

don Mall, Mr. A. W. Black, until recently mayor of Nottingham, and Mr. A. J. Shephard, a member of the county council of London. Among the passengers are the Earl of Denbigh and wife, Hon. J. A. Pease, a liberal member of parliament, Mr. S. B. Boulton and family of London, Father O'Grady of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Wetmore, a Chicago grain merchant, and son, and a number of others, each possessed of information in his particular line of work.

Mr. Michaelson and Mr. Wallace are companions in journalism, Mr. and Mrs. Barrett entertained us with music, while Mr. Black and Mr. Shephard have given me many valuable suggestions in the line of municipal ownership—suggestions gathered from their connection with the governments of their respective cities. Lord Denbigh is colonel of the Honorable Artillery regiment which was recently so handsomely entertained by Boston and other eastern cities. His banquet speech at the Massachusetts capital showed him to be a happy after-dinner orator, his reference to the tea incident being especially felicitous. He said that the English and the Americans once had a little difference about tea in Boston harbor. The former, he declared, wanted the tea "in fresh water, hot," while the latter seemed to prefer it "in salt water, cold." He added that the English had learned during that experience "how not to govern colonies." The earl, being a conservative member of the house of lords, has enlightened me in regard to campaign issues and election methods and has also given me letters to a number of officials whom I desire to meet. Through Mr. Pease and Mr. Black I have arranged to hear Mr. Asquith, one of the free trade leaders in the parliamentary contest now in progress. He speaks near London next Thursday night. I hope to hear Mr. Chamberlain while in England.

Mr. Boulton has for several years been connected with the arbitration of differences between labor and capital, and conversed most instructively on that subject, as well as regarding the workmen's clubs and other means employed for bettering the condition of the wage-earners.

Father O'Grady enlightened me on many matters connected with his religious work in South America, while Mr. Wetmore supplied statistics on grain transportation. All in all, the week on the boat has proved most beneficial and but for the necessity of an early return to the United States I would regret the separation that must take place at Liverpool tomorrow afternoon.

I shall mail this at Queenstown.

While darkness conceals the land, we can see the light houses on the Irish coast and feel that the ocean voyage is nearly ended. In the morning we will pass up St. George's channel with the land of Brian Boru on one side and Wales on the other. From now until the hour comes to re-embark I shall see and hear and learn, and from time to time give the readers of The Commoner the results of my observations. W. J. B.

### Serving God at the Ballot Box.

In a sermon recently delivered, Rev. L. A. Crandall, a Chicago clergyman, said: "Duty is not transferrable. We cannot worship God by telephone or fight the battles of righteousness by substitutes. Religion reaches into every detail of life, and includes our duty as citizens. We may serve God at the ballot box as certainly as in the church. The man who evades his duty by leaving the conduct of affairs in the hands of the professionals is guilty before God. Suffrage is not only a privilege, but an obligation; and the man who holds himself too good to vote is too bad for the kingdom of heaven."

It must be admitted that the reverend gentleman stated the case in very vigorous fashion; and yet who will contend that he did not speak with authority?

With evils existing and growing all about us, who will say that we cannot serve God at the ballot box as certainly as in the church?

The man who, on the Sabbath day, sings "Lead, kindly light," and then, on election day, casts his ballot in support of policies advanced in the interests of those who oppress the weak and the helpless, is by no means discharging his duty.

Doubtless there are many conscientious Christian men who vote with the trust magnates through ignorance; and yet as much as it is the duty of the Christian to search the scriptures in order that he may not be misled, so it is his duty to observe carefully the events of the day and study thoughtfully the policies advanced by political organizations that call for his vote.

