

door flanked by friendship and mutual advantage," adding that the American people will approve the change. The New York World (dem.) says: "The new government at Washington is for the open door but not one forced upon by the jimmy of guns and landing parties in support of private interests. It is for the largest and most intimate trade relations with China, but as won naturally and not compelled. It is not to be a government of, by and for a special privilege at home. It will not therefore, be a government for the operations of special privilege away from home. It has marked the end of dollar diplomacy."

The Cincinnati Enquirer (dem.) says that President Wilson's order "in no wise impairs the rights of this government or the rights of any citizen of the government to the fullest protection in every and all foreign countries," but that it keeps our government "free of entangling alliances with syndicates" and is altogether a "declaration of high and unselfish purpose."

The Houston (Texas) Post, (dem.) declares that the order shows that President Wilson has "a clear understanding of the teachings of the fathers with respect to the limitations imposed upon sound conduct of the government in its engagements with foreign countries." The Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch (dem.) declares that it is the course Washington, Jefferson and Monroe would have taken and that President Wilson has displayed wisdom, in "re-embazoning the rule over the White House door."

The New York Post (ind.) says that the order is not only "wise and proper in this particular case" but that it represents "the abandonment of a peculiarly vicious diplomatic policy." While the New York Evening Sun expresses grave doubt whether the Wilson policy will actually result in good it admits that that policy has an "admirable purpose." The New York Herald, which is usually wrong on these questions affecting the money trust, expresses its disapproval. The New York Sun (the morning paper) expresses disapproval and declares that the American bankers who were willing to participate in this loan were actuated "by patriotic as well as business consideration." The New York American (Hearst's paper) congratulates the administration. The New York Times declares that the president's decision is "sound in reasoning and faultless in statement."

It is interesting to note the cordial attitude of the German press. The Vossische Zeitung declares that the president's action accords with America's steadily maintained policy of friendliness toward China, and continues: "Furthermore, Wilson's decision appears to mark the dawn of a new democratic foreign policy which is opposed to all strangulation policies and which will hereafter go in the straight way. This idea is confirmed by another dispatch which declares that Wilson and Bryan will follow the policy of not mixing into the affairs of the South American republics which are financially dependent on the mercies of the financiers in the United States. This will be a change which no one had expected from the democrats, despite their platforms and promises. The imperialistic policies which Roosevelt and Root and Taft and Knox adopted for the South Americans had for their steady purpose the financial sucking of the country affected. Wilson's new and beautiful policy of justice to one's neighbors appeals also to the world in general."

A Berlin dispatch to the Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "President Wilson's every step thus far has been followed in Germany with the closest scrutiny and the greatest interest. It is generally expected that his administration will result in the establishing of a new and better era in America, especially in matters affecting social welfare workers, in which, even the friendliest Germans declare, the United States is the most backward nation in the civilized world. The Tageszeitung, which is strongly anti-American, approves Wilson for taking a stand for the betterment of the common people, and says he should summon honorable and able men to help him, and hopes his efforts may succeed."

LINCOLN AND THE SUPREME COURT

Daniel Gaby, Benton, Wash: In The Commoner of March 14, 1913, is an article headed, "Mistaken About Lincoln." On page 133 of Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress," I find the following: "Mr. Lincoln, whose singular powers were beginning to be appreciated, severely attacked the decision in a public speech in Illinois, not merely for its doctrine, but for the mode in which the decision had been brought about, and the obvious political intent of the judges. He

A TRIBUTE TO THE COMMONER

Walter Sillers, Rosedale, Miss.— Every well-informed politician in the nation knew that the minions of the money power were going to try to capture the Baltimore convention—just as they conspired to discredit and break down Mr. Wilson with the American people. When Bryan sent forth his challenge and Wilson responded to his call—they knew the battle royal was on. My son and I joined the ranks of the progressives who flocked to Baltimore to help Mr. Bryan. We saw him strike down the enemies of the democratic party and snatch its banner and bear it to victory. If this banner ever trails in the dust it will be because of the treason of these same men who sought to trample it under foot at Baltimore. Mr. Wilson does not need a gibbet for the Haman's of "big business"—he needs a gallows for the traitors in his own party. The Morgans and Rockefellers will never strike while Mr. Wilson has a congress at his back. They will first attempt to corrupt and divide congress and to stir up friction between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan. Succeeding in either they will then strike. With Mr. Bryan as one of the advisors of the administration and The Commoner the recorder of events, the "common people" will know the reason why, if the party pledges are not carried out. The politician who betrays his party will be known, called to account and promptly retired in disgrace to obscurity, for Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Bryan's word as given out in The Commoner is going to be taken as true and final. The people understand that there are "subsidized" newspapers, if not a "subsidized press," and they know The Commoner is not one of them, and that all the gold of the "money trust" can't buy it or its editor, the great representative of the common people—William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan "keeps the faith" and inspires faith in others. I send you the subscription of twenty good democrats. Put them on your subscription list. I want to see The Commoner's circulation grow until it enters and wields an influence for good government in every patriotic American family. It has been the beacon light of the democratic party—"the light that never failed"—shining with a patriotic glow where other lesser lights flared, flickered and went out.

