

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

"PRIVATE" BANKS.—I am somewhat disappointed to see you using the term "private" banks in referring to the failures. You surely know that there are no public banks. The postal savings bank, so-called, is merely an accessory to the private banking scheme which embraces all our credits. Please state the fact that all banks are private and all likely to fail if dishonest men control them.—G. W. Pulliam, Cicero, Ill.

VACCINATION.—The impression that vaccination is necessary to save us from smallpox epidemic has been so insidiously deseminated that generally the people have submitted to it without question.

Recently, however, on the reopening of the schools many objections have been heard.

The rebellious contingent must have been quite numerous, for at least one of the big dailies is printing some of the "kicks," which are based on the fact as alleged that there is no law to compel children to submit to inspection and treatment by the medics.

The fact is that many, even among physicians, regard vaccination as a pollution of the blood, which not only doesn't prevent smallpox, but makes the victim of the virus susceptible to numerous other ailments.

There can be no doubt that the fear of epidemic disease stampedes people to blindly accept of so-called science as a drowning man grasps a straw. Or just as formerly they submitted to be bled until too weak to withstand any disease, or to be turned into a living thermometer by the use of mercury, so now people are herded to take the virus.

Though it is attempted to force vaccine on even those who hold it in dread from fear of its fancied or real frightful possibilities, it has never been subjected to the exacting rules

of evidence, which alone will satisfy the trained mind in other branches of science.

Before we have run the whole gamut of injurious experiences, in which the older civilized countries have been schooled, might it not be well to inquire why Italy, whose climate and the comparative squalor of its plebians are so favorable to smallpox epidemics, has abandoned compulsory vaccination? And why has England also?—John E. Lee, 39th st. and Langley av.

THREE WAYS.—John Smith decides to run for congress on the Republican ticket. James Brown decides to run for congress on the Democratic ticket. Bill Jones decides to run for congress on the Socialist ticket. All three need campaign expenses and endorsement, the latter of which comes with the contributions.

The first two go to certain owners of their respective parties and bid for support. They get their support and, incidently, certain strings are tied to them, safe, sane and conservative strings, that make them fast to their contributors. They are in the running, brass bands, hot air and all.

The third man goes to the membership of his branch and asks for the honor. If, after much discussion, they decide he is good enough he is placed in nomination with all the other nominees of the other branches in the affected district. Then a vote is taken on all of them and perhaps that one man chosen. When nominated his campaign expenses are paid by the party, his owners; and certain strings are tied to him that makes him fast to his contributors.

The first two have strings tied to them reading something like this: Business, profits, to hell with the people.

The third has strings tied to him reading something like this: To hell