

lar, James McCurdy, a negro, entered the store last night and this morning his body was found on the floor, a load of buckshot from a shotgun having ended his life. The trigger of the gun was attached to a cash register pull."

Orville Wright has gone to Berlin for the purpose of making airship experiments for the German government.

West Point dispatches say that seven cadets have been expelled from West Point military academy on the charge of hazing.

Washington dispatches say that President Taft will make an investigation into the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy "in an independent way."

An amicable settlement of all difficulties between China and Japan have been made.

Two men were killed in an automobile contest at Indianapolis.

**BOOKS RECEIVED**

Ground on Which Jews will Accept Christianity. By Elijah Moses. New Thought Publishing Co., Gilchrist, Mich. Postpaid 25 cents.

John Montcalm, Heretic. A tale of Maryland hills. Illustrated. By Frederick A. Rupp, M. D. I. M. Beaver, Publisher, Reading, Pa.

The Banking and Currency Problem in the United States. By Victor Morawetz. North American Review Publishing Co., New York, N. Y.

Arnold's Tempter. By Benjamin F. Comfort. The C. M. Clark Publishing Co., Boston, Mass.

Our Irrational Distribution of Wealth. By Byron C. Mathews, Ph. D., Department of Economics, Barringer High School, Newark, N. J. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

Comrade Kropotkin. By Victor Robinson. Price \$1. The Altruists, 12 Mount Morris Park West, New York City.

Peace, Power and Plenty. By Orison Swett Marden. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., Publishers, New York City.

God's Means of Grace. By C. F. Yoder, A. B., B. D., Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Ill.

Ode on the Centenary of Abraham Lincoln. By Percy Macaye. The Macmillan Company, New York.

The Life and Times of Samuel Gorton. Compiled by Adelos Gorton, Philadelphia, Pa.

When the Wildwood was in Flower. A Narrative. By G. Smith Stanton. J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company, 57 Rose St., New York City.

Secret Bible History of Adam's Innocence. By Notea W. Nitram. The New Age Publishing Co., Westerville, Ohio.

Compensation. By Ralph Waldo Emerson. Newton & Cartwright, 156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

The Machinations of the American Medical Association. By Henry R. Strong. The National Druggist, St. Louis, Mo. (Pamphlet.)

Roosevelt. His policies, his enemies, his friends. By Francis A. Adams. Wintemute-Sawyer Publishing Co., New York and Pittsburg.

The Palace of Danger. A story of La Pompadour. By Mabel Wagnalls. Illustrated by John Ward Dunsmore. Second edition. Funk and Wagnalls Co., New York and London.

Circumstantial Evidence. By Ledru R. Rhodes. The Smiths-Brooks Printing Company, Denver, Colo.

**BAD BOTH WAYS**

Bad cooking may cause excessive use of liquor, but it is also true that excessive use of liquor causes bad cooking.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Letters From the People**

Charles J. Ryan, Wahoo, Neb.—Socialism would cast the state into a sphere which is not its own, deprive the lawful possession of that which is rightfully his, and destroy a principle consecrated by the ages. The single tax, the income tax and the inheritance tax are confiscatory in their nature, promotive of corruption, the pitfall of every republic and are wrung from the producer, providing the producer gains more than a subsistence. These three modes of taxation would ultimately bring billions of dollars into governmental control and would produce the probability of leaving the masses helpless in the grasp of designing men. It is patriotism and high moral standards that preserve the nation, and not mechanical advancement. Athens and Rome fell in the heights of their intellectual activities. The theory of individualism as opposed to the collective ownership is, private ownership, where competition is possible; public ownership, where competition is impossible. All remedies should be consistent with the fundamental principles of democracy, effecting the economic welfare of the struggling masses, protecting rights and redressing grievances, giving every individual the disposition of his property, giving to him commensurate with what he gives to society, and promoting the advancement and civilization of the world. Recognizing the principle that law exists for the sole purpose of protecting rights and redressing grievances; that the destruction of a single right, even though it seemingly bring temporary moral good, is wrong in principle and vicious in practice, and brings man into a sphere of artificial restraint which destroys the initiative which contributes so largely to the lofty grandeur of human character; that the legitimate field of taxation lies wholly within the limits of the maintenance of a government; and that any law that can not be wholly enforced or depends upon the honesty of the individual is inconsistent, indefinite and unsound. Believing that I have a remedy which will have an equalizing effect upon society, help to preserve the rights of the individual, which existed prior to the formation of any state; bring peace and harmony between labor and capital, and preserve the democracy in all its integrity, I present to the intelligence of earnest, thoughtful, discerning men the economic balance, which I call, lacking a better name, "the specific inheritance," that is, no individual shall bequeath to another individual an amount greater than shall be specified in the organic law of the nation. This will solve the problem of distribution, provide a democracy of opportunity and avoid the pitfall of every republic of the ancient world.