As much as it is the duty of the Christian to refrain from doing evil in the ordinary affairs of life, to withhold his indorsement from questionable transactions, to hurt nobody and to give every one his just due, it is also his duty to withhold his indorsement from political parties or political candidates who would so arrange the policies of the government that the few may live in luxury while the many must struggle for bare existence. It is not only his duty to vote, but it is his duty to vote right; and voting right means that he must make an intelligent and patriotic study of the principles and policies advocated by the respective political parties and, without regard to the prejudices of the past, cast his vote with those who seem most willing and most likely to bring about the best government and to establish policies that will result in the greatest good to the greatest number.

We may, indeed, serve God at the ballot box as certainly as in the church; and when the majority of the American people come to appreciate this clear-cut statement, whenever God is as faithfully served at the ballot box as he is in the church, it may be depended upon that the era of trusts, of imperialism, of spoliation and of corruption will be at an end, and the probability of evils in our public life will be reduced to the minimum.

### The Great Injury.

The injury done to Colombia was great enough, but it was not nearly so great as the injury we have done ourselves by violating a solemn treaty and overriding respect for law and national obligations.

### The Great Contest of 1904.

Of course the contest during every presidential year is important, but the contest of 1904 will be of extraordinary importance owing to the fact that it will be possible in that year for one party or the other to elect not only the president, but also to control the senate and the house of representatives.

A writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger directs attention in an interesting way to the importance of the 1904 contest. This writer points out that the republicans must have forty-six northern senators in order to retain control of the senate and that the democrats need but seventeen. In the Fifty-third congress, in 1893, there were in the senate thirty-eight republicans and forty-four democrats. In the fifty-fifth congress, in 1897, the senate membership comprised forty-six republicans and thirty-four democrats. In the Fifty-seventh congress, in 1901, the senate membership comprised fifty-six republicans and thirty-two democrats. In the Fifty-eighth congress, in 1903, the senate membership comprised fifty-seven republicans and thirty-three democrats.

It is pointed out by the Public Ledger writer that the legislatures elected on November 3 last in Ohio and Maryland will choose successors to

Hanna of Ohio and McComas of Maryland. Hanna will be re-elected in Ohio and a democrat is to succeed McComas in Maryland.

The legislatures to be elected in 1904 are to choose successors to the following United States senators whose terms expire March 3, 1905: Aldrich of Rhode Island, Ball of Delaware, Bard of California, Bate of Tennessee, Beveridge of Indiana, Burrows of Michigan, Clapp of Minnesota, Clarke of Wyoming, Cockrell of Missouri, Culbertson of Texas, Daniel of Virginia, Depew of New York, Dietrich of Nebraska, Foster of Washington, Gibson of Montana, Hale of Maine, Hawley of Connecticut, Kean of New Jersey, Kearns of Utah, Lodge of Massachusetts, McCumber of North Dakota, Money of Mississippi, Proctor of Vermont, Quarles of Wisconsin, Quay of Pennsylvania, Scott of West Virginia, Stewart of Nevada, and Taliaferro of Florida.

The Public Ledger writer says that "the political complexion of the United States senate that will begin its sessions with the new president March 4, 1905, is attracting the attention of the thinking men of the republican party."

It is important that those who are opposed to government by the trusts begin to pay serious attention to the oncoming contest. If the democratic party remain true to its principles, it might be possible for that party not only to elect the president, but to obtain control of the senate and house. Democrats need not be discouraged by the failures of the past. They should not be misled by the pleas of those who seek to make it appear that fidelity of a party to its principles is a fault, and that the party may be strengthened by abandoning its principles and adopting a platform and nominating candidates to suit those who seek special favors at the hands of the government.

In the coming contest The Commoner hopes to play an important part. Those who believe in the principles advocated by The Commoner are invited to co-operate with the publisher in the effort to extend The Commoner's circulation and thereby widen the sphere of its influence. To this end, a special subscription offer has been arranged. This offer is similar to the "Lots of Five" plan, presented with such signal success last year.

Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot.

This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER		
Application for Subscription Cards		
5	Publisher Commoner: I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.	
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Name .....		
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<small>Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.</small>		
<i>If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.</i>		