

# The Commoner.

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## Progressiveness Pays

Have you read the returns from the election? If so, what conclusion do you draw from them?

The democrats won a great victory. Yes, but why?

It was because the republican party forgot its pledges and betrayed the people.

The democratic victory was a protest against standpattism in the republican party.

Only in those states where the progressive republicans boldly repudiated their party's policy and had the courage to denounce the party's perfidy—only in these states did the republican party hold its own. Where the republican conventions attempted to endorse the administration and to pledge the party to a continuance of the administration's policies—in those states the party was rebuked. Governor Stubbs was accused of disturbing the harmony of the republican party, but he held Kansas in line for his party. The same accusation was brought against Poindexter in Washington, against Johnston in California, against LaFollette in Wisconsin and against Dolliver and Cummins in Iowa, but in these states the progressives successfully met the attack of the democrats. In New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio, where the administration was endorsed, the republicans suffered defeat. In Indiana, where an insurgent was nominated for the senate and standpatters for congress, the republican party was defeated. Progressive republicanism will be stronger in the eastern states because of republican defeats, and it will be stronger in the west because of republican victories in the western states.

The very obvious lesson which the democrats will draw from the election returns is that progressiveness will pay in the democratic party as well as in the republican party. In fact, progressiveness will pay even a larger dividend in the democratic party than in the republican party because more of the democrats are progressive. If any democrat imagines that the democratic party can win in 1912 by the adoption of a conservative policy and the nomination of a candidate friendly to the interests, let him recall the rebuke which republicans have administered to their party for its subserviency to the predatory element. If republicans rise up against a conservative administration, how much more emphatic would be the democratic protest against an attempt to make the democratic party represent Wall Street interests. The republican party may or may not be controlled by the progressive element; the democratic party must be controlled by the progressive element. If the republicans nominate a progressive, the democratic candidate must be progressive in order to hold the democratic votes; if the republicans nominate a standpatter, the democratic candidate must be a progressive to draw republican votes.

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## Thanksgiving, 1910

Will M. Maupin

Thanksgiving Day! And 'round the board  
That all the joys of life afford;  
With loved ones at our side;  
With memories of a plenteous year,  
And hearts that brim with love and cheer—  
Let come whate'er betide!  
For all the loving Lord has shared,  
For loved ones one more cycle spared,  
We humbly kneel with bowed heads bared,  
And homage pay  
To God alway  
This glorious Thanksgiving Day!

Thanksgiving Day! Each fertile field  
Has given forth its generous yield  
To fill each granery.  
The luscious fruits and golden grains  
From orchards and from boundless plains  
Rewards our industry.  
For all the summer's toil has brought;  
For all the Lord in love has wrought,  
Upon each home hearth's sacred spot  
We kneel and pay  
To God alway  
Our praises this Thanksgiving Day!

Thanksgiving Day! From far apart  
We gather 'round, heart close to heart,  
And old love ties renew.  
A smile for those we meet once more;  
A tear for loved ones gone before,  
And vows to be more true.  
For all the joys of love and life;  
For light that guides through storm and strife;  
For harbor safe from tempest's rife,  
We kneel to pay  
To God alway  
Honor and Praise, Thanksgiving Day!

## THE LESSON OF 1910

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: "Baltimore, November 13.—Governor Austin L. Crothers, United States Senator Isador Rayner and John Waters Smith and Congressmen J. F. C. Talbot and J. H. Covington have consented, at the request of the Baltimore Sun, to act as a committee to further a suggestion that a conference of leading conservative democrats of all parts of the country be held for the purpose of formulating a national policy and plan of campaign for the party. It is hoped the committee will succeed in bringing about such a conference in this city in January, 1911, or perhaps next month."

The rank and file of the party, rather than a self-constituted committee of "conservative democrats," will "formulate a national policy and plan of campaign for the party."

"The democratic party must be progressive. No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote."

Democracy must go forward and meet present day problems boldly in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson.

The democratic victory of 1910 is the result of fourteen years of democratic fight for reforms. The party cannot retire now. It must go forward.

## FORWARD, MARCH!

John W. Kern, in Indiana, Gilbert M. Hitchcock in Nebraska, and James A. Reed in Missouri were all elected to the United States senate by popular vote. The fact that this was made possible in the absence of a constitutional clause providing such a method is an indication of the popularity of the election of senators by popular vote reform.

## "Gateway" Reform

In the democratic national convention at Denver the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people was declared to be the gateway to other reforms, and it is an apt description of its strategic importance. In revolutionary days the early settlers fortified such points as Fort Pitt, where Pittsburg now stands, because they guarded important routes of travel. The predatory interests recognize that the United States senate occupies a strategic point in legislation. Every remedial measure of a national character must travel through the senate before it can become the law; just so long as the senate opposes a bill it can be defeated—and the senate has had the audacity to oppose a great many good measures.

For one hundred and three years the present method of electing senators was tolerated, although criticism increased and the demand for a more popular method of election grew louder and louder. Andrew Johnson, in one of his messages, recommended a constitutional amendment providing for election of senators by popular vote, but his recommendation met with no response. Some ten years later General Weaver, then a member of congress from Iowa, introduced a resolution proposing the necessary amendment; Brice refers to this resolution in his "American Commonwealth." But still nothing was done. In 1892 a democratic congress passed a resolution submitting a constitutional amendment providing for direct election of senators, and the next congress, also democratic, did likewise. Then two republican congresses met and adjourned without action; but the sentiment continued to grow, and in 1900 a republican congress followed the example of the democratic congresses and declared in favor of this reform. Two republican congresses since that time have acted favorably on the resolution, but the senate has continued to defy the popular will and to obstruct the passage of the resolution. Some two-thirds of the states of the union have endorsed the proposition, and three democratic national conventions have declared for it, while populist conventions have declared for it even more frequently.

In the last republican national convention the proposition was defeated by a vote of more than seven to one, but Mr. Taft, during his campaign, repudiated the action of his convention and declared that he was personally inclined to favor the popular method of election. This, briefly, is the record up to today, but a new page is about to be written. The elections held on November 8 resulted in the gain of several democratic senators, and in the substitution of several progressive republicans for republicans of the standpat variety. There is no doubt that the democrats and progressives will have a safe majority in the senate. Now is the time to press for the securing of this great and fundamental reform, and The Commoner appeals to its readers to take up this subject and exert themselves to the utmost to secure the submission of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

How can it be done? First: Let every legislature that meets this winter be urged to pass a resolution declaring in favor of the popular election of senators; let every senator elected this year be pledged to this reform by the legislature which elects him. Let every senator who favors this reform make it his business to see that the necessary resolution is brought before the senate. With a majority of the senators in favor of the reform the opponents of the measure can be put upon record, and those whose terms expire two years from now will hesitate before they put themselves upon the wrong side of such an issue. Senator Depew led the fight against the direct election of senators when it was last before the senate—but he will not be in a position to fight it again. Senator Hale was opposed to it, but he, too, is going out. Senator Aldrich was opposed to it—his days are numbered. Let the friends of this reform take cour-