. Pollet tried to turn his head and face them. 'Let me alone!' he snarled. When he was forced to gaze on the other heads in the basket below his eyes he was so convulsed that when his own head rolled to join them it was with difficulty his body was released. He had so strained his bonds that it took some time to push his body into the receptacle. The crowd could not contain itself when Abel Pollet, the chief murderer and brigand of them all, was led forth. They burst out in shouts of delirious joy and hatred. They would have torn him limb from limb had he been freed. Pollet realized their lust for his blood, but he was calm. He turned and faced them. 'Loafers!' he cried with unutterable scorn in his voice and poise. 'Down with the church! Long live the republic!' He struggled desperately with his guards, but was forced under the knife. When his head fell and a jet of blood spurted three yards away the crowd yelled and laughed and cheered for the executioner as they dispersed to the cafes and their homes. It was still dark and the rain was falling steadily. The execution of the four men took up nineteen minutes, but every minute was like a long night of horror to many of the observers."

WRITING TO the Indianapolis News, John T. Campbell of Lafayette, Ind., says: "Since 1878 I have been an independent voter. Today I care little what party, as a party, is in power. I read and hear much about continuing 'Roosevelt's policies.' What are they? To me they are about as definite as the cry of the mob at Ephesus, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.' He has been a 'bull in a china shop,' horning and breaking everything in his reach, cheered by thoughtless boys who hear and enjoy the rattle. He roars like a goaded bull about insinuating charges in regard to the purchase of the Panama canal, and paws the ground and scatters his virtuous indignation

with the dirt he slings; yet with almost the same heartbeat he makes insinuating charges against congress, quite as ill founded as those made against him. Let the thieves investigate themselves and expel him who has stolen the least. As to the late election, I ask an analysis of the vote and an explanation why it was that Taft was carried high above the wave that drowned nearly all the republican candidates for congress in Indiana. County option was not an issue in their case. So far as the average voter, and average politician could see before the election, there was no apparent reason why the republican candidates for congress of the state should not have run along with Taft. Taft was assured of a certain vote, by an authority able to deliver it. He knew he would be nominated and elected. So did Roosevelt. Roosevelt was under as great political obligations to each of all the other republican candidates for the presidential nomination as to Taft, and he should have given equal help to each, or kept hands off. But he forced the nomination of Taft. The people are getting on to the reason why, in spite of their cowardly newspapers, who ignore the real influence. The facts are scattering among the voters like thistle seed carried by the wind. Very few papers have the courage to declare the truth boldly. The press of both parties is afraid of that vote or else it hopes to profit by it hereafter. I am afraid of it, therefore I refer to it and describe it without naming it. It is a dangerous vote and bodes no good to this country. I have no fear of that vote which is cast from its own conviction, or even its own prejudice, but I dread that vote which gets its inspiration and instruction from a foreign source. Let Mr. Taft carefully read the history of James II. of England if he wants to read his own before it is written."

COMMENTING upon the assault made by Mr. Roosevelt upon Senator Tillman, the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch says: "For a United States senator, in his official capacity, to urge the invalidation of certain land grants, expecting himself to acquire a portion of the land thus released, is doubtless indiscreet and unwise. But if these land grants were legal they could not have been invalidated, and Senator Tillman could not have benefited by any suit. If, on the other hand, the grants were illegal, they should have been invalidated in the public interest, and the fact that the senator expected to buy a small fraction of the lands released does not turn an essentially moral act into an essentially immoral one. As for the senator's statement that he had not 'undertaken' to buy any lands, made of his own volition on the floor of the senate, the intent in his own mind alone can determine if that was false. It is in no sense a splitting of hairs to point out that the commonest meaning of 'undertake,' as the dictionary gives it, is 'to take formally or expressly on one's self,' 'to pledge one's self to;' and that in this use of the word the senator spoke the precise and accurate truth. Senator Tillman's detractors will have to explain why, if he was conscious of being in a dishonest business, he should have invited the attention of the senate and the country to that business and should have himself recommended the investigation of the 'inspectors.' Dishonest men do not usually court the light in this way. But even those who are inclined to criticize the senator most sternly will hardly deny that his general sense of propriety throughout this transaction compares very favorably with that of the president of the United States."

