

he will be careful to select the best seed, so as to secure the maximum yield; he will investigate the different kinds of cultivation and ascertain the best time for planting; he will use the implements which will make each hour's work accomplish most. That he is entitled to the rewards that naturally follow his work is universally recognized; and, we may add, no one has ever traced a swollen fortune to a farm. From the beginning of history no one has actually made out of the soil by his own unaided efforts, a fortune large enough to be, in itself, a menace to his country. A man might make money enough in some other way to buy up the land of a community or of a state, and, through a system of landlordism, he might sap the life out of the producers of wealth, but he could not begin by the cultivation of the lands—as large a piece as he could himself cultivate—and out of the land accumulate enough to make himself dangerous to his fellows.

It is possible for a man to make money out of the rise in land, and yet do it legitimately. Our government has seen fit to offer inducements for the settlement of new land. We have had the homestead act, the desert act, the timber claim act, and later entries under the Carey act and the reclamation act, which enable pioneers to secure land by contributing their pro rata to the cost of bringing the land under irrigation.

The purpose of these acts is to offer a reward to those who open up new settlements and extend the cultivated area. These acts offer a bonus for early settlement, and the results have justified the laws.

We have recently had an opportunity to observe the development of a large district by one man—a development which has brought him a pecuniary reward, and yet a reward well earned. Twenty-eight years ago, when but eighteen years of age, this man was riding along the north bank of the Snake river in southern Idaho, when he chanced to see in a canyon below him two transparent lakes. His curiosity was excited, and, tying his horse, he attempted to descend, but found the canyon wall too precipitous, for here the river is five hundred feet below the level of the desert, and the lakes are some two hundred and fifty feet above the river. He went along the bank until he found a place where he could descend to the river, and then he climbed up to the lakes. He found that they were fed by springs, and that the stream flowing out of the lakes disappeared into the ground. A hundred and fifty feet below the lakes he found a spring with a flow sufficient to irrigate eight thousand acres of land. Boy though he was, he saw the possibilities of the place, and located there. At this point the walls of the river recede, leaving something like a section of land that can be cultivated. He began to dig ditches, and, as time went on, orchard after orchard was planted, many of the trees growing among the rocks. Vineyards and alfalfa fields followed. The lumber for his house was let down into the canyon by ropes. In a few years he built a road up one wall of the canyon, later established a ferry, and built a road up the opposite wall. At first he had to haul his produce fifty miles, then twenty-five miles; now the railroad is within three miles of his ranch. When his income became sufficient he married, and his wife has been his collaborator. For years they lived far from their nearest neighbors, and developed this sheltered nook which he had found by the river.

In the course of time he began to wonder if the water of the Snake river might not be utilized for the reclamation of the desert about him. He surveyed the river banks, carrying the chain himself, to ascertain the levels. He estimated that five thousand acres of land could be brought under irrigation in his immediate neighborhood. He selected the site for a dam, and then went out in search of capital to develop the plan. At first people were skeptical, and he had difficulty in convincing the financiers that the scheme was feasible. At last his perseverance was crowned with success, and within the last three years he has seen 170,000 acres of arid desert on the south side made to blossom like the rose. Where three years ago sage brush was the only vegetation there are now alfalfa fields yielding seven tons to the acre, and oat fields yielding eighty bushels to the acre. Towns have sprung up on this tract—one with a population of two thousand people, with banks carrying deposits of \$500,000.

On the north side of the river his plans are now being worked out; canals are being dug for 150,000 acres more, and he has surveyed for still other ditches. Within three years ten thousand people will find homes on the newly opened territory. Here is wealth creation; intelligence and industry combined have drawn wealth from

the generous breast of Mother Earth, and no one will begrudge him the fortune—not large when measured by the standards of great cities, but enough for him—which he has earned by the development of the land along the Snake river. This illustrates how wealth can be created by irrigation. Others have made fortunes in the improvement of horses, of cattle, of sheep and of hogs; and still others by the improvement of grains, grasses or fruits.



Taft on Injunctions

Secretary Taft has been answering some questions submitted to him by a labor organization and, be it said to his credit, he does so quite frankly, although there are a few qualifying phrases which weaken the reply. On the subject of jury trial in contempt cases he speaks clearly and emphatically. He is opposed to the jury in such cases and insists that the judge should hear and pass upon the evidence. This is the main point and on this point the secretary is against the laboring man. The writ of injunction is invoked because no jury trial is permitted in contempt cases and the great corporations have stubbornly resisted all efforts to provide for a jury in such cases. The reasons for and against the jury system are so well known that the secretary's position may be accepted as an indication that his sympathies are with the corporations in their determination to use the writ of injunction to coerce employees into the acceptance of terms and conditions offered.



