

the monopoly of credit. Credit is the broad base of modern business.

The sale of the Chase National Bank shares by the dummy holding company of the First National bank shows that money monopoly itself sees the writing on the wall. Among the people themselves there is no doubt—there can not longer be any doubt—that the credit of the country must be set free from monopoly.—New York World.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF TELEPHONES

State Representative G. W. Fuller of Seward, Neb., is the father of a measure providing for public ownership of telephone exchanges and long distance toll lines. The Lincoln (Neb.) Star described Mr. Fuller's measure in this way:

"Under the terms of this bill, any county will be permitted to vote bonds necessary to establish publicly owned telephone exchanges and toll lines, either by construction or by purchase. The municipalities of the state already possess some powers in that direction, and the provisions for county ownership will be so drawn as not to conflict with those for cities and towns. The bill will further provide for a state levy of a specified amount, probably not exceeding 1 mill per annum, for the purpose of building and operating inter-county lines. A 1-mill levy will raise over \$400,000 a year, and this, it is thought, will be sufficient to proceed with public ownership activities as fast as the state can readily take over the business. The office of county superintendent of telephones will be created by the bill, its incumbent to be appointed by the county board of commissioners or supervisors. Provision will also be made for employing such assistants as he may need. For the state, an officer to be known as the telephone and telegraph commissioner will be created, to act as manager of long distance systems built or otherwise acquired. The control of long distance rates will doubtless be left in the hands of the railway commission for public as well as privately owned telephone systems. Municipal and county rates may be left to the local authorities. It is possible that this bill will be consolidated with one which the Nebraska league of municipalities will offer on the telephone question. The municipal league bill, it is expected, will provide for taking the control of local rates away from the railway commission and vesting it in the cities and towns, each acting for itself."

Mr. Fuller has the correct idea. Public ownership of the telephone lines is the solution of a vexatious problem.

A CLEAR VISION

Vice President-elect Marshall had a clear vision when in his final message to the Indiana legislature, he said: "Unless progressive legislation is enacted, the people, some day, will open up the cul-de-sac, even though the opening may lead representative government over a precipice into pure socialism or paternalism."

Democrats will have it in their power to correct the abuses of government. Governor Wilson shows that he has a clear understanding of the necessities of the situation and the vice president will be in a position to render him material aid in building for popular government.

INCOME TAX

Thirty-four states have ratified the federal constitutional amendment providing for the income tax. Ratification by two more states is all that is necessary for the final adoption of this great reform. There are fourteen states yet to act and there can be no doubt that out of that number there will be two whose legislatures will get into line with the great progressive movement.

NEW YORK AND OHIO

On January 15th the New York legislature and the Ohio legislature completed the process of re-affirming New York's and Ohio's acceptance of the federal constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by popular vote.

NEXT!

The Rockefellers are in bad shape. William's throat is so sore that he can not say anything and John D.'s memory is so defective that he can not think of anything to say.

The Land Where Strikes are Unknown

New Zealand furnishes absolute proof of the advantages derived from laws to benefit the people generally. Conditions before 1890 were worse there than they ever have been in the United States and the people were leaving by the thousands. A few people owned the greater part of the land and controlled nearly everything else worth having. It resulted in the great strike of 1890. The capitalists won the strike but the workers and farmers united thereafter, electing representatives pledged to establish measures for the good of the common people and swept the monopolists out of power. They have held control the greater part of the time since then and passed laws that are a model for the world. They have satisfactorily solved many of the troubles we are now contending against and even those who bitterly opposed the new order of things, would not now even think of returning to the old ways.

