

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### DEMOCRATIC WEEKLIES

Publishers who patronize ready-print houses and who believe that the reproduction of The Commoner cartoon each week and two columns of Commoner editorials and paragraphs would please their readers and promote the cause of democracy could probably secure such service by requesting it of those supplying them plate matter. The Commoner would gladly furnish without charge galley proof of editorial matter and matrix of cartoons to ready-print houses or to others who desire them.



### HERE'S TROUBLE!

As though our republican friends were not having trouble enough, J. B. Tridle of Spaulding, Neb., writing to the Omaha World-Herald gives them this nut to crack:

"I would like to ask one question of my republican friends: If Grover Cleveland was buried in the political grave of oblivion for issuing fifty millions of interest bearing debt when he had but one hundred and sixty-four millions of gold in the treasury, where shall we bury Theodore Roosevelt when he issued seventy-five millions with nine hundred and thirty-three millions of gold in the treasury? My republican friends, please tell me where, oh, where."



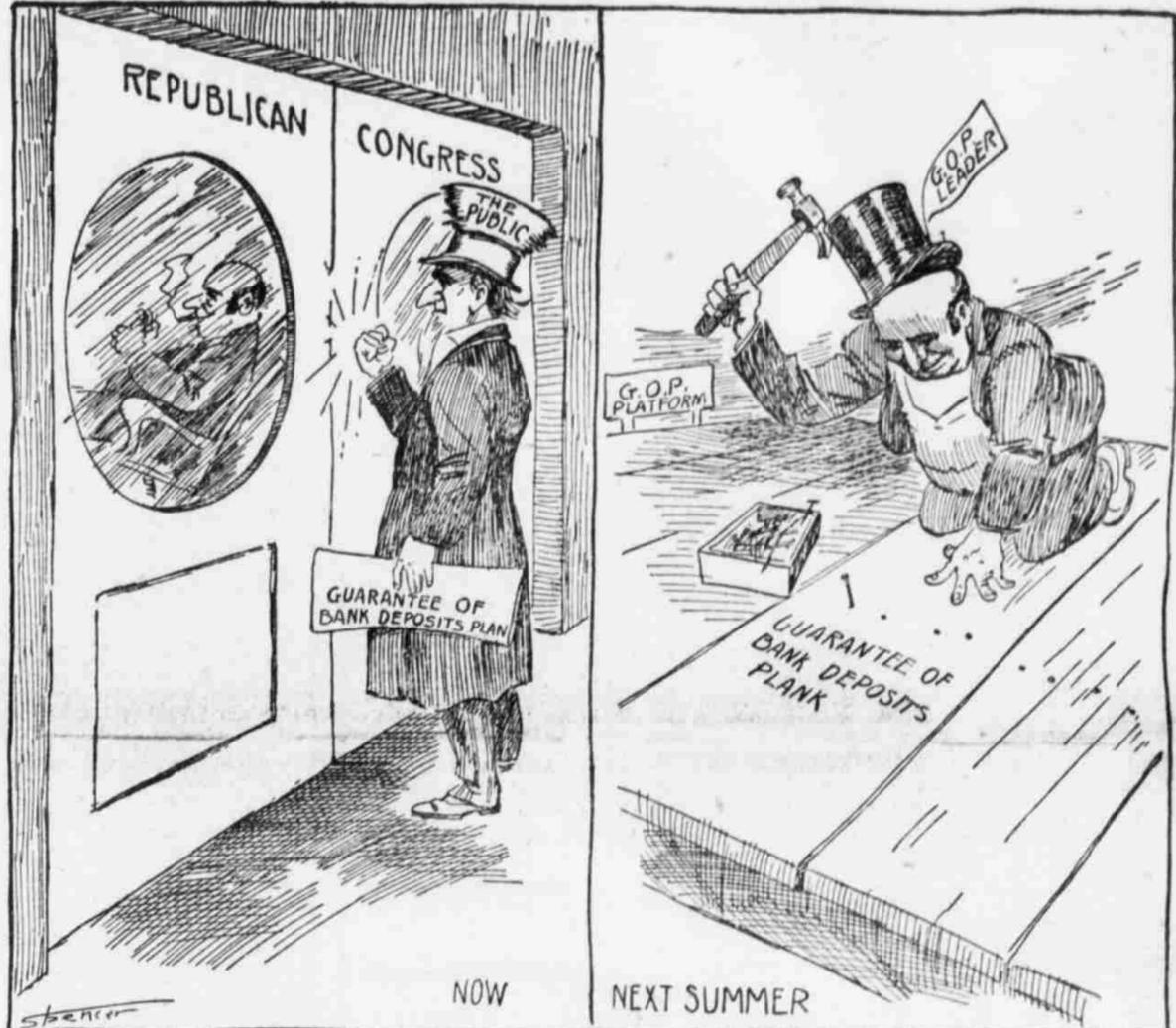
### OPPORTUNITIES

The work of organizing volunteer democratic clubs is progressing rapidly throughout the entire country. The effort which is being made to give employment to idle men and the importance of placing current democratic literature in the hands of the people is shown by the following advertisement, which is appearing in some of the California papers:

**"WANTED—RELIABLE PERSONS TO SECURE** subscriptions to The Commoner, published by Hon. W. J. Bryan; good quick pay guaranteed. Work anywhere in state. Address California Bryan Club, Daniel O'Connell, President, Rooms 101 and 102, 1738 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Calif."

Democratic precinct chairmen, county officers of the democratic committee, members of congressional, senatorial, or state committees, officers or members of democratic clubs or volunteer Bryan clubs, who believe that the cause of democracy can be advanced by extending The Commoner's circulation in their respective districts are requested to communicate with the publisher of The Commoner.

## THE REPUBLICAN WAY: MUCH PROMISE AND NO PERFORMANCE



How the Grand Old Party will probably handle an important issue

## "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL"

Under the auspices of the Civic Forum, Carnegie Hall, New York, on the evening of February 4, Mr. Bryan delivered an address entitled "Thou shalt not steal." The address follows:

