

complaining concentration upon the business of legislation? Surely it is a proper and pertinent part of my report on "the state of the Union" to express my admiration for the diligence, the good temper, and the full comprehension of public duty which has already been manifested by both the Houses; and I hope that it may not be deemed an impertinent intrusion of myself into the picture if I say with how much and how constant satisfaction I have availed myself of the privilege of putting my time and energy at their disposal alike in counsel and in action.

AN UNDIPLOMATIC DIPLOMAT

Former Ambassador Wilson, in defiance of the rules that are binding upon the conscience of diplomats, signalized his retirement from the service by an attempt to embarrass the government in dealing with the Mexican situation. His offense would have been unpatriotic enough, had he been merely an on-looker, but it was aggravated by the fact that he played a conspicuous part in creating the conditions with which the government had to deal. He was present at the meeting between Huerta and Diaz and encouraged other countries to believe that the United States would recognize Huerta's government. He showed an entire disregard of the ideals of our nation and now he emphasizes his own short-comings by endeavoring to make more difficult the task of the administration in assisting to restore constitutional government in Mexico.

GLASS AS AN ORATOR

Congressman Glass has illustrated anew the power of truth to confound its enemies. He has been invading the east and wherever he has gone he has carried dismay to the financiers who have opposed the currency bill. He has not only made them ridiculous in the eyes of those who have listened to the discussions but he has actually converted many of them to the support of the bill.

If the essence of public speaking is for the speaker to know what he is talking about and believe what he says, Congressman Glass is an orator, for he is certainly posted on the currency question and no one who hears him doubts that he believes what he says. To these he adds felicity of expression and aptness of illustration. It has been a long while since a public man has grown so rapidly during the discussion of a congressional measure.

THE BANKERS ON BANKING

The bankers who are opposing the Glass-Owen currency bill show themselves grossly ignorant of its provisions. Some of them seem to assume that a banker must understand, by intuition, all of the principles and provisions of a monetary bill without the necessity of reading it. There is nothing in the mere business of banking that tends to educate the banker in the science of banking. A man may know who is good on a note without any knowledge whatever of the science of money, just as one may know how to cook eggs without knowing how to raise chickens.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP IN ALASKA

The president proposes to make an experiment with government ownership in Alaska. Good. There seems to be no other way to secure the railroad development that Alaska needs, and besides it will give an opportunity to test the government's capacity for the management of such an enterprise.

It is suspected that some of the devotees of high protection felt some nervous qualms when they read the other day that the head priest of the sun worshipers had been convicted in court. If the law is to be invoked against all of the old superstitions they had reason to feel alarmed.

WANTED—To correspond with Democratic State Chairmen, County Chairmen, Secretaries, Members of Democratic State Committees, Precinct Committeemen and others who are interested in circulating Democratic literature and organizing for the state and congressional elections next year. Address The Commoner.

The President's Message

The president's message will quicken the hearts of reformers throughout the land. His first message summoned the party in congress to the fulfillment of its pledge to reduce the tariff. The call was heeded; congress went to work and, aided by the counsel of the president, met the expectations of the country. The issue is settled for the present and is not likely to rise again in the near future, unless something now unforeseen gives the beneficiaries of protection a chance to put undeserved blame upon it.

The next step was toward currency reform, and this is almost accomplished. We are far enough along to know that the senate only awaits an opportunity to vote to register its approval of the principles of the president's plan. When this reform is secured, it will not only put the government in control of its finance and disintegrate the money power, but it will make the possibility of panics more remote.

The president might have felt justified in regarding these two great achievements as sufficient for the first congress, but he is not satisfied with a partial fulfillment of his promises. He no sooner disposes of one piece of work than he begins another. His message presents three problems, and his position is clearly stated on each. First, the private monopoly, which must be exterminated. The law must so clearly define that which is lawful and that which is unlawful that the honest business man need not err therein. The right of any man to fix a price upon that which another must buy is denied, and the exercise of that right is to be prevented. A private monopoly being indefensible, the president does not attempt to defend it, and being intolerable, he does not intend to tolerate it. He has taken the position that the platform four times outlined and which the party expected him to take. With the prestige he has won from the reduction of the tariff and which he will win from the reform of the currency, he will be prepared to grapple successfully with the monster combinations that have been converting legitimate business into a grand lottery in which a few draw capital prizes and the rest draw blanks.

