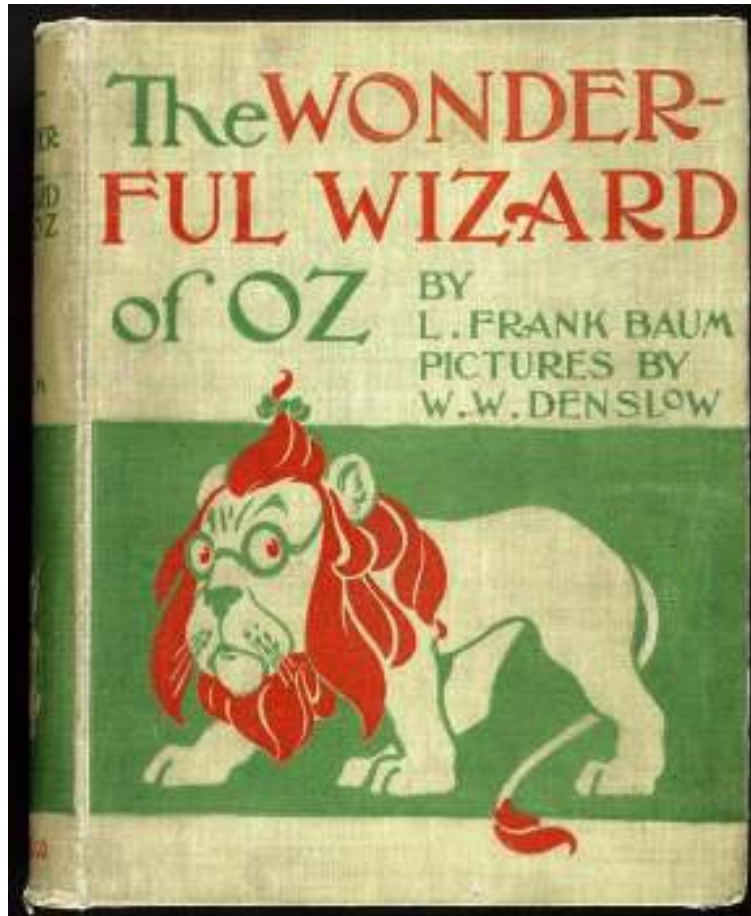


Seeking the Allegory of Oz

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The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was not only a children's story--it was also a politically-inspired allegory. The movie made in 1939 does not follow the storyline closely, and an excellent allegory was (intentionally?) lost in the translation to an excellent movie. The book has also been the subject of much propaganda, for its message was unpalatable to the Powers That Were in the early 1900's. The following is (mostly) an attempt to explain some of the symbolism. The entire book, written in 1900, is available for free from www.gutenberg.org and archive.org (L. Frank Baum is the author). The book should be read before this that nobody writes.

First, is the story an allegory at all? I think so, despite the author's note from the forward: "(...) for the time has come for a series of newer "wonder tales" in which the stereotyped genie, dwarf and fairy are eliminated, together with all the horrible and blood-curdling incidents devised by their authors to point a fearsome moral to each tale. Modern education includes morality; therefore the modern child seeks only entertainment in its wonder tales and gladly dispenses with all disagreeable incident." [Dispensed with *all* disagreeable incidents?]

"Having this thought in mind, the story of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" was written solely to please children of today. It aspires to being a modernized fairy tale, in which the wonderment and joy are retained and the heartaches and nightmares are left out."

Mr. Baum's definition of heartaches and nightmares is stricter than mine. Everyone knows of copious tears shed and slavery endured by Dorothy, but besides The Wicked Witch of the East, 'squashed by a falling house, there are two 'kalidas,' "monstrous beasts with bodies like bears and heads like tigers" that were "dashed to pieces on the sharp rocks"; and a wildcat, "its mouth was wide open, showing two rows of ugly teeth, while its red eyes glowed like balls of fire" that loses its head to the Woodsman's axe--all before they even get to Oz--and it gets much worse when they try to kill the second Wicked Witch. Secondly, a recurring theme in the book is that things are often not as they seem to be--the Munchkins think Dorothy is a

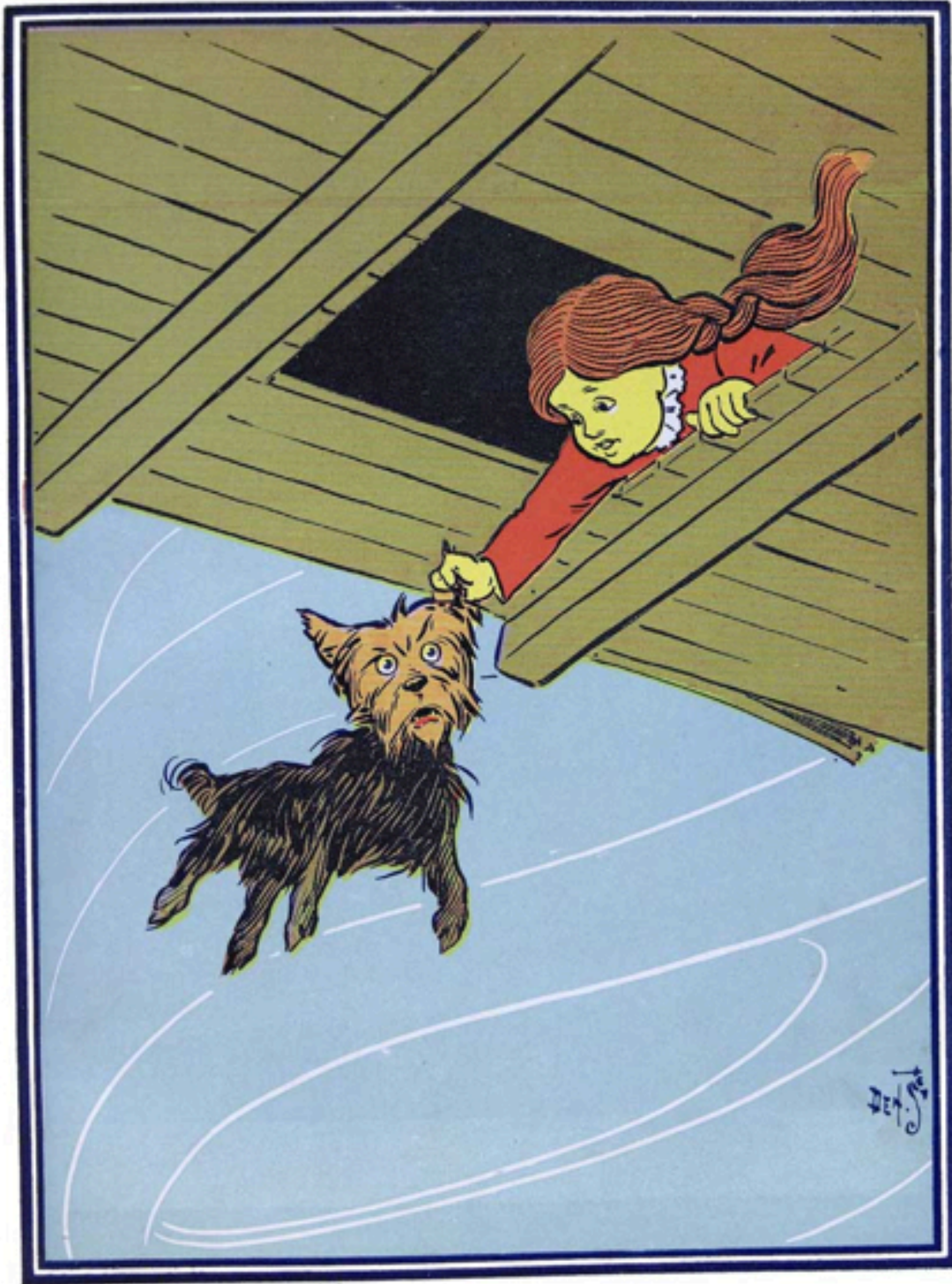
mighty sorceress, and later, after Dorothy changes into her iconic blue-and-white checked dress, say that "Blue is the color of the Munchkins, and white is the witch color. So we know you are a friendly witch." In fact, it was Dorothy's only clean dress. Thirdly, acknowledging the story as a allegory may have jeopardized Baum's business interests. Lastly, it *works* as an allegory far too well for it to be a coincidence.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz starts in Kansas, a gray land. "The sun had baked the plowed land into a gray mass" and had burnt the grass (and people) to gray. Uncle Henry "worked hard from morning till night and did not know what joy was." and Auntie Em "was thin and gaunt, and never smiled now." Why are things so gray for them? Dr. Carol Quigley, in Tragedy and Hope, says of the late 1890's farmers enduring "(...) systematic exploitation of the agrarian sectors of the community by the financial and industrial sectors. This exploitation took the form of high industrial prices, high (and discriminatory) railroad rates, high interest charges, low farm prices, and a very low level of farm services by railroads and the government." Yet all is not gray... Dorothy is their adopted child, and she has a mostly black dog named Toto, whose antics keep Dorothy happy. They are poor farmers on a dry land in Kansas--all too common then. But, one day...

"From the far north they heard a low wail of the wind, and Uncle Henry and Dorothy could see where the long grass bowed in waves before the coming storm. There now came a sharp whistling in the air from the south, and as they turned

their eyes that way they saw ripples in the grass coming from that direction also." Seems that the North and the South are sharing their unwanted wind--perhaps a political wind--which will cause a cyclone. [Perhaps referring to the "Kansas Cyclone," a nick-name for a Populist orator, or just another political storm of words?] Auntie Em orders Dorothy to get in the storm cellar and gets in herself. Uncle Henry goes to look after the animals. Dorothy, while chasing a scared and disobedient Toto, is carried away by the cyclone.

