

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

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as to quite a number of the states. When it was required no one thought it was reasonable to question its validity. With the disposition of the fund thus created those who pay the license have nothing to do. That is in the sound discretion of the sovereign. In 1861, the liquor dealers might have attacked the law on the ground that their money was applied to pay war expenses and that it was an unconstitutional discrimination against them as a class. We had not made such progress in "modern thought" and no lawyer was found with courage sufficient to advance such a proposition in any court. The principle and the law is now the same with regard to this license privilege tax required of banks as it was with regard to the liquor license privilege tax when it was first levied in 1861. I am advised that in some of the states, the various liquor licenses, or certain portions thereof, are appropriated, for instance, for school purposes. Suppose, for instance, the Oklahoma guarantee law had provided that the fund created should be expended for school purposes or for the support of certain state charities. What would then have become of the bankers' argument that "their" money was being used to pay the debts of other banks? It is in the sound discretion of the sovereign to apply any fund created by a license privilege in any way he sees proper for the general public good. In Oklahoma, observing that the chief cause for "runs on banks," where the peoples' money is deposited by reason of the privilege granted by himself as sovereign, is the fear of loss and the consequent failure of a number of banks by reason of the failure of one in the public interest, the sovereign provided for the use of the fund so as to prevent or minimize this danger. In doing this, the sovereign does not use the money of the bank, as cunningly and erroneously assumed by a complete begging of the real question by those opposing this wise policy. Your answer to Judge Munger is of itself sufficient but the forgoing is the fundamental and conclusive position to assume in debating this question. If the courts will consider it, instead of looking to the false and artificial considerations referred to by Judge Munger, I do not see how the result can be in doubt.

John F. Conroy, Youngstown, O.—Some one in a recent issue of The Commoner asked about the lines, "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long." The lines are from The Hermit, by Oliver Goldsmith, a poem of forty stanzas. The lines are from the eighth stanza which runs thus:

"Then pilgrim, turn, thy cares forego;
All earthborn cares are wrong
Man wants but little here below
Nor wants that little long."

Goldsmith was born in 1718 and died in 1774. Another writer, Edward Young, who lived from 1684 to 1765, wrote a similar expression in his "Night Thoughts," thus "Man wants but little, nor that little long." Who plagiarized is not known.

J. E. Pardue, Melrose, N. M.—The hope of democracy lies in education and organization. This education must be systematic, thorough and conclusive. I believe that democratic reading clubs should be organized in every precinct, county and state. The county organization being composed of one delegate from all precincts and the state in turn composed of one delegate from the several county clubs. And last a national organization composed of members from the state clubs. These clubs to be distinct from the present democratic

machinery, and be more properly an educational department in which clubs democratic history, political economy, citizenship, government, etc., are studied. The secretaries recording and compiling useful incidents and matter relating to sociology and government so that by requisition on the secretaries by individual members information may be had on any subject from any source. Clubs to be composed of volunteers to democracy, paying a reasonable amount as membership fee and dues, same money to be expended in pur-

chasing literature and books of study as prescribed by head organization. Secretaries receiving reasonable remuneration for services according to work required of their office. Co-operation is fruitful in other pursuits, why not in study? The search for truth furnishes its own charms after once the search is started, the trouble, so many of us have not means to prosecute the study alone. These clubs will bear fruit in three years' time, and produce many young orators who, having learned from the volunteer clubs

the living principles of sociology and citizenship, which the schools today overlook, shall be a power for good in the future struggles of the democratic party in restoring the common people to supremacy of the nation that they support with their labor and uphold with their soldiers, only to be enjoyed by parasite life, known as aristocracy. Knowledge equally acquired, similarly understood, and simultaneously applied by an army of young volunteers shall surely result in victory, glorious victory.

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