There is no reason to doubt that he will have the support of the people in his fight against the trusts, as he has had that support in his fight

FARM CREDITS

The president devotes a considerable part of his message to the subject of farm credits, and what he says will be most acceptable to the agricultural classes. They have been ignored in financial legislation because the Wall street financiers have written the laws and, strangely enough, financiers do not seem to realize the importance of the part that the farmer plays in the creation of wealth.

The farmer is the atlas who carries the world upon his shoulders and he is, therefore, hidden from the view of those who are perched upon the top of the globe—at least, those who have been in control have acted as though they neither saw him nor were aware of his work.

The president, looking upon the question from the standpoint of all the people, could not fail to understand the interest of the farmers, and the country is to be congratulated upon the prospect of legislation which will enable this class to protect itself from the gross injustice which has been practiced upon him.

Most of the necessities for the navy, says Secretary Daniels in his annual report, are made by a very few manufacturers and the prices charged are so much too high that he recommended appropriations for an armor plate factory and increases in the gun, powder and torpedo works. The department, he adds, is still forced to buy too large a quantity from the powder trust at an exorbitant price. If an individual of means were confronted by such conditions, he would proceed to manufacture on his own account. Why not the government?

The opponents of the Owen draft of the currency bill profess to be greatly alarmed over the discovery that one provision may be utilized "to flood the country with an inflated and irredeemable volume of paper money." This provision

against protection for protection's sake and against a money system controlled by Wall street.

His message also takes up the problem presented by the imperial policy which the republican party has been developing for the past fourteen years. Here again the president plants himself firmly upon the platform promise and gives to the Filipinos the one assurance for which they have waited, namely, that they are to have independence. The exact date is not so important as the knowledge that this is the ultimate end toward which and for which we strive.

The president has already taken an important step in giving to the Filipinos a majority of the commission, in addition to the assembly which was previously established. Further steps will be taken, and the Filipinos will not be impatient, now that their faith has been justified and they know that their destiny is to be in their own hands.

When these four reforms are all crystalized into law, namely, a tariff measure drawn in the people's interest, a currency system under the control of the government, industry freed from the fetters of monopoly and the spirit of our institutions restored by the overthrow of imperialism, the president will have made a record unparalleled by any predecessor in the same length of time, if, indeed, paralleled in any term.

But even these do not complete his program. He asks for legislation which will enable the people to select their presidential candidates by primaries rather than by conventions. Having freed the government from the power of predatory wealth, he now plans to make a reassertion of their control impossible by putting the government in the hands of the people. He has faith in the conscience of the people when aroused, but he is a student of history and knows that the special interests are ever active, even though the people sleep. He appreciates the influence that a president can exert and he believes that a president chosen by the people and owing his elevation to the people, can better be trusted to guard the people's interest from the watch tower at the White House than a president chosen by a convention.

Every democrat will, upon reading the president's message, congratulate himself that after so many years of darkness the day has dawned.

W. J. BRYAN.

empowers the federal reserve board, in an emergency, to authorize the use of federal reserve notes as reserves by member banks, lawful money being the present reserve requirement. The joke of it is that under the Aldrich bill, beloved by big bankers, member banks were permitted to use the notes authorized by that measure in their reserves, not "as found necessary," but in the ordinary course of business.

The testimony taken at Chicago in the government investigation of the telephone trust showed, among other things, that real progress in invention and in extension of the service to the people did not come in this business until after competition was made possible through the expiration of basic patents. This is but another proof of the known truth that monopoly does not make for efficiency, but on the other hand stifles the inventive instinct, which is the basis of all real efficiency, another name for economy of production.

LET YOUR SENATORS KNOW
It seems probable that the currency bill will pass by the time this issue of The Commoner reaches its readers. If, Mr. Reader, discussion is still continuing when your eyes fall upon this paragraph, and you have reason to believe that your representative in the senate shares in the responsibility for the delay, please spend a few cents on a telegram and tell him that the country is not only standing by the president but is growing impatient for the enjoyment of the advantages which currency reform will bring.