Dorothy, Toto and the house are carried far away.



Toto has fallen downwards through the cellar door, and Dorothy pulls him up. Baum writes that the same wind holding up the house also supports Toto, implying that this does not hurt the dog.

Dorothy, after bravely saving Toto, eventually falls asleep in her

own bed during the long journey. She, and Toto, and the gray house are the only 'Reality' and they are imported from Kansas into the Fairyland of Oz.

The people there are 'about as tall as Dorothy, who was a well-grown child for her age, although they were, so far as looks go, many years older.' Obviously the 'little people,' not the Powers That Be. Perhaps these are the farmers in the East--in these days, many farms were located close to 'big' cities. New Jersey still calls itself the 'garden state' for this reason.



The first person Dorothy talks to is a little, wrinkled woman with nearly white hair who walks stiffly. This person sweetly

says: "You are welcome, most noble Sorceress, to the land of the Munchkins. We are so grateful to you for having killed the Wicked Witch of the East, and for setting our people free from bondage." ['Our' people? Does she mean Dorothy's people, also?]

"Are you a Munchkin?" asked Dorothy.

"No, but I am their friend, although I live in the land of the North. When they saw the Witch of the East was dead the Munchkins sent a swift messenger to me, and I came at once. I am the Witch of the North." Both the Munchkin's messenger and the Witch of the North can travel extremely fast! Yet this Witch of the North is "not as powerful as the Wicked Witch was," by her own admission. She is quite knowledgeable, and deduces that Kansas must be a civilized country when Dorothy tells her that there are no witches there. She may symbolize the good people of the North, wise but not powerful, old enough to remember the Civil War, the Crime of 1873, and the crippling deflation that had lasted for decades and had culminated in what was called The Great Depression (of 1893 to 1896--the name was recycled for the Greater Depression of the 1930's).

"(...) just then the Munchkins, who had been standing silently by, gave a loud shout and pointed to the corner of the house where the Wicked Witch had been lying.

"What is it?" asked the little old woman, and looked, and began to laugh. The feet of the dead Witch had disappeared entirely, and nothing was left but the silver shoes.

"She was so old," explained the Witch of the

North, "that she dried up quickly in the sun." (Metaphorical sunlight is a good disinfectant--and criminals avoid the light of publicity.) "That is the end of her. But the silver shoes are yours, and you shall have them to wear." She reached down and picked up the shoes, and after shaking the dust out of them handed them to Dorothy.

This Wicked Witch, who owned the silver shoes, may symbolize the financial oligarchy that profited by stopping the free coinage of silver (which was part of the Crime of '73). Governments world-wide 'demonitized' silver. Bankers controlled most of the gold and wanted long-term deflation because long-term loans would become difficult to pay and many farmers would lose their lands to the banksters. These financial vampires saw a threat when the Populists allied with the Democrats and a non-bankster puppet won the nomination to run for President. Here's Dr. Carol Quigley, from his epic work Tragedy and Hope: "But in 1896 came a shocking experience. The business interests [which included the banks] discovered that they could control the Republican Party to a large degree but could not be nearly so confident of controlling the Democratic Party.

The inability of the investment bankers and their industrial allies to control the Democratic Convention of 1896 was a result of the agrarian discontent of the period 1868-1896. This discontent in turn was based, very largely, on the monetary tactics of the banking oligarchy."

These are the shoes that can break the banking oligarchy--at least in theory.

This Witch of the North does a real magic trick, learns Dorothy's name, and tells her to go to the City of Emeralds. She

gives Dorothy a kiss on her forehead, which leaves a shining mark--more real magic. She says that "no one will dare injure a person who has been kissed by the Witch of the North" before she magically leaves--without ever telling her name. This shining mark symbolizes popularity. Any politician who behaved badly to famous people at the time would never win an election again.

Dorothy prepares for her journey, and tries on the silver shoes. "I wonder if they will fit me," she said to Toto. "They would be just the thing to take a long walk in, for they could not wear out."

She took off her old leather shoes and tried on the silver ones, which fitted her as well as if they had been made for her." The 'silverites' of the time would have agreed with that!

On her journey, Dorothy sees the Munchkins are good farmers and that they are grateful for her actions. They give her food and a bed to sleep in, marvel at Toto, the only dog the Munchkins know of, and insist that Dorothy is a powerful sorceress. But Dorothy "knew very well she was only an ordinary little girl who had come by the chance of a cyclone into a strange land." That seems plain enough to me. Dorothy (and Toto) are Heroine (and Companion); they are As Real As It Gets in a fairytale.



But this is a fairytale, and soon a scarecrow winks and nods at Dorothy. She thinks that "none of the scarecrows in

Kansas ever wink" and when she talks to him... "I'm not feeling well," said the Scarecrow..." Dorothy, not quite following the Scarecrow's directions, quickly frees him from the pole stuck up his back. The Scarecrow is metaphorically the poor dirt farmers like joyless and overworked Uncle Henry (who likely never winks). When Dorothy, wearing her silver shoes, puts the Scarecrow's boots on the ground, he says "I feel like a new man." But the pole puzzles me. Later in the book, the "poor Scarecrow [is] left clinging to the pole in the middle of the river," and must be rescued off of a pole again. The pole is...? long-term mortgages? high interest on loans combined with a shrinking money supply? how the farmers were 'left hanging' during The Great Depression of 1893-1896 without credit?

Dorothy soon thinks that "it sounded queer to hear a stuffed man speak, and to see him bow and walk along beside her." [A 'stuffed shirt' = pompous person, animal hides are 'stuffed' to original shape (taxidermy), and 'stuffed' has many other meanings.] The Scarecrow says he cannot be hurt unless people call him a fool, and asks "how am I ever to know anything?" An unanswerable question-- especially when hanging on a pole. "I understand how you feel," said the little girl, who was truly sorry for him." The grateful Scarecrow carries Dorothy's food-filled basket for her, and soon confides:

"There is only one thing in the world I am afraid of."

"What is that?" asked Dorothy; "the Munchkin farmer who made you?"

"No," answered the Scarecrow; "it's a lighted match."

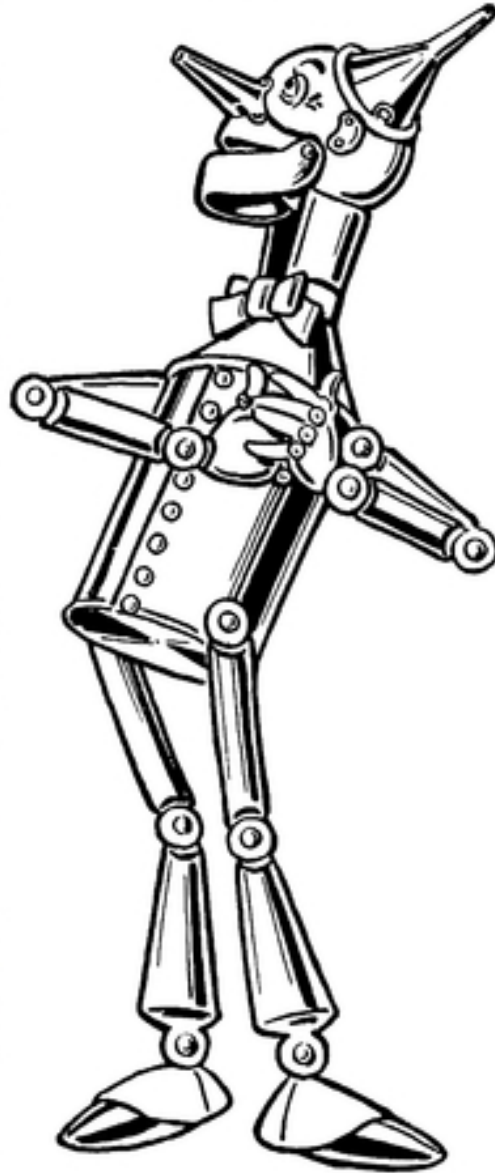
Together, they go down the yellow brick road... "the walking grew so difficult that the Scarecrow often stumbled over the yellow bricks," and "As for the Scarecrow, having no brains, he walked straight ahead, and so stepped into the holes and fell at full length on the hard bricks." But since this is Fairyland, these difficulties navigating the yellow brick road never hurt him, unlike the bankrupted farmers in Kansas.

The Scarecrow also has difficulty understanding why there's no place like home... "If your heads were stuffed with straw, like mine, you would probably all live in the beautiful places, and then Kansas would have no people at all. It is fortunate for Kansas that you have brains." The Scarecrow cannot understand mortgage-debt slavery any more than he can avoid stumbling where the yellow bricks are uneven or missing.

As the Scarecrow relates his failure to scare crows to Dorothy: "(...) the old crow comforted me, saying, 'If you only had brains in your head you would be as good a man as any of them, and a better man than some of them. Brains are the only things worth having in this world, no matter whether one is a crow or a man.'" Wisdom from an old crow!

But soon, "(...) they found themselves stumbling along in the darkness. Dorothy could not see at all, but Toto could, for some dogs see very well in the dark; and the Scarecrow declared he could see as well as by day. So she took hold of his arm and managed to get along fairly well.