I appreciate the opportunity which the Civic Forum has given me of presenting in this great center of trade and finance a subject which however hackneyed it may seem, still forces itself upon us, namely—the subject of larceny. The commandment "Thou shalt not steal" presents as clearly as it can be presented a moral truth that may be classed among the self-evident truths. The greatest service that one can render a truth is to state it so plainly that it can be understood. I do not mean that any truth can be stated so plainly that it will not be denied by those who find it to their interest to deny it. I believe that it was Lord Macaulay who said that eloquent and learned men could be found to dispute the law of gravitation if any pecuniary advantage were to be gained by it. What I mean to say is, that a truth can be stated so plainly that those who desire to see it, can see it, and that when it is seen, it needs no defense. If for instance you may say to a man that it is wrong to steal and he replies—"Oh, I don't know about that," don't argue with him, search him and you will probably find the reason in his pocket.

I have not selected this subject with any intention of presenting an argument against stealing. I am going to assume that those who listen to me agree that the commandment should be

obeyed. It is my purpose rather to make some applications of the commandment to present conditions, for I am satisfied that many are guilty without really being conscious of disobedience to the commandment or of committing a wrong.

To steal or to commit larceny may be defined as the wrongful taking of another's property. Law writers have divided larceny into two classes—petit larceny and grand larceny, the former term being used when the property stolen is of little value and the latter when the value is greater. There is a tendency in modern times to divide grand larceny into two classes, so that now we are inclined to think of larceny as petit larceny, grand larceny and glorious larceny. By glorious larceny I do not refer to the policy which nations have indulged in of taking the property of other nations by force—an act that is sometimes described as not only innocent but even patriotic; I refer rather to that tendency quite discernible at the present day to regard stealing upon a large scale as less reprehensible than stealing upon a small scale. If a man picks your pocket or enters your house in the dark or accosts you upon the highway and takes from you a few dollars, you regard him as a vulgar thief. No one can have respect for such a person, and the punishments of the law are in such cases swift and sure if the offender is caught. Even in the case of grand larceny if the amount taken is not very great, the thief finds it difficult to escape, for he has no influential friends and he cannot