

state commerce law to override the police laws of the states.

The guaranty of bank deposits is the fourth "populist" doctrine which Mr. Bryan is accused of "inflicting" upon the democratic party. (The World calls it "government guaranty" but the government is only the trustee of a fund collected from the tanks and used to pay depositors of failed banks.) This is not populist. It has been adopted by democratic legislatures in Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska, and by a republican legislature in Kansas. It is simple honesty to compel banks to insure their depositors against loss, and the World would not find fault with it if it was as much interested in protecting the rights of depositors as it is in giving voice to the selfishness of those financiers who want to enjoy the profits of banking without bearing its responsibilities.

The Commoner will, in another editorial, discuss "socialism" as defined by the World; it is enough at this time to show that the World ignores the two most important populist doctrines appropriated by our party; that government ownership has not been appropriated; that prohibition has not been advocated, and that the licenses of big corporations and the guaranty of bank deposits were not borrowed from the populists. When the World defines "the like" with which it concludes its denunciations of populist doctrines we can answer them.

WHY NOT BALLINGER?

A Washington dispatch to the Sioux City (Ia.) Journal, republican, says:

"The president has been quoted by senators who are opposing Lorimer as having examined the evidence carefully and the disclosures shocked him. This has been used with telling effect against Lorimer, and whereas some time ago it looked as if his case would be handled by the senate in a perfunctory manner, it is now apparent that Mr. Lorimer is in danger of losing his seat. It became generally known here today that Senator Root, of New York, intends to speak against Mr. Lorimer. Mr. Root's opposition, it is charged, was inspired at the White House. The same charge is made by friends of Lorimer in explanation of the hostility of Senator Crawford. Messrs Root and Crawford have been in conference with the president of late, and it is assumed they have been discussing the Lorimer case with him."

The case against Secretary Ballinger seems very complete, but Mr. Taft did not appear to be shocked. Nor do we remember that Senator Root or Senator Crawford were at all active in demanding Mr. Ballinger's resignation. Can it be that Lorimer is to be sacrificed in the hope that the noise created by his going will smother the demand for Ballinger's retirement?

THAT "FIFTY PER CENT" SNEER

When Mr. Bryan suggested that any corporation controlling more than fifty per cent of the product should be held to be a monopoly there were sneers by those who claim to represent "the best thought" of the country. The following Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald will be interesting:

"Where to draw the line between legal and illegal restraint of interstate commerce was the burden of a rapid-fire of questions today in the re-argument before the supreme court of the United States of the dissolution suit against the American Tobacco corporations. Before they could be answered another fusillade of questions concerning what the Sherman anti-trust law meant by the "monopolizing" of trade had opened.

"Generalities are very good," said Justice Day to J. C. McReynolds, one of the attorneys for the United States, "but it seems to me that the government ought to have an explanation now of what the law means by monopolizing."

Mr. McReynolds said if the court wanted his theory, notwithstanding the theory of the court, he would give it. It was that the law intended to prevent interference with the free flow of competition in commerce between the states and that any combination that was sufficient to interfere with the free flow was within the Sherman anti-trust law. He explained that he had in mind a material and direct obstruction of commerce.

"Do you maintain that it takes fifty-one per cent of a trade to affect a material obstruction?" inquired Justice Day.

"Your honors have held that fifty-one per cent was sufficient to come within the law," was the response. "If a combination of less is held by this court to be sufficient that is better.

I do not believe that obstruction by two little fellows is sufficient."

"Mr. McReynolds concluded by stating that 'if you want size, as a basis, we have it here; if you want intent, we have intent to restrain; whatever you want, we have the essential elements in this case.'"

WHO BOUGHT THEM?

The grand jury at West Union, O., has already returned 1,600 indictments against citizens accused of selling their votes, and it is expected that the number will reach two thousand before the investigation is finished. One of the men indicted is a civil war veteran, eighty-four years old. He entered a plea of guilty and was fined \$15. He admitted receiving \$11 for his vote, but returned next day, walking eighteen miles, to tell the judge that he had figured up and found that it was \$15 he secured instead of eleven.

It is a shameful state of affairs when one thousand voters in a single county have so low a conception of the responsibilities of citizenship. But who bought them. Money is not used unless the purchaser is seeking something he is willing to pay for. The punishment should fall upon the BRIBE GIVER as well as the BRIBE TAKER—if there is any difference, he is the more guilty of the two. And back of it all is the corrupting theory openly advanced by protectionists that it is perfectly proper to use the government as a private asset in business.

SPEAKER-TO-BE CHAMP CLARK

Champ Clark of Missouri is a typical product of our great border-west. He was born in the state—Kentucky—which gave us Abraham Lincoln a century ago. More fortunate than Abraham Lincoln, he had the benefit of an excellent education in public schools—college, university and law school—and his education has been going on ever since, for there is no closer or more thoughtful student of current literature and current events, including wondrous developments of science during the recent past and present. In these, as in other respects, Champ Clark is an ideal American public man, in closest bond at sympathy with the masses, and at the same time among the very foremost in the possession of the power which knowledge bestows and the ability to use that power.—Columbian Magazine.