If you see any house, or any place where we can pass the night," she said, "you must tell me; for it is very uncomfortable walking in the dark." Perhaps this is a metaphorical darkness that bothers only Dorothy? At any rate, as soon as the Scarecrow sees a little cottage "built of logs and branches," they enter and Dorothy and Toto sleep the night away on a bed of dried leaves. The Fairyland Scarecrow never gets tired and waits patiently in a corner. The next morning, Dorothy hears a groan when she is eating her breakfast. She finds the Tin Man, rusted immobile (but still able to talk). Toto hurts his teeth when he "made a snap at the tin legs" but the day before Dorothy had assured the Scarecrow that Toto never bites. "I've been groaning for more than a year, and no one has ever heard me before or come to help me," says the Tin Man. Dorothy and the Scarecrow oil the Tin Man, and "he seemed a very polite creature, and very grateful."



The Tin Man soon proves his worth by cutting a path when they come to "a place where the trees and branches grew so thick over the road that the travelers could not pass."

After the Scarecrow proves his brainlessness by falling into yet another hole in the road (which the Tin Woodman seems able to avoid) the Scarecrow asks if Tin Woodman has any brains. "No, my head is quite empty," answered the Woodman. "But once I had brains, and a heart also; so,

having tried them both, I should much rather have a heart." As they walk along, The Tin Woodman tells his story, and it starts when he had a meat body. He was a woodsman like his father, and supported his mother as long as she lived. Then he wants to marry, and the Munchkin girl he falls in love with promises to marry him as soon as he can build a better house for her. But the girl lives with a selfish old woman who wants the girl to remain with her and do the chores. "So the old woman went to the Wicked Witch of the East, and promised her two sheep and a cow if she would prevent the marriage. Thereupon the Wicked Witch enchanted my axe..." Forced to work with a cursed tool, the Tin Woodman loses his legs, then his arms. Each time he replaces his body parts with tin ones. When he loses his head to his cursed axe, "the tinsmith happened to come along" and made him a new one out of tin. The same thing happens when the axe cuts his body in two. Now, the Tin Woodman has no heart and lost his love for the Munchkin girl. Also, this is the last help he gets from anyone until Dorothy and the Scarecrow (and Toto) come along. When he is caught in a rainstorm, he rusts and cannot move, and stays that way for a year.

Metaphorically, the Tin Woodman is one of the huge number of impoverished factory workers (The year 1900 was after 'corporations' but before the forty-hour work week, before child-labor laws, and before the minimum wage). Their working conditions are terrible, and they get little to no help when their cursed tools hurt them. These people are too poor to afford a heart, for it would break when forced to live upon starvation

wages and up to sixteen-hour workdays. Their world is ugly. They are routinely sacrificed to mammon by the capitalists who command their labor. Underpaid and overworked, many of them literally losing their arms and legs, they become automatons, like robots; they must lose the ability to feel because there is too much pain to be endured.

Soon after the Tin Woodman's story, they begin to hear growling noises. Dorothy doesn't know what is growling, "but Toto knew, and he walked close to Dorothy's side, and did not even bark in return," rather uncharacteristically for Toto. Then... "there came from the forest a terrible roar, and the next moment a great Lion bounded into the road. With one blow of his paw he sent the Scarecrow spinning over and over to the edge of the road, and then he struck at the Tin Woodman with his sharp claws. But, to the Lion's surprise, he could make no impression on the tin(...) Little Toto, now that he had an enemy to face, ran barking toward the Lion, and the great beast had opened his mouth to bite the dog, when Dorothy, fearing Toto would be killed, and heedless of danger, rushed forward and slapped the Lion upon his nose as hard as she could, while she cried out:



"Don't you dare to bite Toto! You ought to be ashamed of yourself, a big beast like you, to bite a poor little dog!" Surprise, surprise... the Lion stops his attack and hangs his head in shame. When he finds out

that the Tin Woodman is made of tin, he says: "That 's why he nearly blunted my claws," said the Lion. "When they scratched against the tin it made a cold shiver run down my back." The Lion gets a cold shiver when he tries to 'make an impression' upon the Tin Woodman! "What makes you a coward?" asked Dorothy, looking at the great beast in wonder, for he was as big as a small horse." "It's a mystery," replied the Lion. "I suppose I was born that way. All the other animals in the forest naturally expect me to be brave, for the Lion is everywhere thought to be the King of Beasts. I learned that if I roared very loudly every living thing was frightened and got out of my way."

Would you like to hear the lion's roar? "...we have petitioned, and our petitions have been scorned; we have entreated, and our entreaties have been disregarded; we have begged, and they have mocked when our calamity came. We beg no longer; we entreat no more, we petition no more. We defy them!" From a speech by William Jennings Bryan, before twenty thousand people at the Democratic National Convention in 1896.

Here's another roar: "Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the labouring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their [the bankers'] demand for a gold standard by saying to them: 'You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold!'" from another William Jennings Bryan speech before that same Democratic National Convention.

Those metaphorical roars perhaps influenced President Eisenhower many years later."Every gun that is made, every

warship launched, every rocket fired, represents, in the final analysis, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. (...) This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

It is likely that Lion equals Bryan. What made his Fairyland alter-ego so cowardly? Here's a clue from A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn: "In the election of 1896, with the Populist movement enticed into the Democratic party, Bryan, the Democratic candidate, was defeated by William McKinley, for whom the corporations and the press mobilized, in the first massive use of money in an election campaign. Even the hint of Populism in the Democratic party, it seemed, could not be tolerated, and the big guns of the Establishment pulled out all their ammunition, to make sure.

It was a time, as election times have often been in the United States, to consolidate the system after years of protest and rebellion. The black was being kept under control in the South. The Indian was being driven off the western plains for good; on a cold winter day in 1890, U.S. army soldiers attacked Indians camped at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and killed three hundred men, women, and children. It was the climax to four hundred years of violence that

began with Columbus, establishing that this continent belonged to white men. But only to certain white men, because it was clear by 1896 that the state stood ready to crush labor strikes, by the law if possible, by force if necessary. And where a threatening mass movement developed, the two-party system stood ready to send out one of its columns to surround that movement and drain it of vitality."

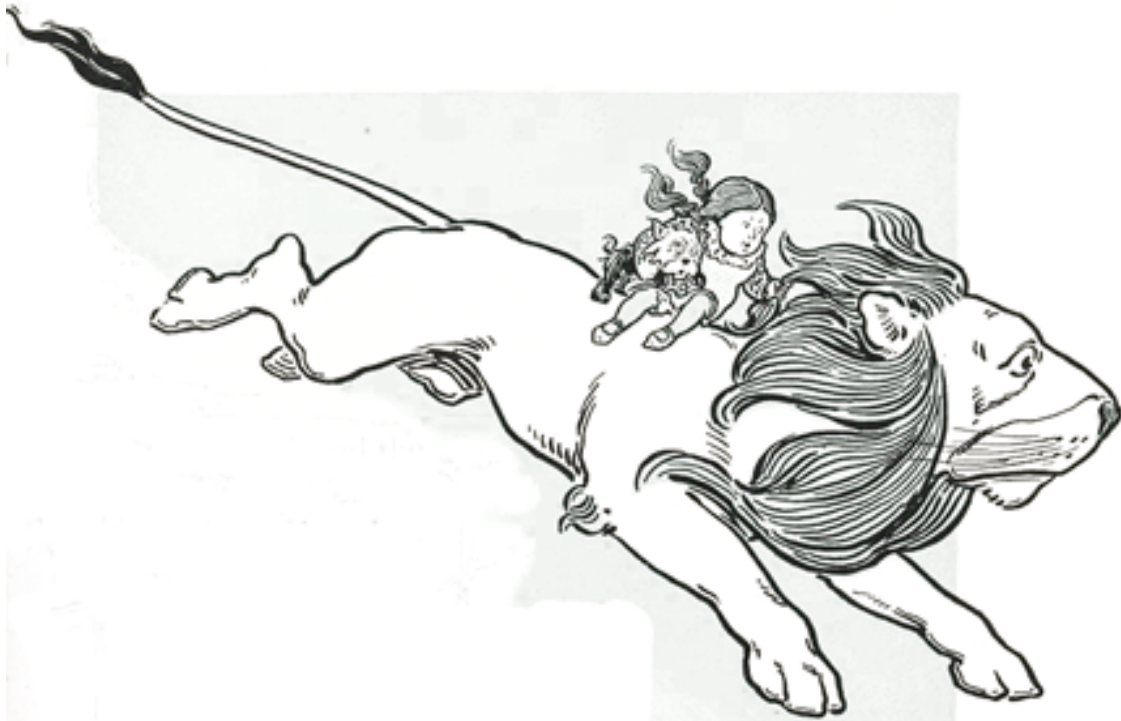
After the election of 1896, Bryan doesn't speak much about the Populist causes that nearly got him elected; not when he runs again in 1900, and not when he eventually does get positions in Democratic administrations. This was considered cowardly, so that's perhaps why Dorothy "slapped the Lion upon his nose as hard as she could..."

In 1896, because 'big money' owned the corporations and the press, Bryan couldn't make much of an impression in the eastern states, even among the oppressed factory wage-slaves. They had no way to communicate. However Bryan was able to 'bowl over' the farmers (and others) in the western states by tirelessly campaigning.

After the meeting with the Cowardly Lion, the Tin Woodman steps on a beetle and cries, which rusts his jaws shut. The Scarecrow figures out what happens and oils them. Besides being yet another time when the 'brainless' Scarecrow thinks faster than any of the other characters... why does the Tin Woodman's jaws rust shut then, and not when he's been exposed to the elements for a year? He tells the others that "crying rusts my jaws so that I cannot speak." Perhaps the

abused workers in the sweatshops were also silenced by their misery.

