

# The Commoner

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## Something Must Be Done

What is the Republican administration going to do to aid the farmers? Its revenue law, by taking the tax off of the profiteers and by reducing the tax on big incomes, makes the farmer's load relatively heavier than it was before. The Federal Reserve Bank, specially designed for the protection of the masses, has now become the tool of Wall street for over-reaching the general public. The Republicans are seeking to evade responsibility for the tremendous injury done the farmers by the Federal Reserve Bank by declaring that a majority of the members of the Reserve Board are appointees of the Democratic administration. That is a sham defense. The president of the Board, though appointed by the Democratic administration, voted for President Harding, and the administration has made no effort to protect the farmers from the action of the Board. To aggravate matters still worse, the Republican leaders are now planning a new tariff law which will still further oppress the farmers while it attempts to deceive them by putting on agricultural products tariff rates that are of no advantage to the farmer.

The condition of the farmer is worse than it has been at any time before in thirty years and the Republican leaders know no remedy. They are like the medical student who attended an examination when under the influence of liquor. His only answer, when questioned about hypothetical cases was 'I'd bleed him, I'd bleed him again, etc.'

The reaction is coming if the Democrats will only put themselves in a position to take advantage of Republican mistakes. In every state where there is a senator to elect, they should present a candidate who stands four-square on every issue. He should be for the people as against Wall street. He should favor faithful enforcement of all laws, including the prohibition law. He should be able to appeal to the best sentiment of the country and to all good citizens. The Democratic party does not stand for the money power, for the brewers and distillers, or for the underworld, and no candidate who is not sound on all questions has any chance of success.

In every Congressional District the Democrats should be just as careful in the selection of their candidates. It is entirely possible for the Democrats to secure a majority in the House of Representatives in this fall's election, and then the party will be in a position to lay its plans for a Presidential victory in 1924. No time is to be lost. Let the Democrats be up and doing.

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At the beginning of this, its 22nd year, The Commoner rededicates itself to the guiding principle of its name---fidelity to the common people.

### PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

General Wood and Gov. General Forbes report against giving independence to the Philippine Islands. They recommend that congress declare null and void the so called Jones law which promised independence. These gentlemen need not have gone to the Philippine Islands to prepare such a report. There is not a word in their report that could not have been written in the United States and there is not a position taken that has not been advanced by Republicans who never saw the Philippine Islands. It is a matter of instinct with some to oppose the independence of a subject people, but the sentiment of the people of the United States was more accurately expressed in the Jones Bill than it will be in any endeavor to provide for a backward step. The world is marching toward self determination and a reactionary policy is not likely to strike the country favorably, especially if it includes a withdrawal of a belated promise made by the United States to respect its own principles as well as the rights of the Filipinos.

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### NEWBERRY'S CASE

The Newberry case will soon be decided, and the decision will be as important to the Senate as to Newberry. The evidence shows enormous expenditure. If Senator Newberry knew that the money was being spent, the Senate can not afford to allow him to remain a senator; if he did not know, his continued occupancy of the seat would open the door to unlimited fraud. If Senator Newberry did not know what was going on, then ignorance will in the future be a sufficient excuse for any corrupt method that may be employed in the election of a senator. If the senator does not mean to approve of the methods employed to secure his election, he ought to resign. He can not retain the fruits of the corruption if at heart he disapproves of what has been done.

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## The Arms Conference

The Arms Conference has not been able to keep up to the high standard it set at the beginning. It convened under the inspiration of an impressive funeral—the funeral of the unknown soldier. Its opening session was characterized by a proposition for the scrapping of battleships—a proposition that was startling in its suddenness and magnitude. While much has been done since to justify the convening of the conference, it has failed to fully realize the expectations excited by its early acts and many questions seem likely to be left unsettled. The "disposition to peace," or as Secretary Hughes put it, "The will to peace," has not been developed to the extent that was hoped. European nations are still engaged in trying to secure selfish advantage or, at least, they lack the faith in each other that is necessary to permanent peace.

Insofar as advance has been made it has been made along Democratic lines and is much more consistent with the Democratic record than with the Republican record. The fruits thus far gathered have been gathered from a tree that finds its roots in Democratic ideas, and our party need not fear to compare its program with the things that the Republicans have accomplished.

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### GEN. PROSPERITY'S RETREAT

The Republican campaign orators will have a hard time explaining the retreat of Gen. Prosperity's army immediately after the Republican victory. Even Democrats expected that Wall street would make a show of improvement after the election in order to deceive the public, but the financiers were so anxious to realize on their securities before the slump came that they could not give to the Republicans even the appearance of keeping the good times that had existed. It is going to be rough sledding for the stock arguments of the Republican speakers.

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It will be hard enough for the ex-soldiers to forgive the Republican leaders for postponing the bonus legislation even if all of the claimants had been treated alike. It is unbearable for the soldiers to have to wait while the profiteers and the men with big incomes are favored with seats at the first table.

With the farmers borrowing money to pay their taxes, with the laboring men adjusting themselves to decreased wages and the little merchants trying to postpone the day of reckoning, about three-fourths of the people will be too busy to attend Republican meetings this fall.

Progressive Democrats should be induced to stand for nomination in each congressional district of the United States.