RIGHT AS USUAL

The papers are commending Governor Shafroth for warning appointees not to accept Christmas presents from employes. It was good advice, but that is the kind of advice he is in the habit of giving. If the readers of The Commoner will examine the official record (and the private life as well) of Governor Shafroth they will find that he measures to the highest standard of citizenship. He has old-fashioned ideas of honesty, and his career has been marked by a scrupulous performance of all duties. He is incorruptible and has faith in the people. He is a democrat in whom there is no guile.

FOSS IS ALL RIGHT

Governor Foss of Massachusetts is all right. After examining his message the readers of The Commoner will understand why George Fred Williams preferred him to Hamlin. Foss urges the ratification of the income tax, the election of senators by the people and the initiative and referendum. What does the New York World think of that? The western democrats are not afraid of Foss. He is a progressive; strength to his arm.

MORGAN "TO THE RESCUE"

The Carnegie Trust Company of New York closed its doors and there was immediately considerable agitation in financial circles. This failure following close upon the collapse of the Robin chain of banks gave the financiers plenty to do. J. Pierpont Morgan, however, "went to the rescue." He gave his name to several banks that appeared to be in distress and in the language of his admirers "saved the day." The New York World says that as a result of "going to the rescue," Mr. Morgan cleaned up \$20,000,000.

On this rescue "proposition" the New York World makes this comment:

"To be saved by J. Pierpont Morgan is one of the most expensive luxuries that a financial institution can indulge in. In the long run it is probably more expensive even than honest banking. Mr. Morgan is a dashing and melo-

dramatic rescuer, but he always collects his Carnegie hero medal in advance.

"Yesterday Mr. Morgan saved the Twelfth Ward and Nineteenth Ward banks, which are allied with the Carnegie Trust company, by the benevolent expedient of taking over another allied concern, the Madison Trust company, and annexing it to his Equitable Trust company.

"During the panic of 1907 Mr. Morgan did considerable financial rescuing, as a result of which he added the Tennessee Coal and Iron company to his steel trust, turned the Metropolitan steamship line over to the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company, and gathered in the Port Chester road by way of good measurement.

"As for yesterday's transaction, the superintendent of banks says that "every one is to be congratulated at the turn of events," and doubtless he is right. Surely the wight that has just been snatched from a watery grave ought not to complain because the daring rescuer took his clothes by way of reward."

A GREAT VICTORY

The decision of the democratic members of the new house of representatives in caucus assembled to take from the speaker the power to appoint committees, placing that power practically with the members themselves is a great victory for popular government.

When political leaders must recognize the keen and widespread satisfaction displayed by men of all parties in the accomplishment of such reforms as this it seems strange that reform work makes such slow progress.

Democrats have but to put their preaching into practice to win political power as well as moral influence. It is the broken promise or the poorly kept pledge that loses the people's confidence.

Champ Clark and his fellow democrats have as great an opportunity as was ever brought to the door of any generation of men. It is the opportunity of giving the American people the right to believe that the democratic party will be true to its pledges—the opportunity of giving to the American people the right to hope that popular government will be restored.

A GREAT DAY

Tuesday, January 3, was a red letter day. The supreme court of the United States handed down three important decisions on that day—three decisions which will have a far reaching effect. One sustains the Indiana judge who dismissed the libel suit brought by the government (at President Roosevelt's request) against the Indianapolis News and the New York World. The decision will remove the menace to freedom of the press which the prosecution raised. The second decision was of great importance to shippers; it holds the initial railroad liable for damage in shipments on connecting lines. The third decision will probably exert a still larger influence; it sustains the bank guaranty laws of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. The language of the decision is so emphatic and the reasoning so comprehensive that the movement for securing depositors is sure to be greatly aided. The democratic platform declaration on the subject has received a striking vindication. The people had an inning on January 3 and no mistake.

SENATOR HITCHCOCK

Nebraska's new senator, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, just elected by the Nebraska legislature, will prove an important addition to that body. By ability and education and by wide experience, both in journalism and in congress, he is fitted to take a prominent place among his colleagues. He is a progressive democrat and has long been identified with the reforms which are now being accepted by the nation. Mr. Hitchcock is the first democratic senator from Nebraska (his father was a republican senator from the state) and the state is expecting a great deal from him.

GOOD FOR WILSON

Governor Wilson, of New Jersey, says that the special interests are trying to break into the democratic party. If he were better acquainted with New Jersey politics he would know that the special interests have been in the democratic party for some time. We are relying on Governor Wilson to PUT THEM OUT.

CHIEF JUSTICE WHITE

In appointing Justice White to be chief justice the president has complimented the south; he has also done a very unusual thing in conferring so high an honor on a member of the opposite party.