ON THE SAME subject the Times-Dispatch says: "The simple fact emerges from the present episode that the president having used the resources of the government to possess the private letters of his personal enemy, has, without any justification, given the widest publicity to these letters. No suit is threatened, as obviously no law has been broken. No longer ago than last week the president himself informed congress: "If I had proof of such corruption affecting any member of the house in any matter as to which the federal government has jurisdiction, action would at once be brought. He had, then, no actionable 'proof' against Senator Tillman. And he added that he did not conceive it to be his duty 'to report to the house alleged delinquencies' or 'the supposed corrupt action of a member.' Presumably this latter theory, also, applies equally to the senate. Yet four days later we find 'alleged delinquencies' and 'supposed corrupt action' made the basis of what is virtually a message to the senate. There was

no shadow of excuse for such a message. The senate asked for an account of the activities of the secret service. The men that sleuthed Tillman were postoffice inspectors. The Tillman case, in fact, had nothing whatever to do with the senate inquiry, as it had nothing whatever to do with any proposed action. It is hard to escape the conclusion that the president eagerly clutched at a pretext to publish matter whose publication could serve no other possible purpose than to hurt a man whom he was very anxious to hurt. His official position gives him a tremendous power in carrying out a plan of that sort, but otherwise there is no reason why such conduct on the part of a president should be judged by standards in anywise different from those obtaining among honorable private citizens."

RESULT OF GUARANTY LAW IN OKLAHOMA FOR PERIOD OF ONE YEAR

Individual deposits in national banks for call December 3, 1907 .....	\$38,318,729.21
Individual deposits in national banks for call November 27, 1908 .....	36,280,346.23
Total decrease in deposits .....	\$ 2,038,382.98
Individual deposits in state banks for call December 11, 1907 .....	\$17,215,535.44
Individual deposits in state banks under guaranty law for call November 27, 1908 .....	29,448,970.96
Total increase in deposits .....	\$12,233,435.52
Total amount state funds on deposit in national banks on November 27, 1908 .....	804,785.71
Total amount state funds on deposit in state banks on November 27, 1908 .....	1,165,956.34
Total loss to guaranty fund during this period .....	NOTHING
The above is correct.	

ROY C. OAKES,  
Secretary State Banking Board.

SUMMARY

Total deposits in all banks December 1907:	
National banks .....	\$38,318,729.21
State banks .....	\$17,215,535.44
Total .....	\$55,534,264.65
Total deposits in all banks December 1908:	
National banks .....	\$36,280,346.23
State banks .....	29,448,970.96
Total .....	\$65,729,317.19
Total increase .....	\$10,195,052.54

Every dollar of the above ten million dollar increase in deposits represents the increase in deposits in banks under the guaranty law; in fact, the two million dollars decrease in deposits in national banks was also transferred to the state banks, making the total increase in deposits in state banks \$12,233,435.52.

WELCOME TO NATIONAL DEMOCRAT

The Commoner welcomes the National Democrat to the company of democratic journals. It is a neatly printed paper of eight pages, and its political complexion is indicated by the following announcement at the top of the first page: "We believe in the policies advocated by William Jennings Bryan as against the pretension of Theodore Roosevelt."

Mr. Lorenzo C. Warfield is the business manager of this paper, and it is published at 511 Fourteenth street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Issuing from the national capital, it is in position to watch what is going on and to report the doings of congress and the departments. The Commoner bespeaks for the National Democrat a hearty support and a liberal patronage.

Newspaper literature is the cheapest that there is—the readers of a paper receiving as a rule more than they pay for, because a part of the expense of conducting the paper is derived from advertisements.

The democratic party has been unfortunate in that it has lacked the newspaper support needed to present its principles and policies to the voters. It, therefore, welcomes with open arms every newspaper recruit.

The Commoner, speaking for its multitude of readers, expresses its gratification at the establishment of this new democratic weekly and bids it God speed.