

## The Commoner.

sonal conduct and bearing, with other officers of that grade as far as his technical education would permit.

3. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that the secretary of the navy will not find it necessary to take advantage of the authority which I understand is to be granted him to appoint a certain number of warrant officers to the grade of ensigns.

While it is true that these men are selected from a large class of men of very unusual ability, which distinguishes them as perhaps the professional equals of their officers as far as their technical education stands, it is also true that they are recruited from a class of men who have not had the social advantages which are requisite for a commissioned officer.

It is submitted that in time of peace the navy's function consists to a certain extent of representing the country abroad, and it is important that the navy's representatives should be men of at least refinement. While there is perhaps a certain few among the warrant officers who could fulfill this requirement, I am of the opinion that the vast majority of them could not.

Once they are commissioned they will have the same social standing as other officers, and no distinction properly could be made in extending general invitations. The consequences that would arise from their acceptance might not redound to the credit of the navy or the country which the navy represents.

I do not mean to detract from the sterling worth of the warrant officers of the navy. I merely mean to suggest to the department that, unfortunately for them, they have been deprived of certain natural advantages, and, in consequence, their proper place is that of leading men among the crew and not as representatives of the country in the ward room and steerage.

4. I request that this may be brought to the personal attention of the secretary of the navy.

W. T. SAMPSON,  
Rear Admiral U. S. N., Commandant.

And when you have read them suppress your indignation long enough to ask yourself whether Admiral Sampson is a snob and an aristocrat, or whether he is merely a representative of the "new order of things" which is to follow militarism and imperialism. If this is only an individual opinion no condemnation can be too severe, but if he speaks for those who are dominating the administration and shaping our national policy, then the rebuke should be administered to the system. Gunner Morgan will prove a public benefactor if this correspondence opens the eyes of the American people to the fact that we cannot have imperialism, with its large army and navy, without accepting with it aristocracy in society and plutocracy in government.

If it is the aim of this nation to shine among the "world powers," we will have to have titles and ranks and orders of nobility or our representatives will not feel at home abroad. Sampson's assiduity can almost be forgiven if it aids in restoring that American simplicity and democracy which were once the pride of our nation.

### More Important Than Millions.

Charles H. Roberts, an aged millionaire of New York state, has explained to the public how every man may become enormously rich. Mr. Roberts says:

I am a director of the Kanawa and Michigan Railway Company, but outside of this and looking after investments, I am in no active business. I am worth at least half a million, all of which I have earned by my own exertions. I am in no sense a stock speculator, although I have made large sums by the purchase and sale of stocks and bonds.

When I have found railroad securities selling at a price which to me seemed below their real value I have gone over the lines of these roads, ascertaining

fully their condition, the quantity and kind of their rolling stock, etc. I have examined their past earnings and endeavored to learn what their future earnings would be. I have looked into the question of over or fair capitalization, indebtedness, capable or incapable management, and in short have obtained all possible information as to the condition of the property. If, in my judgment, the securities of such roads are selling greatly below their real value, I buy largely and eventually reap the profit resulting from such purchase.

This is a very simple plan. It is true some embarrassment will attend the procedure along the line suggested by Mr. Roberts. Everybody has not the money necessary to purchase stocks. Everybody is not in the position to travel around and discover which stocks give the largest promise of profit. Everybody has not the ability to determine which stock is the most promising investment.

As a matter of fact, everybody does not aspire to be a millionaire. The larger number of people would be content with earning a sufficient sum with which they could buy bread and educate their children. It would seem, therefore, that Mr. Roberts, out of his large fund of experience, might contribute a suggestion whereby every individual who was willing to work and eat his bread in the sweat of his brow could be able to obtain labor, and find for that labor a recompense that would enable him to feed and educate his children.

The best hope of society does not depend upon the increase in the number of millionaires. It depends upon the increase in the opportunities for men who are willing to labor, to find work which will bring them just and equitable recompense; and that means not only recompense sufficient to give the family bread, but recompense with that margin which will make it possible to give the children of the family the education and training essential to the rearing of good citizens.

### The Gathering Storm.

The trade papers are beginning to realize that the consolidations and combinations which are now absorbing most of the great industries of the country are hastening the day of anti-trust legislation. The Metal Worker, while making a defense of the new steel trust, yet sees the possibility of legislation which will make such combinations impossible. It suggests that the undertaking was "forced by the desire to protect existing interests, seriously threatened as they were by possible warfare, rather than by a desire to unload the properties upon the public at inflated prices." It thinks it sees an advantage in the trust in that "the concentration of power in the hands of one large consolidation is expected to bring about a decided steadying of the markets."

It speaks in a commonplace way of one of the great evils of the trust, saying: "As a competitor, so huge an organization could develop very dangerous strength by waging war in one territory and drawing the sinews therefor from uncontented markets."

The Metal Worker evidently understands the methods employed by the trusts—methods which some, strange to say, seem to regard as legitimate business. And yet the paper quoted cannot refrain from a prophesy of trouble. It says:

It will take clever management on the part of the consolidation to meet and break the force of aroused public opinion. Imagination is sure to be

inflamed by the colossal undertaking now about to be consummated, and there will be many who are eager to fan the flames.

And again:

It is certain that the new consolidation will lend much support to the anti-trust agitation, and will be its shining mark. Keen eyes will watch every move, and unscrupulous demagogues and an unbridled yellow press will distort even the most trivial incident.

It will be seen that even the defenders of monopoly are conscious that the storm is gathering. Although they consider it "unscrupulous" and "demagogic" for any one to condemn a trust, yet they are able to measure the force of public opinion when once it is aroused and they are fearful lest the reign of monopoly may, after all, be short lived.

### Where Title Rests.

Those who insist that our title to the Philippines is perfect base their opinion on the deed given us by Spain in the Paris treaty.

A republican newspaper commenting at length upon our abstract of title, says:

Prior to the Paris treaty the record title was in Spain. Spain conveyed the Philippines to the United States and the record title is now with us. It is necessary that title rest somewhere, and the abstract will always locate it. In this instance the abstract locates the Philippine title in the United States of America.

Let us take a look at this position.

In the Paris treaty, Spain "ceded" to the United States the Philippine Islands and the Islands of Guam and Porto Rico. According to this Republican organ that cession placed the title to that territory in the United States, for "it is necessary that title rest somewhere."

In the same treaty Spain "relinquished" its sovereignty over the island of Cuba.

Where did the title to Cuba rest?

It rested exactly where it belonged—with the sovereign people of Cuba; and the eminent lawyers who framed the Paris treaty knew that it was not necessary for Spain to convey title to Cuba because the title rested in the Cuban people and the relinquishment was merely formal notice to the world that Spain recognized a fact.

Now if a simple relinquishment was sufficient in the case of Cuba, it was so because of the fact that regardless of what deeds might be executed, the title to Cuba rested with the Cuban people. Spain could have done nothing to affect that title.

If the title rested with the people of Cuba, then why did not the title to the Philippines rest with the people of those islands?

Had Spain ceded Cuba to the United States, the cession would not have altered the fact that the title to Cuba rested with the Cuban people, and the cession of the Philippines by Spain to the United States does not alter the fact that the title to the Philippines rests with Filipinos.

To be sure, a kingdom may hold title to a territory, so long as it maintain order. But although a government is the government of kings, "it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." This