showed how the Kansas-Nebraska act left the people of the territories perfectly free to settle the slavery question for themselves, subject only to the constitution of the United States! That qualification he said was the exactly fitted niche for the Dred Scott decision to come in and declare the perfect freedom to be no freedom at all. He then gave a humorous illustration by asking in homely but telling phrase—"if we saw a lot of framed timbers gotten out at different times and places by different workmen—Stephen and Franklin and Roger and James—and if we saw these timbers joined together, and exactly make the frame of a house, with tenons and mortices all fitting, what is the conclusion? We find it impossible not to believe that Stephen and Franklin and Roger and James all understood one another from the beginning, and all worked upon a common plan before the first blow was struck." This quaint mode of arraigning two presidents, the chief justice and Senator Douglas, was extraordinarily effective with the masses. In a single paragraph, humorously expressed, he had framed an indictment against four men upon which he lived to secure a conviction before the jury of the American people." Lincoln did not in words say that the supreme court of the United States was the political tool of Pierce, Buchanan and Douglas. But he caused nearly every other republican to think and say it was such a tool. Lincoln did not in words say that there was a conspiracy between Pierce, Buchanan, Douglas and Taney (including a majority of the supreme court judges) to render a political and barbarous decision—but he, by more than inuendo, brought the highest tribunal into disrespect and even derision. Was not Colonel Roosevelt right and was not the Buffalo Evening News wrong?

THAT "BLAZING" INDISCRETION

The Public (Chicago): William J. Bryan's compliment to the British government when in his St. Patrick's day speech at Chicago he referred to the coming of home rule in Ireland and the disappearance of lords' rule throughout the British empire, was of a kind to irritate the tory newspapers of Great Britain. Not from anything offensive in Mr. Bryan's language or spirit. There was nothing of that. But from the fact itself, which British Tories deplore and over which British democrats rejoice. Because our secretary of state offended a few tory newspapers across the water, it by no means follows that he offended the British people or the British government. What could be more agreeable to those people and that government, than this extra-official assurance of the sympathy of our people and our government with democratic progress in Great Britain?

Chicago Record-Herald: A leading tory paper attacks Mr. Bryan for what it calls a "blazing indiscretion" in a speech at an Irish-American banquet. The indiscretion consisted of a congratulatory reference to the home rule bill rejected but not killed by the British lords, followed by a remark that the hereditary principle in legislation is doomed in England and elsewhere. Mr. Bryan has since made one or two other speeches and repeated the observations objected to by the tory organ, making them even stronger. He will doubtless be scolded again for alleged intervention in foreign affairs. Mr. Bryan's views are perfectly well known. He has not changed them since taking the state portfolio. The questions he touched on are old and familiar. In addressing American citizens on American soil he considers it perfectly proper to continue to express his views of home rule, hereditary privilege, democratic government, etc. It is absurd to call this "intervention." He offers no advice to the British government or the opposition. He does not instruct British subjects how to vote at a British election. He speaks as an American thinker and leader, and the Tories everywhere will simply have to accept the new diplomacy, as they have to accept the new freedom and the democratization of society.

A SEVERE INDICTMENT

The popular election of senators is a Bryan policy without any question. It never found its way into a republican national platform. And yet if it had not been for republican campaigning in its behalf Secretary Bryan would not soon be proclaiming the adoption of the seventeenth amendment to the constitution.—Sioux City Journal.

The Journal has been a consistent defender of the leadership of the republican party. And yet it draws indictment of that leadership as severe as could be drawn.—Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald.

MAINE AND NEW MEXICO

Patrick H. Dunn, of Bangor, Me., writes to The Commoner to say that Maine ratified the proposed constitutional amendment for the direct election of United States senators several weeks ago, and that it was in fact in line before New Hampshire.

James S. Black, of Albuquerque, N. M., writes that the ratification resolution went through both houses of the New Mexico legislature practically without opposition, there being only three or four votes in the negative.

A PALPABLE HIT

New York World cartoon, obviously commending President Wilson for throwing "dollar diplomacy"—depicted as a cash register—out of the window, seemingly forgot that the register symbolizes honest and efficient methods in business.—Wall Street Journal.

That wasn't the opinion of the jury that convicted the president and other officers of the cash register trust, nor of the judge who sentenced them to jail—New York World.

Mr. Bryan's Selected Speeches. Revised and arranged in a convenient two-volume edition. These books present Mr. Bryan's most notable addresses and orations, and cover the chief important phases and features of his career as an orator and advocate. A familiarly intimate and interesting biographical introduction by Mary Baird Bryan, his wife, opens Volume I. The two volumes, bound in cloth, sent to any address prepaid on receipt of price, \$2.00. The half leather edition, 2 vols., sent for \$3.00, prepaid. Address The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.