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in the Campaign of 1912

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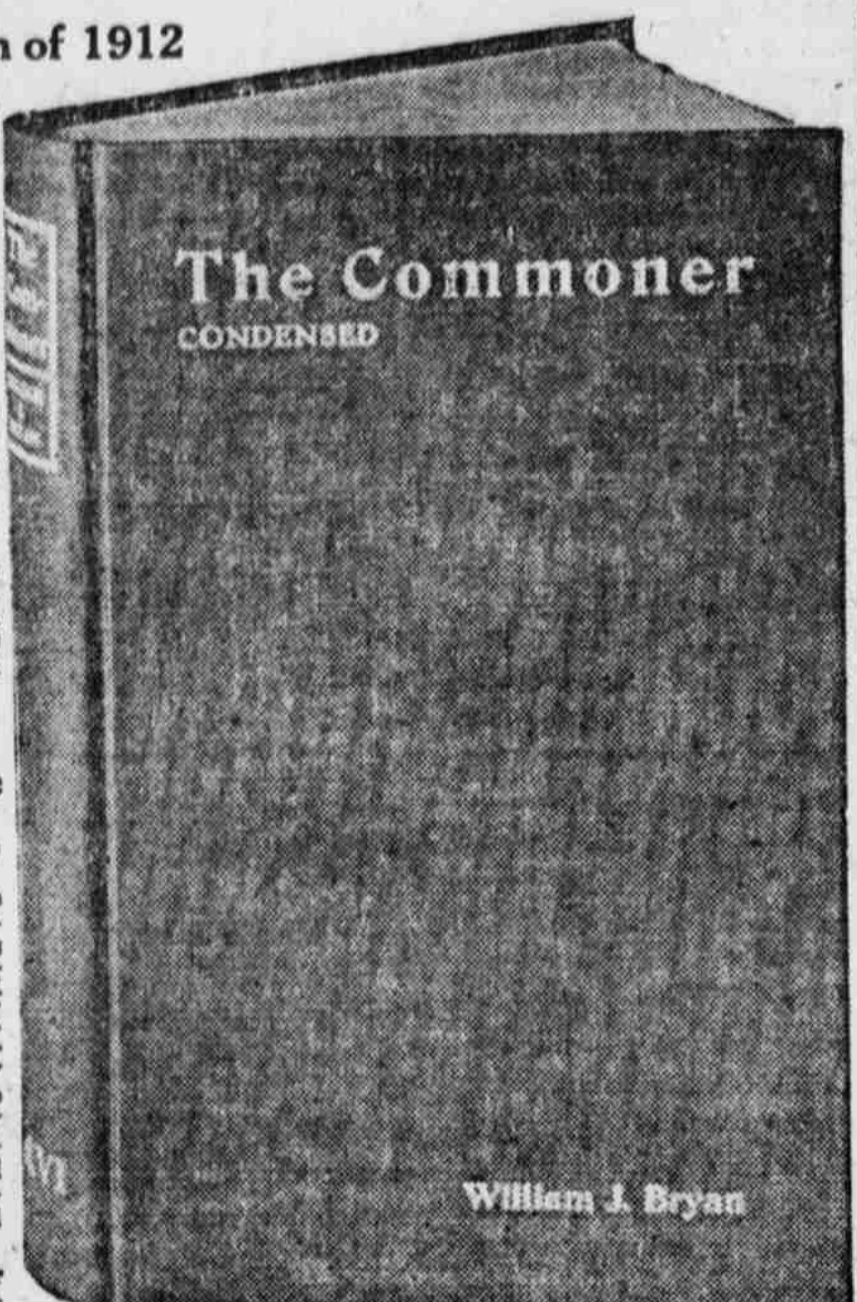
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### OKLAHOMA'S BANKING LAW

Governor Lee Cruce, in Oklahoma City Tribune: So far as my investigation goes, no banking law, either state or national, has been passed in this government's history that has met with as strong and determined opposition as the Oklahoma banking law, and especially that feature of it which provides for the guarantee of deposits placed in state banks. In their efforts to discredit and overthrow this law, its enemies have taken every unfair advantage; have purposely misrepresented and misstated facts, and are now circulating all sorts of false rumors concerning its practical operation, but be it said to the credit of the intelligent depositors of this state that all these false accusations have failed to weaken their confidence in the stability of our law. Had the same statements been made concerning national banks that have been made concerning our state banks during the past sixty days, many of the national banks would now be in the hands of a receiver and a financial panic statewide would have swept over the state. There is reason for this, and that reason is found in the operation of the law in Oklahoma. After more than three years of trial, no depositor in any state bank in Oklahoma has ever lost one penny of his money, and though we have had several banks liquidated under our state banking law, no inconvenience has been felt by any man having his deposit in state banks, nor has any depositor had to wait one day to receive his money. I challenge the enemies of the Oklahoma banking law to find another state in the union where conditions of this kind prevail.

My experience in banking has been in national banks, and it certainly cannot be said of me that I am biased in favor of state banks. I have studied this question from every conceivable standpoint; I have studied it from the position of a national banker, and have sought out the arguments that could be used against our law, and I have no hesitancy in now affirming that the principle of guaranteeing deposits is just as sound, and just as susceptible of practical demonstration, as the principle of insuring property against loss by fire, or the human family against loss by the ravages of disease and death.

As the governor of this state, interested in all the banking institutions of the state, whether state or national, I have at all times treated with absolute fairness and impartiality the different classes of banks in Oklahoma. There should be no conflict between state and national banks, and this conflict I have tried to avoid in every way possible. At the recent session of the legislature when an effort was made to have passed a law that would compel the deposit of all public funds in state banks, I opposed the proposition, because I believed it unfair to discriminate against national banks, and that such law would tend to invite a conflict between state and national banks. My efforts in this direction were successful. The legislature has adjourned, and I confess that I am both surprised and pained to find that, scarcely had the legislature ceased its labors, until there came from many quarters in this state which now seems to be a preconcerted effort on the part of many of the leading national bankers of Oklahoma to discredit and overthrow the state banking law. I hope that this effort on their part will cease. If conflict comes, it will come by reason of unfair attacks on the part of the national bankers, and I want to say here and now, that if a conflict does come, and the state of Oklahoma is driven to the necessity of fighting for the existence of the

guaranty banking principle, which it has established among its people, the state will not shrink from the contest.

Practically one-half of the state money now held by the treasurer of this state is deposited in national banks in Oklahoma, though the state banks outnumber the national banks in the proportion of two to one. What is true of the state money, I am sure, is likewise true of the city and county moneys in Oklahoma. Certainly the national banks cannot claim that they have been unfairly treated in this regard. If these funds were to be withdrawn from the national banks and deposited in the state banks, it would increase de-

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