

Congress Should Hear from the "Folks at Home"

The financiers complain that the president's currency bill puts in the hands of the government complete control of treasury note issues. That is just why the bill meets with popular approval.

Control could not, with safety, be deposited in other hands.

Government officials act for the people and act before the eyes of the country.

Financiers act for themselves and in secret.

The country is fortunate in having a president who takes the people's side on this great question. The people can strengthen the president's arm by writing to senators and representatives in congress urging them to give their support to the administration's currency bill.

Let the senators and the members of the house of representatives hear from "the folks at home."

few months and the patriotism of a tariff reformer is no longer questioned.

Some two decades ago a movement was started, having for its object an increase in the volume of the standard money. Those who took part in it were denounced as dishonest and the "cheap dollar" was held up to scorn and ridicule by men who claimed to be conforming to higher moral standards. We now have more money, and the purchasing power of the dollar is about two-thirds what it was in 1896. The increase in the volume of money came from an unexpected source, namely, the unparalleled increase in the production of gold, but the result is the same that it would have been had the increase come from the restoration of bimetalism. We have cheaper dollars and higher prices and nobody would advocate a return to the smaller quantity of money and the lower level of prices.

Then came the discussion of imperialism. Those who opposed it were called "little Americans" and were looked down upon as of an inferior order by the high and haughty advocates of colonialism. Now there are few who believe that this nation should imitate the empires of the old world and rule subject peoples, in violation of our Declaration of Independence and our constitution.

When the agitation for the popular election of senators began its supporters were accused of laying a sacrilegious hand upon the constitution and of desiring to obliterate the sovereignty of the states. We were told that any attempt to interfere with the then existing method of electing United States senators would bring all sorts of disaster upon the country. But we now have the election of senators by the people as a part of the constitution, and our senate enjoys a confidence that it could not enjoy when the voters were unable to coerce it into obedience to the popular will.

The discussion of the income tax gave another opportunity for an attack upon the reformers. Those who urged it were charged with demagogic appeals to the masses and with envy of the rich, but now the constitution authorizes the levy and collection of an income tax and there is practically a unanimous popular sentiment back of this amendment, as there is back of the amendment providing for the election of senators by the direct vote of the people.

The trust is no longer a fetish to be worshipped and those who condemn it are no longer regarded as disturbers of the peace. We have even reached a time when we have in the White House a president who, in his speech of acceptance, reiterated the declaration contained in four democratic national platforms, namely, that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable.

The demand for publicity of campaign funds, once scouted at, has at last been acceded to. To advocate it a few years ago was to invite attack. The primary is spreading and the political boss is no longer in supreme control. The initiative and referendum are on their way. More than three-fourths of the voters at the last election cast their ballots for presidential candidates who have openly espoused these reforms.

Time fights on the side of the right. Those who "have their quarrel just" are even more than "thrice armed." Truth only is omnipotent and those who stand with it can afford to wait.

So much for the progress we have made. In view of the past, is it too much to hope that the time may yet come when a public man will be commended rather than criticised for having a visible means of support? W. J. BRYAN.

GOVERNOR METCALFE'S DEPARTURE

The readers of The Commoner will be pleased to learn of the attention shown Hon. R. L. Metcalfe, former associate editor, who, as the civil member of the Canal Zone commission, will have charge of the governmental force on the isthmus. He was given a notable banquet in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 17, at which covers were laid for 250. This occasion was non-partisan in its nature, and around the banquet board were gathered friends and co-workers from many sections of the state. A number of speeches, made by the more intimate associates of Mr. Metcalfe during his career in Nebraska, abounded in personal reminiscences and high tributes to his character and ability. In his response, Mr. Metcalfe spoke feelingly on the subject of "friendship," and expressed his thanks for the many kind wishes for himself and family. Mr. Metcalfe was also tendered a farewell banquet at Omaha by the commercial club of that city the week previous.

