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Election of Senators

The Commoner gives considerable space this week to the publication of the major portion of Senator Owen's speech on popular government. A better speech, or a more timely one, than this was never made in the interest of a people struggling to perpetuate popular government. Every Commoner reader should make it his particular business to place Senator Owen's speech before some republican or democrat who may not have had the privilege of reading it. Election of senators by popular vote has been growing in favor during the past year. It has been growing in favor during the past thirty days. It will continue to grow and it now becomes the duty of everyone who believes in that reform to give it impetus at every opportunity for intelligent missionary work.

The revelations in Illinois have disheartened many patriotic men and some have been surprised that such a condition of affairs could exist in this age, but Senator Mason, who is something of a political observer, declares that fifty per cent of the seats in the United States senate were purchased. This only indicates the large amount of suspicion that exists among men who have closely watched politics. Senator Mason doubtless, and of course unintentionally, exaggerates. It is not at all likely that anywhere near one-half of the seats in the senate were purchased but if even one seat was purchased the disclosure of that fact should be sufficient to arouse the American people to determined action.

The situation will not be met by the mere punishment of the men who gave and the men who accepted the bribe. It would be well if every guilty man could be brought to account, but something must be done to protect the senate for the future and to make practically impossible the purchase of another senatorial seat. This may be accomplished through a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by popular vote. In the meantime those who believe in that reform may put it into practical operation by the nomination of senatorial candidates.

In Oregon and in Nebraska they have what is known as the Oregon plan, whereby a vote may be taken directly upon the senatorial candidate. In Indiana they adopted the plan of nominating candidates for the senate, the republican convention naming Mr. Beveridge, the democratic convention naming Mr. Kern. In the democratic convention a bitter fight was made against this plan, but the rank and file of the party, under the leadership of such men as Governor Marshall and John E. Lamb practiced what they preached. They nominated a candidate for senator in order that the people of Indiana might know just what they might expect in the way of a senator in the event they chose a democratic legislature.

In Ohio it has been proposed that the democratic convention nominate a candidate for sen-

ator but prominent politicians in Ohio object to that course. They say: "Let us have no candidate, and then every ambitious man throughout the state will be working for a democratic legislature in the hope that the lightning may strike him." But more important than mere party victory are the public interests and the public interests require that the people know what to expect in the way of a senator from Ohio in the event they choose a democratic legislature. The very fact that politicians object to taking the people into their confidence is sufficient to arouse suspicion.

Ohio democrats who believe in the popular election of senators ought to write to Governor Harmon and to other democratic leaders, urging them to lend their influence to the nomination by the democratic state convention of a senatorial candidate. If these leaders refuse or fail to discharge this duty then there are hundreds of Ohio democrats capable of taking the lead and making the same fight which Governor Marshall, John E. Lamb and other faithful Indiana democrats made in the convention of that state.

Let every Ohio democrat who believes that the democratic party should practice what it preaches and should stand resolutely for real reform, take off his coat and participate in a determined effort to make Ohio democratic in the purest and best sense of the term.

"NO CRIME"

The attorney for Lee O'Neill Browne the "democratic leader," who is under indictment for bribery in connection with the election of Senator Lorimer has raised the point that it is no crime in Illinois to buy a vote for United States senator. It is well the court did not find it necessary to uphold that plea. It does seem, however, that in some instances men have not considered it a crime to purchase senatorial seats. At times they have not even considered it criminal to buy the presidency. The truth is that it is just as great a moral wrong for a greedy trust to purchase a protective tariff through the contribution to campaign funds of large sums of money as it is to purchase a vote for a trust candidate for the senate upon a payment of money directly to the member of the legislature. Most men are honest but the public thought needs to be educated more strictly along these lines so that the high standard of integrity held by the average man in his private affairs may be held by the public, and held so firmly that the individual or the political party that dares to violate it will be called promptly to account.

LORIMER

The Illinois senatorial scandal has attracted attention throughout the world. Everyone seems to be surprised that a United States senatorship has been purchased. But why should there be surprise? When Lorimer was elected through the aid of democratic votes it was plain that some powerful influence had been employed. The Commoner said that the reason for the peculiar vote cast by these democrats would, in time, be disclosed. The proof that Mr. Lorimer's seat was purchased is so conclusive that the press with practical unanimity demands that he resign from the senate. He may continue in his high office for a time, but he will not long be able to withstand the strong public sentiment which, once aroused, can not be successfully resisted.