Later on their journey, they are halted by "a great ditch that crossed the road and divided the forest as far as they could see on either side. It was a very wide ditch, and when they crept up to the edge and looked into it they could see it was also very deep, and there were many big, jagged rocks at the bottom." However, the Cowardly Lion thinks he can jump over it, and he takes the Scarecrow's advice to carry them over the ditch, one at a time.



"The Scarecrow sat upon the Lion's back, and the big beast walked to the edge of the gulf and crouched down.

"Why don't you run and jump?" asked the Scarecrow.

"Because that isn't the way we Lions do these things," he replied.

Perhaps the great ditch is the division between the North and the South, which Bryan had to cross over. But why do Lions do these things without running?

Soon after... foreshadowing. "(...) the Lion whispered to them that it was in this part of the country that the Kalidahs lived." These are "monstrous beasts with bodies like bears and heads like tigers," replied the Lion, "and with claws so long and sharp that they could tear me in two as easily as I could kill Toto. I'm terribly afraid of the Kalidahs."

'Kalidah' literally means 'servant of Kali' and, according to Hindus, Kali is the destructive side of the Great Goddess. (Perhaps these Kalidahs are metaphorical predators that work for banksters?) When the group comes to a greater gulf across their yellow brick road, the Scarecrow asks the Tin Woodman to cut a certain tree so that it falls across it. "That is a first-rate idea," said the Lion. "One would almost suspect you had brains in your head, instead of straw."

The Tin Woodman cuts the tree, and then the Cowardly Lion pushes the tree so that it falls the right way to cross the gulf. Then... "to their horror they saw running toward them two great beasts with bodies like bears and heads like tigers. "They are the Kalidahs!" said the Cowardly Lion, beginning to tremble. "Quick!" cried the Scarecrow. "Let us cross over."

Chapter VII. The Journey to The Great Oz.



The black suit-like coloring (with tails) is not an accident.

"So Dorothy went first, holding Toto in her arms, the Tin Woodman followed, and the Scarecrow came next. The Lion, although he was certainly afraid, turned to face the Kalidahs, and then he gave so loud and terrible a roar that Dorothy screamed and the Scarecrow fell over backward, while even the fierce beasts stopped short and looked at him in surprise.

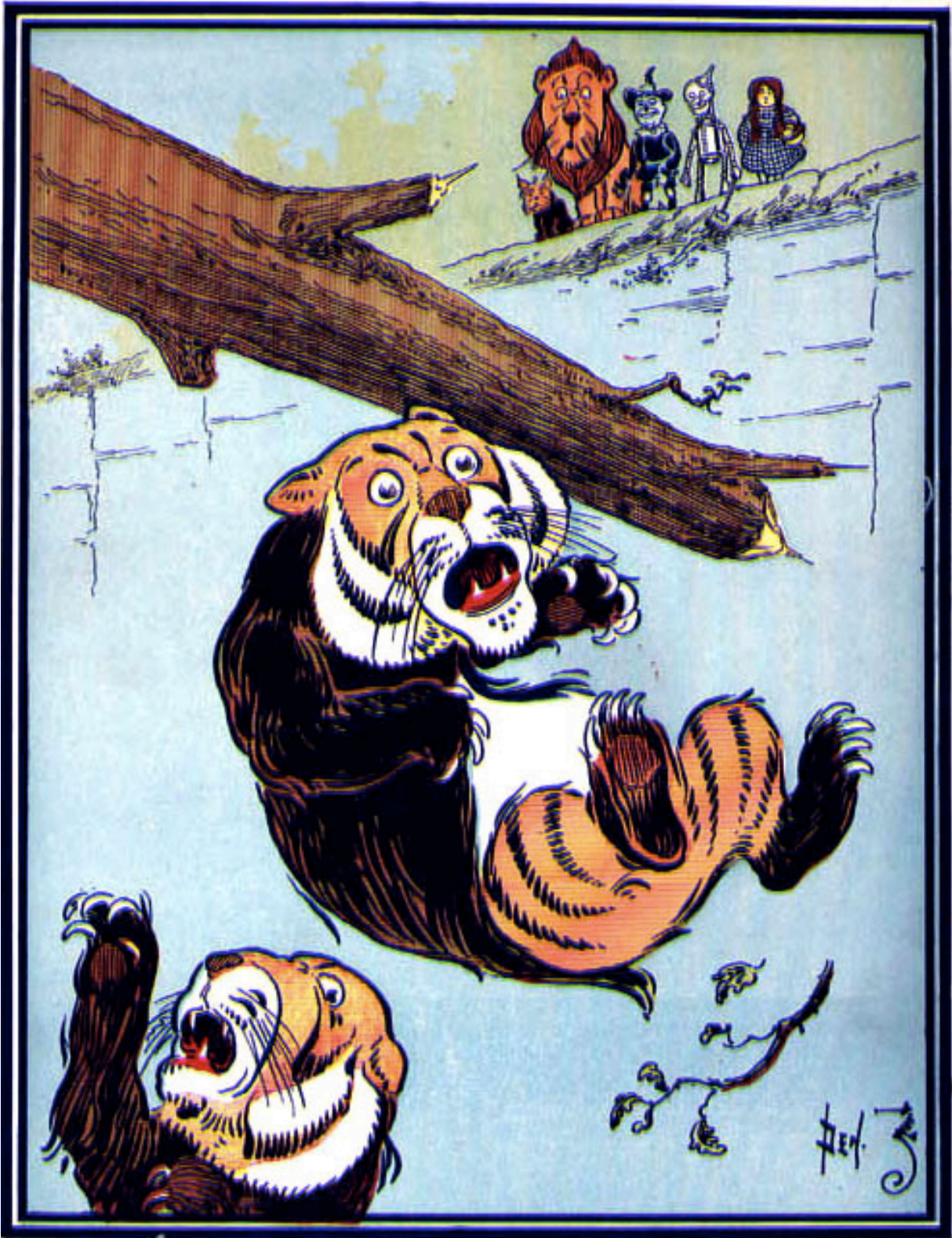
But, seeing they were bigger than the Lion,

and remembering that there were two of them and only one of him, the Kalidahs again rushed forward, and the Lion crossed over the tree and turned to see what they would do next. Without stopping an instant the fierce beasts also began to cross the tree.

And the Lion said to Dorothy:

"We are lost, for they will surely tear us to pieces with their sharp claws. But stand close behind me, and I will fight them as long as I am alive."

"Wait a minute!" called the Scarecrow. He had been thinking what was best to be done, and now he asked the Woodman to chop away the end of the tree that rested on their side of the ditch. The Tin Woodman began to use his axe at once, and, just as the two Kalidahs were nearly across, the tree fell with a crash into the gulf, carrying the ugly, snarling brutes with it, and both were dashed to pieces on the sharp rocks at the bottom."

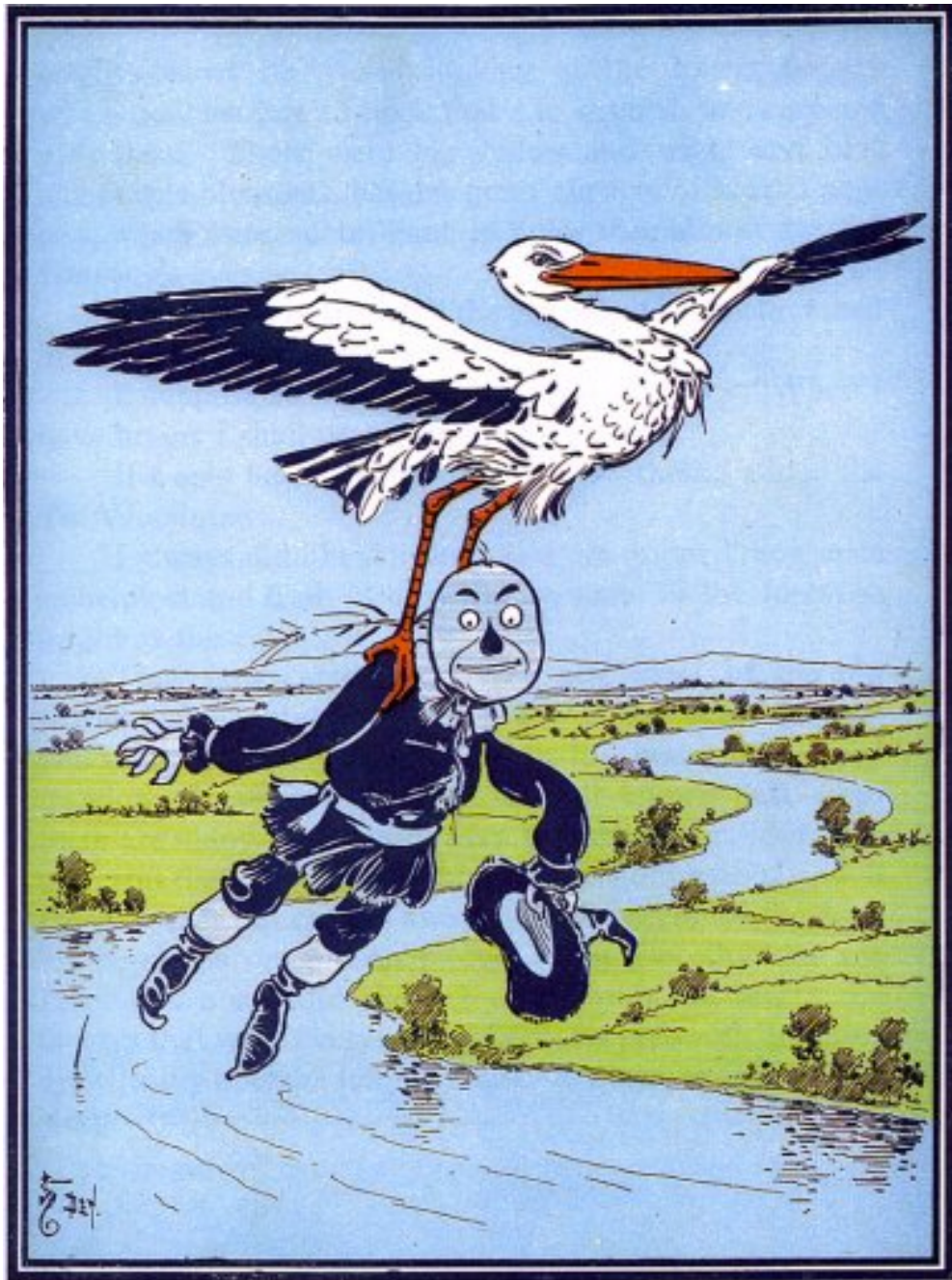


In Fairyland, the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow save Dorothy, Toto, and the Cowardly Lion... as the farmers and the

sweatshop workers, working together, could have elected a Populist to the Presidency in 1896.