Dr. E. A. Scammon, Columbus, Kan.—This is the period in our history when the people have returned to the worship of Aaron's golden calf. Can our government ever be restored to the principles established by the fathers? Will it ever be divorced from the evil of the money power? Are these not constantly and insidiously creeping into the government, crumbling and destructive agencies? The Declaration of Independence, the just and vital principles enacted into government by our fathers are the belief, faith, hope and reliance of the democratic party and the only party that still holds to faith in the government purchased by the blood of our revolutionary sires. Dr. G. W. States, Franklin, Idaho.—For the future the party must not take one backward step. We must

stand for reform and fight it out on the facts of history and the principles of eternal truth and justice. Rev. S. Mercer, Monticello, Ia.—My subscription for The Commoner has been sent in by Mr. Lanigan, editor of the Jones County Times, who is clubbing his paper with yours for \$2 a year. I hope it has already reached you, as I don't want to miss a single copy of The Commoner as long as you have anything to do with it and I have a dollar you may count on my support. Adversity only makes my heart grow fonder. You ask me if I can throw any light on your last defeat. I think so. In my opinion it was attributable to the same old causes that killed the martyrs, persecuted the saints of God and crucified the world's Redeemer—the seven deadly sins. Every man who followeth Him and them shall drink of the same chalice and be baptized with the same baptism, for the disciple is not above his Master, nor the servant above his Lord. 'Tis too bad 'tis so. I hoped otherwise, notwithstanding the history of the ingratitude of mankind to man. I don't take any stock or believe for a moment that the Catholic church had anything whatever to do with your defeat. Catholic people take their religion from Rome, but not their politics, and I challenge the A. P. A.'s who are befouling the fair pages of The Commoner with assertions to the contrary, to cite a single instance of Catholic people voting at the dictation of any priest, pope or bishop. In my enthusiasm for your success in 1908 I tried a little electioneering with most disastrous results. My people showed me they did not want their priest in politics and that I was ordained for men in things only that appertained to God. Catholic people the world over have always frowned on the priest-politicians. With unabated wishes for your ultimate success in the presidential race and a firm belief that if we can't win with you we surely can not with anybody else. I am your faithful follower till death.

A. E. Bryngelson, Minneapolis, Minn.—It is to be regretted that your paper does not come to the homes of more of my fellow-citizens in Minneapolis. As an educator and illuminator The Commoner stands foremost in the rank of American political reviews and magazines. The apparent fairness which characterizes your discussion of all great problems of civic, political and moral reforms is a noteworthy feature of The Commoner. The recent development of the nation's political situation affords democracy a great opportunity for victory in the coming elections. The betrayal of the republican party on their stand for tariff reduction; the people's loss of faith in their representations; the moral awakening everywhere apparent; the administration's failure to insist on the carrying out of party pledges all point to the fact that the people are no longer to intrust the guidance and leadership of our nation to the party who has betrayed their cause. But in order that the hope of democracy might be realized; in order that we may profit by the folly of our opponents; in order that we may be a means of restoring our government to a government of, by and for the people, we must work in unison and harmony. Let us remind our republican friends that we stand for a tariff for revenue only, in other words for protection as an incident to revenue; remind them that an effective tariff for revenue and an effective protective tariff are entirely different; one provides for the running of government expenses only; the other fosters trusts and

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