The following is a short description of the government and some of the most important reforms that have been adopted:

- 1. The government is administered by a governor appointed by England (who has very little power), a ministry, a legislative council and a house of representatives. The present population is about 1,008,000 and the country is somewhat smaller than Great Britain. The soil is very fertile and the climate is one of the finest in the world. It somewhat resembles England but is milder and pleasanter.
2. The constitution can be changed at any time by a vote of parliament, subject to the possible dissent of England, which is very unlikely, so New Zealand is practically a republic in itself.
3. Appeal boards and arbitration courts (composed of workers, employers and public officers) are established to settle all labor difficulties strictly on the merits of each case and not on technicalities. By this means, strikes have been abolished, labor organizations encouraged, cut-throat competition stopped and employes protected against unjust dismissal.
4. It operates a system of public and industrial schools free for the benefit of the young, caring for those whose parents are dead or unable to properly care for them.
5. In elections, the law provides for direct nominations by the people through petitions without caucus or conventions.
6. Australian voting booths and alphabetic list of candidates without giving party names are used.
7. Fine and forfeiture of office for any corrupt practice, even treating or free conveyance of voters.
8. Voting by mail for citizens away from home. Fines for those who don't vote. A half holiday for all voters on election days.
9. Equal suffrage for men and women.
10. A practical referendum on national affairs, not only through direct nominations, popular questioning of candidates and independent voting at regular triennial elections, but through special appeals to the people at any intermediate times that parliament is dissolved because of disagreement between the council and house of representatives, the question on which they differ being carried then directly to the people at the polls.
11. The constant use of the referendum in municipal affairs.
12. The laws are made for the benefit of the majority of the people and not for any particular interest or class.
13. Appointments to civil service are based on merit ascertained through competitive examinations. Employes are secured against unjust dismissal or oppressive treatment through right of appeal. Promotion depends on length and efficiency of service.
14. In place of the old property tax, progressive land and income taxes are generally established, with improvements, small estates and hard-pressed citizens exempted and the burdens placed on wealthy owners and monopolists.
15. The government now owns nearly all the railroads and aims to give the public the greatest possible service at low cost. It owns and operates the postoffice and carries letters, parcels, etc., at very reasonable cost. It owns and operates the telegraphs and telephones as part of the public system. It establishes and conducts savings banks to encourage the people to save, guarantees deposits and gives fair interest. It owns and operates solely in the public interest the central bank of issue—the heart of the banking system.

16. It maintains a public loan office and controls the machinery of credit and rate of interest by loaning money to farmers, merchants, manufacturers, and the working people on easy terms and at low interest. The postal banks, public trust office, government insurance office and land department also make loans at low rates.

17. It prohibits panics, alleviates depression and has declared it would allow no decent bank to fail.

18. It has established a government insurance office for life, endowment, annuity and accident insurance, with the guarantee of the government behind it; and the office does a far larger business than any private company in the country.

19. It conducts a public trust office for the management of estates, investment of money under the guarantee of the government, the making of deeds, mortgages, wills and other instruments for the people correctly and at very low cost.

20. It has established experimental and model farms, one for each 100,000 population, and depots for dressing and packing poultry at the chief centers; also, a state farm, where the unemployed may find remunerative work, and where inefficient laborers may be turned into effective workers.

21. It provides village and farm settlements, where the poor may make homes for themselves and have co-operative employment if they wish.

22. It limits the amount of land one man may hold, provides now for the compulsory purchase and division of large estates, disposes of land by perpetual lease, gives preference to the landless, aims to take the unearned increment in rents and graded taxes and moves towards the nationalization of the soil.

23. It has simplified the methods of dealing with interests in land by providing for the registration of titles and the government guarantee behind such certificates issued.

24. It has established government ownership and operation of coal mines to check the extortion of the coal ring and to provide the people with fuel at reasonable cost.

25. It accords to municipalities the right to establish and maintain water-works, gas and electric lighting plants, street railways and other public utilities, subject to the referendum. It requires them to maintain public slaughter houses under inspection of the agricultural department.

26. It acts as commission merchant for the farmers, receives farm products, meats and provisions, eggs, butter and cheese, and even live poultry at its railway stations, carries them to warehouses at ports of export, kills, dresses, grades and packs, keeps in cold storage, ships to agents, sells, collects and remits the funds to the farmers, less cost of transportation. It aids farmers also in helping them to secure labor in harvest time and many other ways too numerous to mention now.

27. It considers the welfare of its workers most carefully, doing everything possible to help them in every way. The labor department and the public employment offices (established everywhere) provide employment for all who want it. It uses the railways to distribute labor at cost to points where needed and gives low fares to workers to and from their work each day.

28. It has decreed an eight-hour day and a

RENEWALS
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