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years ago. Hence aggregate production averaged about 13.6 per cent less than a year ago and 2.9 per cent more than two years ago.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce has opened an office in the customhouse, New York, and will shortly open offices in Chicago, New Orleans and San Francisco. An experienced member of the staff of the bureau will be in charge in each city for the purpose of giving information concerning the work of the bureau and to assist merchants and manufacturers in the development of foreign trade. The publications of the bureau will be on file and these offices will be made sources of information and assistance to all desiring to cultivate export business.

One special feature which will undoubtedly interest business men and commercial organizations generally is an arrangement made with the cordial aid and cooperation of Mr. Wilbur J. Carr, director of the consular service, department of state, whereby consuls who are in this country on leaves of absence will visit the offices as convenience permits and make them places for meeting the representatives of business houses who may desire to cultivate business in the particular foreign field in which the consuls reside. Due notice will be given in advance through the daily consular and trade reports of the bureau, through special notices to business houses which may have filed their names with the bureau as interested in that special foreign field, and through advices sent to the trade and commercial organizations of the city and the district in which the office is located.

Another feature of the work of the bureau which has interest for the business world is that its commercial agents on their return to America will attend trade conferences or conventions of persons or organizations interested in special lines of investigation, in order that they may personally inform manufacturers and merchants of the result of their studies in the foreign field concerning their own lines of manufacture. For example, at the convention of the National Cannerymen's association, to be held in Baltimore early in February, it is expected that Commercial Agents E. A. Thayer and J. Alexis Shriver will

WANTED—To correspond with Democratic State Chairmen, County Chairmen, Secretaries, Members of Democratic State Committees, Precinct Committeemen and others who are interested in circulating Democratic literature and organizing for the state and congressional elections this year. Address The Commoner.

Now for a Guaranty Law

The democrats of the senate attempted to secure a clause in the currency bill insuring bank depositors. The opposition of the house compelled the senate to surrender this provision but the fight was worth making. It developed the strength of the sentiment back of this reform and makes certain the passage of a special law of this subject, and why not? Even the republican opposition is breaking down. Just what form the guaranty law will take no one can at this time predict, but there is no doubt that ultimately the federal government will stand back of every deposit and make it as good as a bond. A very simple law, something like this, would be sufficient: First. Upon the failure of any bank, it shall be the duty of the comptroller to take possession and pay all depositors in full. Second. It shall be the duty

of the comptroller to collect quarterly from each bank its pro rata share of the sum paid out by him during the preceding three months to depositors of failed banks plus interest on the same at the rate of three per cent and cost of administration. If it is thought best, this system can be adjusted to the new currency law and the banks, instead of being in a national group, can share in the losses within their district. Such a guaranty system would involve no risk to the government because it is in a position to compel the banks to reimburse it, but it would lessen the number of failures and entirely protect business communities from the embarrassment which follows a failure. It would too, make the postal savings bank unnecessary, for every depositor would be as safe as the depositor in the postal savings bank now is and the security would extend to the checking account and be without limit.
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be present, both having recently completed long foreign trips while studying the opportunities for the development of a trade abroad in American canned goods. The purpose is to have these gentlemen meet directly the manufacturers for whose goods they have been seeking a general outlet. In the same way it is expected that these commercial agents will visit the cities and localities most interested in the production of the goods whose markets they have been endeavoring to extend, and that they will there also come into personal contact with practical producers.

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

A few months ago Secretary Redfield approved a plan recommended by the commissioner of fisheries whereby the propagation of the eastern lobster in Pacific waters was to be attempted and, by way of reciprocity, a determined and well-sustained attempt was to be made to introduce one or two species of Pacific salmon on the New England coast. The propagation of lobsters on the Pacific coast had been under consideration at various times for many years, but the efforts had not been sustained, the plants had been small and scattered, and the net result had been nil. The plan approved was to utilize the female lobsters which had served their purpose at the New England hatcheries, supplementing them with a supply of males and egg-bearing females; and to make several car-load shipments each season, depositing the lobsters in some definite locality whose suitability had been determined in advance.

The first shipment of Maine lobsters has just been made in furtherance of this plan to establish the eastern lobster on the Pacific coast, if it can be done. The shipment consisted of 4,007 adult lobsters packed in 200 crates in a special refrigerator car and went through in five days and four hours. It was the most successful shipment ever made, the loss in transit being only 11 per cent, and the survivors being in a strong, lively condition when planted. All preparation had been made in advance to handle the lobsters on their arrival and they were taken to the San Juan islands in northern Puget sound and liberated without delay. This archipelago of numerous rocky islands was selected as the point of deposit because of the favorable conditions of bottom and water existing there.

It is proposed to make similar shipments until the lobster is firmly established in Pacific waters, or the impossibility of its introduction there is demonstrated.

Representative Lenroot of Wisconsin, a progressive republican, voted for the conference report on the currency bill because "under this measure the reserves in Wall street can no longer be used in stock speculation, but will be used to meet the commercial needs of the country." Which, it may be mentioned, is about as good a reason as anybody could give for supporting the bill. Yet sixty republicans in the house rejected it, and voted no.

It is now nearly nine months since the Mexican problem was dropped into the lap of the president by his predecessor in office. During two-thirds of that time the administration might have gone to war with the southern republic without having imperilled its popularity either

at home or abroad. The last few weeks have demonstrated to the satisfaction of even the worst of the jingoes that the national honor can be maintained without threshing somebody. There is no longer any doubt held that the policy of the president will bring the desired result without the sacrifice of the life of a single American soldier.

THE COMMONER'S FOURTEENTH YEAR

In its initial number The Commoner said: "The Commoner will be satisfied if, by fidelity to the common people, it proves its right to the name which has been chosen." At the beginning of each year The Commoner has reproduced this statement, and in this, the first issue of The Commoner's fourteenth year, attention is again directed to it.

It is not for The Commoner to say whether it has proved its right to the name it bears. It is enough to know that its efforts in the advancement of the ideals to which it stands committed have met with hearty appreciation from every section of the country. The kind words and the generous co-operation, of which The Commoner has been the grateful beneficiary since its birth, have greatly encouraged The Commoner's editor and all the members of its working force.

The Commoner has lived to see the triumph of many of the reforms which it has advocated. The year 1913 has been a year of victory, yet The Commoner feels, as it enters its fourteenth year, that its most important work is before it. Its duty can not be successfully discharged without the faithful co-operation of the rank and file of democrats. Now, more than at any other time in the party's history, there is need for earnest work in the advancement of democratic principles. The most important task of this year will be the election of a new congress. To make possible the continuation of the good work already accomplished by the present administration, it is imperative that the 64th congress, to be elected this fall, be democratic and with a good working majority. It is no time to relinquish efforts. Every democrat should realize that this year is a critical time in the history of the democratic party. Its future success; its opportunity to serve the people of this nation will depend on the verdict rendered at the congressional elections this fall.

For 1914 it can be promised, as was promised in former years, that the efforts of this publication will ever be exerted in support of that doctrine wherein the people are recognized as the source of power, and where "the greatest good to the greatest number" is the end ever to be kept in view in the administration of government.