There is another barrier the party must cross that day, but this one is a broad, fast-flowing river. The Scarecrow says "The Tin Woodman must build us a raft, so we can float to the other side." But the raft is swept downstream, and the poles that the Tin Woodman had cut are not long enough to reach the riverbottom. "This is bad," said the Tin Woodman, "for if we cannot get to the land we shall be carried into the country of the Wicked Witch of the West, and she will enchant us and make us her slaves." The Scarecrow makes a mighty effort, but his pole sticks in the riverbottom and he doesn't let go, and he is left hanging onto the pole as the raft is swept downstream.

"Then the Lion said: "Something must be done to save us. I think I can swim to the shore and pull the raft after me, if you will only hold fast to the tip of my tail." The Cowardly Lion pulls them out of deep, flowing water to the farther shore. The party starts walking along the riverbank until they see the Scarecrow "perched upon his pole in the middle of the water, looking very lonely and sad." A good-natured Stork saves the Scarecrow...



and before she leaves, says "I always like to help anyone in trouble. But I must go now, for my babies are waiting in the nest for me."

Before the group regains the yellow brick road, they find a

great field of poppies. "Now it is well known that when there are many of these flowers together their odor is so powerful that anyone who breathes it falls asleep, and if the sleeper is not carried away from the scent of the flowers, he sleeps on and on forever. But Dorothy did not know this, nor could she get away from the bright red flowers that were everywhere about; so presently her eyes grew heavy and she felt she must sit down to rest and to sleep."

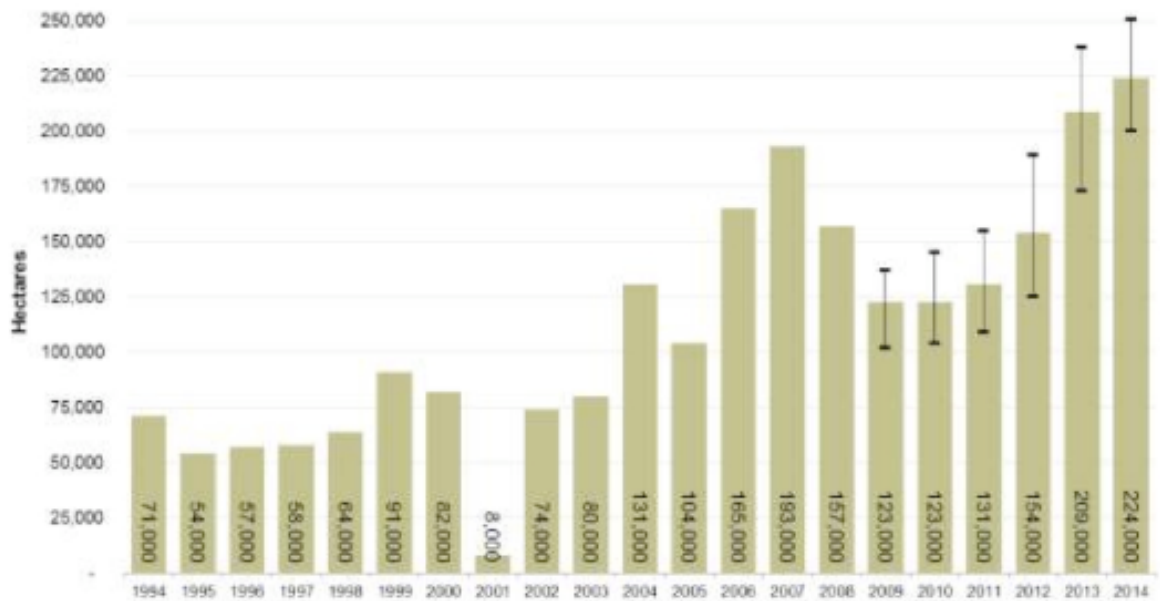


Perhaps Baum believed the 'old wive's tale' that the scent of poppies was sleep-inducing?



Hey, y'all troops in Afghanistan... do the poppies make you sleepy?

Figure 1: Opium cultivation in Afghanistan, 1994-2014 (Hectares)



Sources: UNODC and UNODC/MCN opium surveys 1994-2014. The high-low lines represent the upper and lower bounds of the 95% confidence interval.

"Run fast," said the Scarecrow to the Lion, "and get out of this deadly flower bed as soon as you

can. We will bring the little girl with us, but if you should fall asleep you are too big to be carried."



The Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow save the little girl and Toto, but the Cowardly Lion had "fallen only a short distance from the end of the poppy bed..." Dorothy and Toto are brought out of the poppies, and while they sleep on, the Tin Woodman sees "a great yellow Wildcat, and the Woodman thought it must be chasing something..." (...) "As it came nearer the Tin Woodman saw that running before the beast was a little gray field mouse, and although he had no

heart he knew it was wrong for the Wildcat to try to kill such a pretty, harmless creature." So the Woodman kills the yellow wildcat. Since yellow is the color of gold, perhaps the wildcat is yet another bankster eating the 'little people?' It turns out that the Tin Woodman has saved the Queen of the Field Mice from certain death, and she orders all the mice to obey the Tin Woodman should he command them. "Is there anything we can do," it asked, "to repay you for saving the life of our Queen?"

"Nothing that I know of," answered the Woodman; but the Scarecrow, who had been trying to think, but could not because his head was stuffed with straw, said, quickly, "Oh, yes; you can save our friend, the Cowardly Lion, who is asleep in the poppy bed." The Scarecrow's plan involved thousands of mice, thousands of pieces of string, and asking the Tin Woodman make a wheeled cart that could carry the Cowardly Lion. With great effort, they get the Cowardly Lion on the cart and out of the poppy field. Metaphorically, the mice are the 'little people' who are everywhere, and, all together, are able to move the great Cowardly Lion, with help from the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow. (The Queen of the Field Mice probably lives only in Fairyland.) "After this they sat down beside the Lion until he should awaken; and the Scarecrow brought Dorothy some fruit from a tree near by, which she ate for her dinner." This is yet another example of the Scarecrow finding food for Dorothy. Thank a farmer today!

The next day, the group make it to the Emerald City. The yellow brick road ends at the gate to the city, and is not

mentioned in the book again. "There was a bell beside the gate, and Dorothy pushed the button and heard a silvery tinkle sound within. Then the big gate swung slowly open, and they all passed through and found themselves in a high arched room, the walls of which glistened with countless emeralds.

Before them stood a little man about the same size as the Munchkins." [Just another of the 'little people.'] "He was clothed all in green, from his head to his feet, and even his skin was of a greenish tint. At his side was a large green box. After learning of their wish to see Oz, the Great and Terrible... "He opened the big box, and Dorothy saw that it was filled with spectacles of every size and shape. All of them had green glasses in them. The Guardian of the Gates found a pair that would just fit Dorothy and put them over her eyes. There were two golden bands fastened to them that passed around the back of her head, where they were locked together by a little key that was at the end of a chain the Guardian of the Gates wore around his neck."





Why, yes, Mr. BryanLion, you do look less than majestic with those glasses on.

The spectacles are symbolic of the love of money, for in the Emerald City (metaphorically Washington, D. C.), money colors everything. The power of golden bands hold the green glasses locked on--for gold was the money of the time, but the 'little people' used paper 'notes' (with much green ink on them) that were theoretically redeemable for gold. "Taking a big golden key from a peg on the wall, he opened another gate, and they all followed him through the portal into the streets of the Emerald City."

Gold opens the door to the Emerald City, where everything is colored green--even the pennies the children use to pay for green lemonade. The green of money pervades all in Oz; but gold has power.

In Fairyland, the 'little people' rarely get to see their leader. Dorothy and company are lucky, but he will only see them one at a time and only one person each day. In real life in 1894, a group of unemployed people (known as 'Coxey's Army') went to Washington D.C. to see President Cleveland only to find him 'too busy' to meet with them, the little people. Dorothy and her friends resemble 'Coxey's Army' in spirit, if not numbers. In 1894, there was no social safety net with unemployment insurance or food stamps. President Cleveland, a corp-bank-puppet, was unable to help the marchers.

In the Emerald City, Dorothy is shown to her lodging, "the sweetest little room in the world" but located "through seven passages and up three flights of stairs," (a reference to the Crime of '73?) When she goes to meet Oz, she waits a brief time in a Great Hall, where the soldier tells her "(...) he does not like to have people ask to see him. Indeed, at first he was angry and said I should send you back where you came from. Then he asked me what you looked like, and when I mentioned your silver shoes he was very much interested. At last I told him about the mark upon your forehead, and he decided he would admit you to his presence." Even in Fairyland, you must be lucky or have connections if you wish to have The Power(s) That Be notice you, but being noticed might not be a

good thing.