The Republican Master

Referring to the Aldrich bill the Philadelphia North American (rep.) says: "It is meant to penalize still more the business of the nation for the benefit of New York's stock jobbers. It is meant for the relief only of banks that have perverted the true functions of the banker. It is meant for the opening wedge to make the government ultimately exchange currency for any wildcat security Wall Street may wish to unload. It is nothing more nor less than an insult to the integrity and the intelligence of the American people."

Yet this same Senator Aldrich is the acknowledged republican leader in the United States senate. Indeed, he is more than a leader; he is master.



Responsibility for the Panic

The Milwaukee News has at last located the responsibility for the recent panic, being aided therein by a careful perusal of its republican exchanges. The democrats, according to the News' republican exchanges, are wholly responsible because "if it hadn't been for Bryan, Roosevelt might have stuck to republican policies."

The Milwaukee News is entitled to the thanks of a wondering people for having thus settled a vexed question and located the responsibility.



Write at Once

Write to your senators and to your congressmen (and if your legislature is in session write to your state senators and representatives) urging them to favor the plan of protecting depositors. It will only cost you a two-cent stamp and it may save you many dollars. Let every reader of The Commoner act at once.



Are They in Earnest?

The fact that so few of the leading republicans are advocating the nomination of LaFollette—the only real reformer among republican candidates—suggests the question: Do the republican leaders want sure enough reform?



Protecting Depositors

No other reform advocated by The Commoner has grown so rapidly as that which has for its object the protection of depositors. Oklahoma has already adopted it and the governors of Nebraska, Kansas and Texas are being urged to call extra legislative sessions in order to put the plan into operation.

Kentucky and Mississippi legislatures meet this winter and they will doubtless consider the subject, and Louisiana's legislature, which meets in May, is sure to be asked to establish the plan. It is being discussed in congress and

A Present for Republicans

F. J. Wagner, Kewanee, Ill., writes: "A. M. Dalrymple of Oregon says about six months ago he suggested that each reader and friend of The Commoner pay for a six months' subscription to some republican friend and has been waiting ever since to see how the proposition would take. He says now: 'I see in last week's paper that F. M. Hall has made the same proposition, but he has gone me one better and sent in \$1 for a year's subscription to one of his republican friends.' Now then I glory him in his spunk. He is the right kind of a democrat, but I will have to go him one better. I will send \$1.50 for three good old republican friends. Now then good democratic friends make your republican friends a present in this way. I think it is everybody's duty to try and abolish boss rule and corruption. Let us lend a helping hand to W. J. Bryan and he will be sure to win in 1908. I have heard that under a republican administration the laboring man would always have a full dinner pail. But, alas, the dinner pail is now empty."

national bankers are beginning to ask for it.

A Pennsylvania banker has sent the comptroller an argument in which he offers to join other banks—provided 5,000 unite—in protecting depositors, each bank to be assessed in proportion to capital stock and surplus. This is a good beginning, but the system ought to be put into operation at once without waiting for five thousand to join. When the system is once inaugurated all the banks will be compelled to adopt it for the depositors will demand security.

The assessment, however, should be on the deposits and not on the capital and surplus. It is the depositor—not capital or surplus—that is protected and each bank should contribute to the guaranty fund in proportion to its deposits.

Security of bank depositors is bound to come—the sooner the better.



The "Full Dinner Pail"

They have had "rent" riots on the east side in New York, and the Chicago Tribune (rep.) advocates the establishment of a soup house for the benefit of unemployed and hungry men. And this is under a republican administration and the republican emblem was "the full dinner pail!"



Power

It takes two-thirds of both houses of congress to override a president's veto and yet the supreme court by a majority vote can override both houses and the president all put together. Great is the supreme court!



Jefferson Was Right

Jefferson was right; the United States supreme court is the least democratic of all the departments of government and yet a bare majority of it can stretch the constitution out of shape or contract its powers.



No Liability Here

Now that the employer's liability act has been held unconstitutional the people—the employers of the supreme court—can not be held liable for the miscarriage of justice that will follow from the decisions of the majority of the judges.



Not All Ignorance

The Buffalo (N. Y.) Times in discussing the New York World's attacks upon Mr. Bryan says: "The World is enterprising. It is seeking to make a newspaper and it has little concern about what happens to the democratic party so long as it is able to present a paper which will interest the people. Democratic readers of the World should not take its politics too seriously. It is not the safest guide for those who are earnestly interested in the success of their party. It is not a light to follow, for it is much like a 'fire fly.' It may be seen here one minute and there the next."

But the editor of the Times and other democrats must not overlook the fact that there is method in the World's madness. Democrats