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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Now that a flying machine has crossed the English channel, possibly a dove can.

What a convenient word that word "revise" is! You can just do anything with it.

The men who put that joker in the boot and shoe tariff would be ashamed of themselves if they had any shame but they have not.

What a crop of contemptible tricks that Aldrich bill raised! Do the republican farmers understand now what a protective tariff means?

How fortunate that Dr. Eliot did not accept the ambassadorship! He might have tried to force his "new" religion on Great Britain, and involved us in a war.

The president has been inviting the progressive republicans to White House dinners in the hope of winning them to the support of the Aldrich bill. He made such a liberal use of the chicken leg as an argument that he is likely to be accused of substituting the drum stick for the big stick.

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL

Thomas L. Bulger, the member who introduced in the Alabama house of representatives the resolution to adopt the income tax delivered a speech in favor of his resolution. Reviewing the conditions which have brought about the necessity for a change he said:

"Under the protection of the republican tariff laws the rich have grown richer and the poor poorer, and the consumer must bear the burdens without hope in the future. The sixteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States will reaffirm and re-establish the Jeffersonian doctrine, 'equal rights to all and special privileges to none.' The rich and poor will contribute and receive alike. Contentment, happiness and prosperity will be seen and felt on every hand throughout the length and breadth of our great country."

THE SUTTON CASE

Lieutenant Sutton of the naval academy at Annapolis, lost his life while engaged in a struggle with three fellow officers. The testimony discloses that Sutton was shot while these three men were holding him down. His assailants claim that he committed suicide. His mother and other relatives believe that he was murdered, and it is safe to say that the average

newspaper reader who has followed the testimony is inclined to agree with the mother.

It seems, however, that the administration permitted this case to be covered up and but for the mother's persistence nothing more would have been heard of it. Forced by the disclosures to do something the administration has required the mother to assume the role of prosecutor of particular individuals. The administration should take upon itself the thorough investigation of this affair. The government should make the charges.

It is altogether a discreditable affair and the authorities should be not only willing but anxious to bring out every important fact.

IN NORTH CAROLINA

In The Commoner of June 25, 1909, on page six, appeared a poem published the first time in The Commoner more than a year ago, entitled, "In Virginia." I desire to enter a mild protest to the claims made therein by the author of these verses, for although Virginia is a bright, fair and happy land,

"Here's to the land of the long-leaf pine,
 The summer land where the sun doth shine,
 Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,
 Here's to 'Down Home,' the 'Old North State.'"

The roses elsewhere bloom as white, as in Virginia,
 The sunshine elsewhere shines as bright, as in Virginia,
 The birds sing elsewhere just as sweet, and elsewhere hearts as lightly beat,
 For heaven and earth both seem to meet, "Down Home" in the "Old North State."

The days are elsewhere quite as long, as in Virginia,
 And quite as filled with happy song, as in Virginia,
 And when my time has come to die, just take me back and let me lie,
 Close where the Cape Fear goes rolling by, "Down Home" in the "Old North State."

There elsewhere is a land as fair, as in Virginia,
 As full of song, as free of care, as in Virginia,
 And I believe that "Beulah Land," the Lord prepared for mortal man,
 Is built exactly on the plan of "Down Home," the "Old North State."

ALBERT S. GRADY.
 Mount Olive, North Carolina.

Organize Now

Unquestionably a majority of the democratic and republican parties favor the income tax. If proof on this point were necessary it is found in the fact that a republican congress has been forced by public sentiment to submit an income tax amendment. It is no secret, however, that the republican leaders who reluctantly yielded to this necessity expect that the proposed amendment will fail by reason of not having a sufficient number of states.

The clause in the federal constitution providing for the method of amendment is as follows:

"The congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions of three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the congress; provided, that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the senate."

The fight for the income tax has only begun. The subject should, therefore, be studied by every citizen. It would be well if, in every precinct in the United States, men and women should congregate for the purpose of informing themselves upon this important topic.

TWO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Election of senators by popular vote is more important than empowering congress to levy an income tax. The senate has agreed to submit

a constitutional amendment for the latter purpose. It may be forced to submit one for the former.

The legislatures of twenty-seven states have already, by resolution, favored direct election of senators. Upon the demand of thirty-one states congress is bound to call a constitutional convention—which might submit amendments not only for income tax and popular election of senators, but for other things even less welcome to truly conservative members of the upper house. It is not improbable that, if forced to choose between submitting an amendment for direct election of senators and calling a constitutional convention, the senate would accept the former. We hope to see that choice forced upon it, and would cheerfully see the income tax matter deferred for that purpose.

We really need an income tax only as an alternative to tariff exaction, and there is no escape from tariff exactions until the senate is made answerable to the public. We hope it will be made clear before the next congress convenes that the senate must either submit a constitutional amendment for direct election of its members or call a constitutional convention.—Saturday Evening Post.

AMONG THE STATES

A writer in the New York American says:

If anybody supposes that the state legislatures are not wide enough awake to appreciate the need and significance of the income tax amendment, a study of the actual doings of the legislatures during the current year would undeceive him.

The fact is that everywhere throughout the country the law-making power of the several states has been aggressive in a reform movement whose tide is rising high against all kinds of political corruption and economic wrong.

The income tax will ride on the crest of the wave as the culmination of a great national effort to break the power of privilege.

The broad sweep of the reform movement is carrying the state legislatures generally toward those fundamental ideas of free government that are most ancient and most modern, to wit, the principle of direct nominations, the principle of the initiative, the referendum and the recall, and the principle that money should cease to be potential in elections.

During the sessions of their legislatures, recently adjourned, five states—Michigan, New Hampshire, Idaho, Nevada and California—adopted a mandatory system of direct nominations, covering practically all offices except that of delegate to a national convention.

Thus nearly or quite half the states of the union have now embraced the principle of direct nominations in its thoroughgoing and mandatory form. While in two-thirds of the remaining states the principle is recognized and applied partially or optionally.

In half the states the corrupt nominating conventions are altogether abolished, so far as local and state politics are concerned.

Four state legislatures have this year extended the principle of direct nominations to the office of United States senator. And twenty-five other legislatures had already done so.

Thus in twenty-nine commonwealths United States senators are now directly nominated by the people.

In three states—Oregon, Nevada and Nebraska—there is what amounts to a direct popular election to the United States senate.

In four legislatures this year the initiative and referendum made notable progress.

The Kansas legislature grafted the principle upon the charter of every city in the state.

In six states of the union this principle is in full operation for statute and municipal law. And in fourteen other states it has a more limited application.

In Nevada this year's legislature passed a resolution looking to a constitutional amendment enabling the people summarily to recall (dismiss from office) any or all of their elected officers.

Concerning the limiting of the use of money in elections, the legislatures of Oregon, Colorado and Nebraska made certain notable advances during their latest sessions.

Thus, on the whole, it is evident that the state legislatures are "up and coming." And those who count upon their sloth or ignorance to defeat the income tax are like summering citizens who reckon the cost without consulting the hotel keeper.