WHY DID HE OBJECT?

When it was proposed to publish Senator Bourne's speech on the Oregon use of the primary, the naming of senators by direct vote of the people, the initiative and the referendum, and the recall, Senator Gallinger objected. Admittedly Senator Bourne's speech was interesting and instructive. There are many calls for that speech. Why, then, did the republican senator from Vermont object to its circulation among the people? The reason is plain. It is not to the interest of the republican party that the people be educated in the way of making popular government practical and effective.

Under the Incas

There are two Perus, the Modern Peru, which is just awakening to her destiny, and Old Peru, the Land of the Incas, whose history ended when Pizarro scaled the western slope of the Andes and planted the banner of Castile upon the great fort at Cuzco. When the Spanish cavaliers reached the tablelands of Peru, lured on by the tales of fabulous stores of gold, they found an organized government and a much higher degree of civilization than they had expected.

An unlimited monarch reigned over an empire of a million square miles, the territory now embraced within the borders of Equador, Peru and Bolivia. He ruled in regal splendor, lived in a palace, with many wives, sometimes a thousand or more; he had his ministers of state and an army of retainers.

According to the traditions related to the Spaniards, the dynasty had lasted nearly five hundred years. About the close of the eleventh century, as the story goes, Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo, man and wife, appeared on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the great and beautiful lake, 12,500 feet above the sea, which occupies one of the basins of the Andes, and as "children of the sun" claimed the allegiance of the people.

The Inca, for so the ruler was called, seems to have had little trouble in bringing the scattered tribes under his government, and he gradually extended the limits of his kingdom until, at the time of the conquest, it had reached the vast proportions mentioned.

The Inca was a mild despot; while he waged wars of conquest against neighboring rulers and compelled obedience, he sought to win the confidence of his subjects by just treatment, and showed political genius in his dealings with them.

He established his capital at Cuzco, situated near the head of the valley of the Huatanay, a tributary of the Amazon, and built a fort which gives proof of knowledge in architecture and in the art of war. Authority descended from father to son, and the family seems to have been fortunate in producing a long line of wise rulers. These successive Incas continued the work of development. Roads were built from the capital to the extremities of the empire; rest houses were established at convenient distances and stored with food; and runners carried the news from place to place.

Splendid temples were built to the sun, and ornamented with gold and silver. The lands were held by the state and leased to the people according to their needs, the tenant keeping one-third of the crop, the Inca receiving one-third, and the remaining third going to the Sun. The Inca was, of course, the custodian of the Sun's share, but he is credited with storing it in years of plenty and distributing it in years of famine.

That the people were industrious will not be doubted by anyone who has visited the country. Irrigation was understood and well constructed aqueducts and extensive systems of canals enabled them to utilize the mountain streams. Even now terraces can be seen, reaching to the tops of the mountains. They are no longer in use, for the population dwindled under the system of forced labor inaugurated by the Spaniards, but they give conclusive proof of the indomitable energy of the people and of the intelligence with which they worked.

They were master builders. The walls still standing show skill in stone cutting—the stones being so carefully dressed and laid together so closely that after more than four centuries a knife blade can not be inserted between them. The Spanish built upon the walls laid by the Incas, and the work of the Indians has thus been preserved. Several streets in Cuzco have Inca walls on both sides, and one of the stones has twelve angles. The stones are interesting, not only because of the skill displayed in cutting and fitting them, but also because of their size. It is a mystery how these immense blocks were handled, some of them being more than

CONTENTS

ELECTION OF SENATORS
UNDER THE INCAS
"NO CRIME"
LORIMER
WHY DID HE OBJECT?
THE BOY WHO FORGETS
SENATOR OWEN'S POWERFUL SPEECH
CURRENT TOPICS
HOME DEPARTMENT
LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE
WHETHER COMMON OR NOT
NEWS OF THE WEEK
WASHINGTON NEWS