In Washington, he met Minister Morales, of Panama, at a luncheon given by the secretary of state, and later attended a dinner given in his honor by Minister Morales. On the eve of his departure, he was tendered a reception by the Nebraska Association of the District of Columbia, where he met the citizens of his state temporarily sojourning in Washington. At this meeting speeches were made by Mr. Abbott, the president, by Mr. Andrews, on whose lawn the reception was given, by Mr. Snyder, a representative of the press, by Mr. Lefevre, secretary of the Panama legation, by Mr. Metcalfe and by Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Metcalfe, whose oratorical talents have increasingly manifested themselves during later years, treated of the mission on which he is being sent in such a way as to demonstrate to all present his high conception of his duties and opportunities.

The United States and Panama are not only near neighbors, but most intimate friends, and the republic at the isthmus will find in Mr. Metcalfe a most sympathetic friend and co-laborer.

It might be well if all senators and congressmen were required to commit to memory the national platform of their party.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEMOCRACY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The democracy of Pennsylvania took a long step forward when, at the recent meeting of its state central committee, it effected a complete reorganization of its affairs along progressive lines. Roland S. Morris, the newly elected chairman, represents the kind of democracy that stands for definite principles, and under his leadership the democrats of the great keystone state are in a position to restore their lost party prestige and march forward to new victories. The democracy of Pennsylvania is to be congratulated.

In an editorial on "The New Democratic Party of Pennsylvania," the Philadelphia Public Ledger makes this comment: "The democrats are proceeding with skill and wisdom in reorganizing their party. The people of America have long suffered because they have cherished a strange fallacy. They have thought apparently that there is something automatic about the conduct of parties and of the government. They have relied upon the organization as an all-sufficient piece of machinery that will rule them without their personal attention, and the result has been

that parties have fallen into the hands of the least worthy citizens. The democrats at last find that there is positively no escape from personality in carrying on a party, and fortunately they have discovered what is, after all, a patent and obvious fact, that it is necessary to have men of high moral character and aims in charge of even a political enterprise if the political party is to be worthy and competent to act as an agency of honest and efficient government. The 'traitors and traders' have been cast out and the Pennsylvania democracy is on a firm basis."

THE SITUATION IN MEXICO

The Mexican situation continues to absorb attention. The president, without recognizing Huerta and without encouraging the constitutionalists, has put forth every effort to protect Americans and other foreigners while awaiting an opportunity to aid in a friendly way in the restoration of peace. The resignation of Ambassador Wilson has been accepted and ex-Governor Lind, of Minnesota, has been sent to the Mexican capital in an unofficial capacity as the president's personal representative, to advise with first Secretary O'Shaughnessy, who is in charge of the embassy. The president is throwing the weight of his great influence in the scales against war and in favor of such a settlement as will promise permanent order in the distracted republic to the south of us—and the people are with him.

THE BRISTOW RESOLUTION

Senator Bristow, of Kansas, introduced a resolution in the senate, the purpose of which was to criticize Mr. Bryan for lecturing during his vacation. The resolution was laid on the table by a vote which was almost a party vote, all the democrats voting to table the resolution and two republicans, Borah and Poindexter, voting with them. When, after the resolution was tabled, Mr. Bristow attempted to continue the discussion, he was answered by a number of democrats, with the result that lecturing has received an impetus rather than back-set.

One of the curious incidents connected with the discussion is the wide-spread inquiry as to the nature of the chautauqua. One newspaper in South America cabled to its representative in Washington, asking "what is a chautauqua?" Its editor was evidently anxious to know what crime Mr. Bryan had committed in lecturing under the auspices of such a thing. Good! The more people know about the chautauqua, the more fully will they realize that it is one of the great educational institutions of the generation.

GEORGIA IS FIRST

The state of Georgia has the honor of being first to select a United States senator under the new amendment. Senator A. O. Bacon was chosen by direct vote and without opposition. Senator Bacon has rendered faithful service to the people of Georgia and his wisdom and experience have served him well in dealing with problems affecting not only the interests of the whole United States but affecting, in many instances, world-wide interests.

Even Colonel Mulhall gave Samuel Gompers a clean bill of health.