Dorothy finds that Oz, the Great and Terrible, is shaped like a enormous head.



Oz is first interested in the silver shoes that Dorothy wears, and the shining mark that the Good Witch of the North put on Dorothy's forehead, and then asks what Dorothy wants. "You have no right to expect me to send you back to Kansas unless you do something for me in return. In this country everyone must pay for everything he gets." In other words, Oz won't do 'the right thing' unless he is paid. It is fitting that his name is the abbreviation of 'ounces,' which is how gold and silver were (and are) almost

always measured, even in huge quantities. (In addition, this Fairyland is often called 'the Land of Oz.')

The price Oz asks is for Dorothy to "kill the Wicked Witch of the West."

The Scarecrow, when he meets Oz, finds "a most lovely Lady" with delicate wings (because this is Fairyland). Of course, the Scarecrow is out of his depth. This beautiful creature says to him that "I never grant favors without some return," and again asks for the death of the remaining Wicked Witch, and adds "(...) do not seek me again until you have earned the brains you so greatly desire."

The Tin Woodman meets a huge Beast that "had a head like that of a rhinoceros, only there were five eyes in its face. There were five long arms growing out of its body, and it also had five long, slim legs." (Why five eyes, five arms, and five legs... because the tall, slim Washington Monument is 555 feet in height?) "If you indeed desire a heart, you must earn it." How? "Help Dorothy to kill the Wicked Witch of the West," replied the Beast. "When the Witch is dead, come to me, and I will then give you the biggest and kindest and most loving heart in all the Land of Oz."

The Cowardly Lion hopes to terrorize Oz into doing his bidding, but he finds "a Ball of Fire, so fierce and glowing he could scarcely bear to gaze upon it," which singes his whiskers. When he asks for courage, he is told "Bring me proof that the Wicked Witch is dead, and that moment I will give you courage. [Oz barter with the Lion and demands proof, for both are hard to get from unelected politicians and/or Lions.] But as long as

the Witch lives, you must remain a coward." Even tho this makes the Cowardly Lion angry, he can do nothing to the Ball of Fire, which soon burns hotter, so he flees.



In the first pic, the Bryan-Lion is gazing upon "Oz." Note: The Lion's hairbow is off (as if there had been a scuffle of some sort), and his tail is between his legs

(submissive, not surprising), and he is not wearing his glasses as he stares deep into the Fire of Oz--perhaps like Bryan once given a job in Washington. Predictably, the Lion (and the others) do what Oz commands and go to war against a Witch.

Later, the Lion says "There is only one thing we can do (...) seek out the Wicked Witch, and destroy her."

Soon, Dorothy says: "I suppose we must try it; but I am sure I do not want to kill anybody, even to see Aunt Em again."

"I will go with you; but I'm too much of a coward to kill the Witch," said the Lion.

"I will go too," declared the Scarecrow; "but I shall not be of much help to you, I am such a fool."

"I haven't the heart to harm even a Witch," remarked the Tin Woodman; "but if you go I certainly shall go with you."

They will make the attempt. They leave the Emerald City after the Guardian of the Gate unlocks and removes their green spectacles, and see: "Dorothy still wore the pretty silk dress she had put on in the palace, but now, to her surprise, she found it was no longer green, but pure white. The ribbon around Toto's neck had also lost its green color and was as white as Dorothy's dress." The color of money no longer affects their vision once they leave the Emerald City.

The group walks West, where there is no road. That evening, as Dorothy and the Lion rest, the Wicked Witch sees them.

"They were a long distance off, but the Wicked Witch was angry to find them in her country; so she blew upon a silver whistle that hung around her neck.

At once there came running to her from all directions a pack of great wolves. They had long legs and fierce eyes and sharp teeth.

"Go to those people," said the Witch, "and tear them to pieces."

"Are you not going to make them your slaves?" asked the leader of the wolves.

"No," she answered, "one is of tin, and one of straw; one is a girl and another a Lion. None of them is fit to work, so you may tear them into small pieces."

But, in Fairyland, the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow never sleep and see the wolves coming. "This is my fight," said the Woodman, "so get behind me and I will meet them as they come." Then... "There were forty wolves, and forty times a wolf was killed, so that at last they all lay dead in a heap before the Woodman." Forty wolves... and Dorothy and the Lion sleep through the battle! "(...) until Dorothy awoke the next morning. The little girl was quite frightened when she saw the great pile of shaggy wolves, but the Tin Woodman told her all. She

thanked him for saving them and sat down to breakfast, after which they started again upon their journey." The Tin Woodman's battles are outside of what the Lion will know, despite the battle-noise and the great pile of corpses left behind; and the fairyland Tin Woodman does his job so well that Dorothy and Toto are spared the fright of the battle. The next morning, the Wicked Witch tries again. "(...) she blew her silver whistle twice.

Straightway a great flock of wild crows came flying toward her, enough to darken the sky.

And the Wicked Witch said to the King Crow, "Fly at once to the strangers; peck out their eyes and tear them to pieces."

... but the group see the crows coming, and "the Scarecrow said, "This is my battle..." So they all lay upon the ground except the Scarecrow, and he stood up and stretched out his arms. And when the crows saw him they were frightened, as these birds always are by scarecrows, and did not dare to come any nearer." But, one by one, the crows realize that the Scarecrow is only a stuffed man, and when they attack him, he catches them by the head "and twisted its neck until it died. (...) There were forty crows, and forty times the Scarecrow twisted a neck, until at last all were lying dead beside him. Then he called to his companions to rise, and again they went upon their journey. Forty crows... but Dorothy and the Lion can see the Scarecrow's battle, perhaps not so scary as the previous one.

In the real world, the Tin Man must work as a wageslave,

unseen and unheard, in a factory. The Scarecrow's troubles are more visible to Dorothy and the Bryan-Lion.

Soon, the Wicked Witch tries again, and "blew three times upon her silver whistle.

Forthwith there was heard a great buzzing in the air, and a swarm of black bees came flying toward her.

"Go to the strangers and sting them to death!" commanded the Witch..." But... "the Woodman had seen them coming, and the Scarecrow had decided what to do.

"Take out my straw and scatter it over the little girl and the dog and the Lion," he said to the Woodman, "and the bees cannot sting them." This the Woodman did, and as Dorothy lay close beside the Lion and held Toto in her arms, the straw covered them entirely.

The bees came and found no one but the Woodman to sting, so they flew at him and broke off all their stings against the tin, without hurting the Woodman at all. And as bees cannot live when their stings are broken that was the end of the black bees..." In Fairyland, both the Woodman and the Scarecrow work together to save the Lion and Dorothy and Toto. [There 'should' be forty bees, even if I don't know why. Perhaps a modernized version could have forty black-ops quad-copters tangling their props in the Scarecrow's straw.

The Wicked Witch tries again. "... she called a dozen of her slaves, who were the Winkies, and gave them sharp spears, telling them to go to the strangers and destroy them.

The Winkies were not a brave people, but they had to do as they were told. So they marched away until they came near to Dorothy. Then the Lion gave a great roar and sprang towards them, and the poor Winkies were so frightened that they ran back as fast as they could. Every attack thrown at the travelers has been weaker than the one before it. Poor Winkies, indeed! The Wicked Witch herself can give them sharp spears without a Winkie thinking of sticking her.

"When they returned to the castle the Wicked Witch beat them well with a strap..." probably so the reader knows how wicked she is. She then decides to use a Golden Cap. "This Golden Cap had a charm. Whoever owned it could call three times upon the Winged Monkeys, who would obey any order they were given. But no person could command these strange creatures more than three times."



"Go to the strangers who are within my land and destroy them all except the Lion," said the Wicked Witch. "Bring that beast to me, for I have a mind to harness him like a horse, and make him work."



A Golden Cap is likely a metaphorical Genuine King Hat (or crown). Or perhaps it could be the 'cap' on the money supply, which guaranteed deflation since the gold supply didn't grow as

fast as the productivity and population in Baum's time (and silver was 'demonetized'). Physically, however, the Golden Cap resembles a 'Phrygian' cap with decorations. Long ago, only free men could wear 'Phrygian' hats; the goddess Liberty wore such a hat on the silver coins of the time. The Winged Monkeys origins are clear, for the leader of the Winged Monkeys has this to say, much later in the book: "We belong to this country alone, and cannot leave it. There has never been a Winged Monkey in Kansas yet, and I suppose there never will be, for they don't belong there." So, like Dorothy and Toto (Dorothy once told the Lion that Toto is 'a meat dog,') and "Toto was a fine curiosity to all the [Munchkin] people, for they had never seen a dog before.") it seems obvious that they have no metaphorical counterparts, as winged monkeys belong in Fairyland while Dorothy and Toto belong in Kansas.

The Witch orders the Winged Monkeys: "Go to the strangers who are within my land and destroy them all except the Lion," said the Wicked Witch. "Bring that beast to me, for I have a mind to harness him like a horse, and make him work."

The Winged Monkeys drop the Tin Woodman onto sharp rocks so that he cannot move or groan; they remove all the Scarecrows straw and put his hat and clothes in the top of a tall tree; and tie up the Cowardly Lion and put him 'in a small yard with a high iron fence around it, so that he could not escape." Dorothy escapes destruction, for she bears the mark of the Good Witch on her forehead. The leader of the Winged Monkeys tells his minions: "she is protected by

the Power of Good, and that is greater than the Power of Evil." In Fairyland, perhaps, this is true. In the real world, perhaps the good people would create an unprofitable fuss if one of their 'favorites' was hurt. Even today, unpopular Corporations (like Blackwater) will change their names. The Winged Monkeys take Dorothy, Toto, and the tied-up Lion to the Wicked Witch's castle.



"The Wicked Witch was both surprised and worried when she saw the mark on Dorothy's

forehead, for she knew well that neither the Winged Monkeys nor she, herself, dare hurt the girl in any way. She looked down at Dorothy's feet, and seeing the Silver Shoes, began to tremble with fear, for she knew what a powerful charm belonged to them. At first the Witch was tempted to run away from Dorothy; but she happened to look into the child's eyes and saw how simple the soul behind them was, and that the little girl did not know of the wonderful power the Silver Shoes gave her. So the Wicked Witch laughed to herself, and thought, "I can still make her my slave, for she does not know how to use her power."

Dorothy works for the Wicked Witch because she doesn't know any better. The Wicked Witch thought she would "harness the Cowardly Lion like a horse," but the Lion is loose in his cage and roars and lunges at the Wicked Witch. She decides to starve him into submission (perhaps by denying him money for his political campaigns). This doesn't work, because in fairyland, Dorothy can bring him food at night. But neither Dorothy nor the Lion can think of a way to escape. "(...) often the Witch threatened to beat her with the same old umbrella she always carried in her hand. But, in truth, she did not dare to strike Dorothy, because of the mark upon her forehead. The child did not know this, and was full of fear for herself and Toto." Dorothy's life is hard, fearful of what she need not fear.

The Wicked Witch wants Dorothy's silver shoes for herself, thinking they have a greater power than all the power she has

already."But the child was so proud of her pretty shoes that she never took them off except at night and when she took her bath. The Witch was too much afraid of the dark to dare go in Dorothy's room at night to take the shoes, and her dread of water was greater than her fear of the dark, so she never came near when Dorothy was bathing." (A Wicked Witch is scared of the dark? I suppose that's for the story...)

One day, the Wicked Witch puts an invisible bar of iron on the kitchen floor, and when Dorothy trips, the witch is able to snatch one of the silver shoes for herself. She laughs at Dorothy during the conversation that ensues, and an angered Dorothy throws a bucket of water on her, melting her.



"Well, in a few minutes I shall be all melted, and you will have the castle to yourself. I have been wicked in my day, but I never thought

a little girl like you would ever be able to melt me and end my wicked deeds. Look out--here I go!" Soon, after she melted completely, "Dorothy drew another bucket of water and threw it over the mess. She then swept it all out the door. A clean sweep, indeed. Dorothy recovers her shoe and washes that too.

Dorothy releases the pleased Lion, and tells the Winkies that they are free. The Winkies make that day a holiday among themselves forever after. They agree to help Dorothy, Toto, and the Lion rescue the Tin Woodman and the Scarecrow. The Woodman is rescued first, and Winkie tinsmiths "worked for three days and four nights, hammering and twisting and bending and soldering and polishing and pounding" until the Tin Woodman is functional again, with a few patches.



"The Tinsmiths worked for three days and four nights."

Then they try to rescue the Scarecrow, but his clothes are in a "very tall tree, and the trunk was so smooth that no one could climb it," so the Tin Woodman chops it down with his axe, which, courtesy of the Winkies, has a solid gold handle and the axe head itself was polished until it "glistened like burnished silver." It seems that, in Fairyland, silver and gold go together when times are happy. Before Dorothy's group goes back to the Emerald City to claim

their promised reward, the Winkies give each of them golden and silver gifts (except for Dorothy, who gets a diamond bracelet, but silver-shod Dorothy also finds and wears the Golden Cap).

On the way back to the Emerald City, the group gets lost. Again, they ask the field mice for help, and the mouse-Queen tells Dorothy of the Charm of the Golden Cap and how to use it.



Dorothy uses the Phrygian cap/Golden Cap to ask the Monkeys to shorten their journey, and the Winged Monkeys carry the group back to the Emerald City. During the journey (in which Dorothy does NOT lose a shoe) the Winged Monkey leader tells the story behind the Charm of the Golden Cap as they travel. It begins with mischief which angers a powerful princess/sorceress, and she makes the Golden Cap of which "it is said to have cost the princess half her

kingdom." The tale ends before telling how the Wicked Witch obtains the Golden Cap.

Once back in the Emerald City, the Wizard does not wish to see Dorothy nor any of the others. "So the Scarecrow at last asked the green girl to take another message to Oz, saying if he did not let them in to see him at once they would call the Winged Monkeys to help them, and find out whether he kept his promises or not." This threat works.

This time, the fifth time anyone 'sees' him, Oz is invisible, and after a short conversation, tells them to come back tomorrow.

The group refuse to leave, and "The Lion thought it might be as well to frighten the Wizard, so he gave a large, loud roar, which was so fierce and dreadful that Toto jumped away from him in alarm and tipped over the screen that stood in a corner." This reveals "a little old man, with a bald head and a wrinkled face, who seemed to be as much surprised as they were."



" Exactly so! I am a humbug."

Oz is only as tall as Dorothy because he is one of the 'little people.'
He doesn't wear glasses because he already knows the secret of Oz.

They learn that the Wizard is just a common man, and is dubbed a humbug by the Scarecrow--just as the President is only a common man. The President becomes a humbug when, rather than serve We-The-People, he serves other masters.

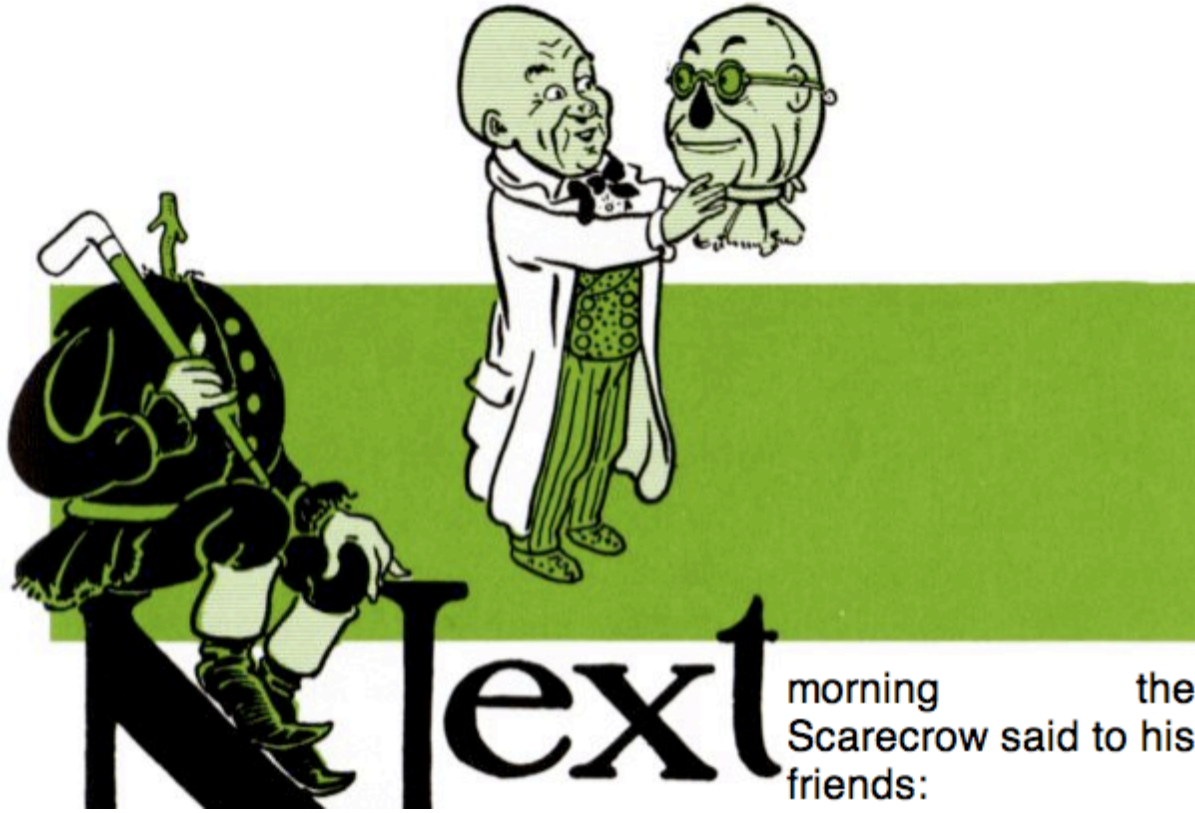
The Wizard tells his story. When the balloon he is riding in lands in Fairyland, the inhabitants think that he is a great Wizard and he takes advantage of this. "When you came to me, I was willing to promise anything if you would only do away with the other Witch; but, now that you have melted her, I am ashamed to say that I cannot keep my promises."

"I think you are a very bad man," said Dorothy.

"Oh, no, my dear; I'm really a very good man, but I'm a very bad Wizard, I must admit." [He really is a good man--honest even when a Lion (that he deceived) is breathing on his neck. When he deceived the people of Oz, he shut himself up in a jeweled prison. However, Oz prospered when ruled by the hermit-humbug--suggesting that any good man can rule wisely and well.]

But the group will not accept 'no' for an answer. The Wizard relents. "I have played Wizard for so many years that I may as well continue the part a little longer."

The next day, the Scarecrow gets his 'brains.'



morning the
Scarecrow said to his
friends:



Wizard psych-rhet: make them look up to you physically, priming them to do the same mentally.

"So the Wizard unfastened his [the Scarecrow's] head and emptied out the straw. Then he entered the back room and took up a measure of bran, which he mixed with a great many pins and needles.

Having shaken them together thoroughly, he filled the top of the Scarecrow's head with the mixture and stuffed the rest of the space with straw, to hold it in place.

When he had fastened the Scarecrow's head on his body again he said to him, "Hereafter you will be a great man, for I have given you a lot of bran-new brains." His friends are slightly puzzled. "Why are those needles and pins sticking out of your head?" asked the Tin Woodman.

"That is proof that he is sharp," remarked the Lion.

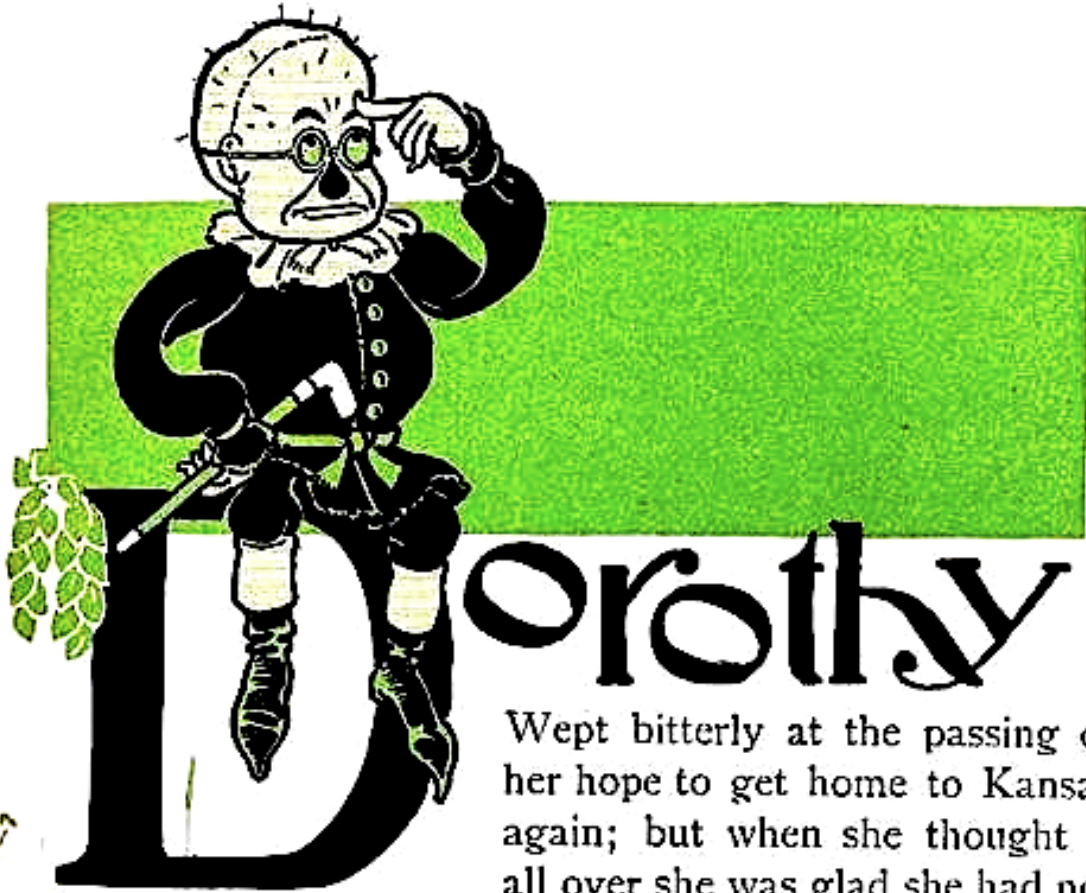
The Tin Woodman gets a silk heart stuffed with sawdust (and a new patch on his tin chest), and the Lion is given a drink: "What is it?" asked the Lion.

"Well," answered Oz, "if it were inside of you, it would be courage. You know, of course, that courage is always inside one; so that this really cannot be called courage until you have swallowed it. Therefore I advise you to drink it as soon as possible."

Later: "Oz, left to himself, smiled to think of his success in giving the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman and the Lion exactly what they thought they wanted. "How can I help being a humbug," he said, "when all these people make me do things that everybody knows can't be done? It was easy to make the Scarecrow and the Lion and the Woodman happy, because they imagined I could

do anything. But it will take more than imagination to carry Dorothy back to Kansas, and I'm sure I don't know how it can be done."

Four days later, Dorothy hears from the Wizard. His idea: "You see, when I came to this country it was in a balloon. You also came through the air, being carried by a cyclone. So I believe the best way to get across the desert will be through the air. Now, it is quite beyond my powers to make a cyclone; but I've been thinking the matter over, and I believe I can make a balloon." Three days later, with Dorothy's help, the balloon is finished. "When it was all ready, Oz sent word to his people that he was going to make a visit to a great brother Wizard who lived in the clouds." The deception must continue! But Toto had run off to bark at a kitten, and the balloon breaks the restraining ropes before Dorothy can get in.



Dorothy

Wept bitterly at the passing of her hope to get home to Kansas again; but when she thought it all over she was glad she had not gone up in a balloon. And she also felt sorry at losing Oz, and so did her companions.

The Tin Woodman came to her and said, "Truly I should be ungrateful if I failed to mourn for the man who gave me my lovely heart. I should like to cry a little because Oz is gone, if you will kindly wipe away my tears, so that I shall not rust."

"With pleasure," she answered, and



The Great and Terrible Humbug is gone for good. "But the

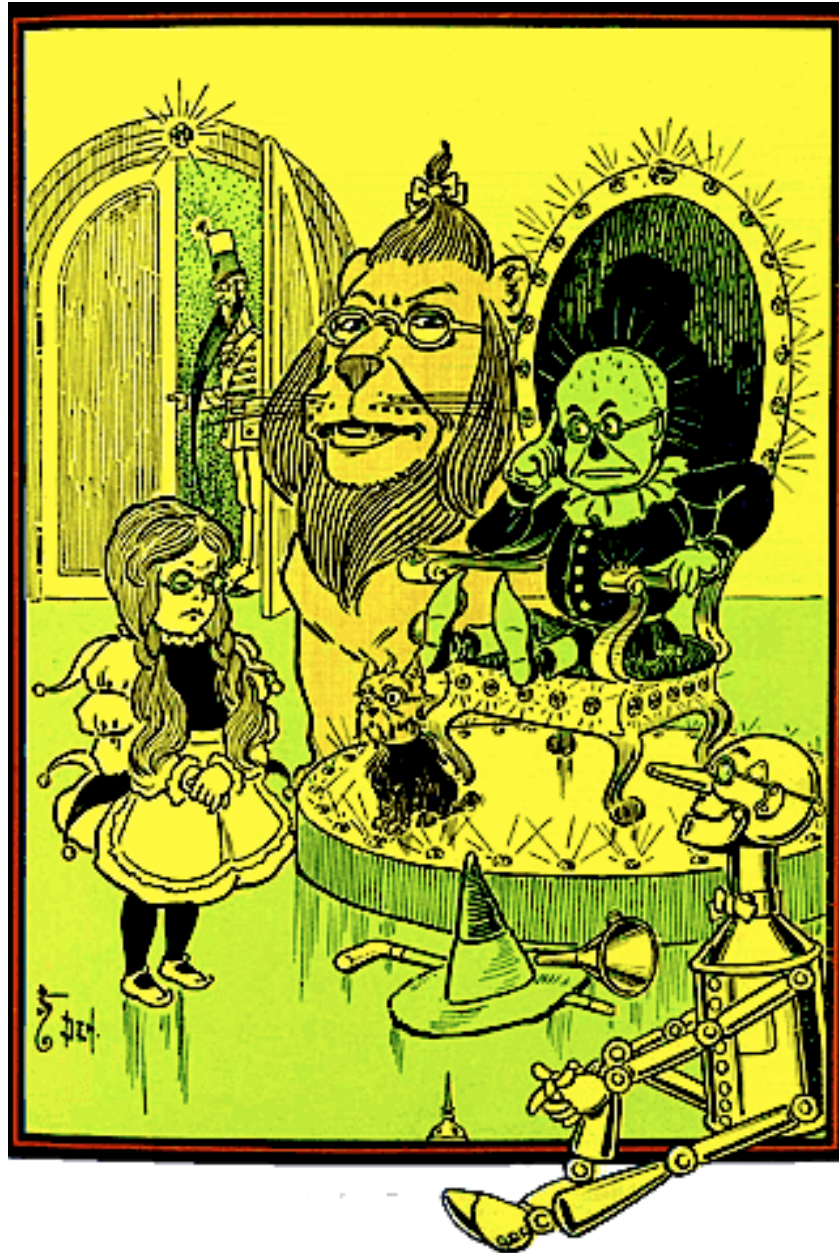
people remembered him lovingly, and said to one another:

"Oz was always our friend. When he was here he built for us this beautiful Emerald City, and now he is gone he has left the Wise Scarecrow to rule over us."

Still, for many days they grieved over the loss of the Wonderful Wizard, and would not be comforted."

The people still persist in their delusions. "The Scarecrow was now the ruler of the Emerald City, and although he was not a Wizard the people were proud of him. "For," they said, "there is not another city in all the world that is ruled by a stuffed man." And, so far as they knew, they were quite right."

Dorothy still wishes to go to Kansas, and the Scarecrow suggests calling the Winged Monkeys. So she does, but: "I have wasted the charm of the Golden Cap to no purpose," she said, "for the Winged Monkeys cannot help me."

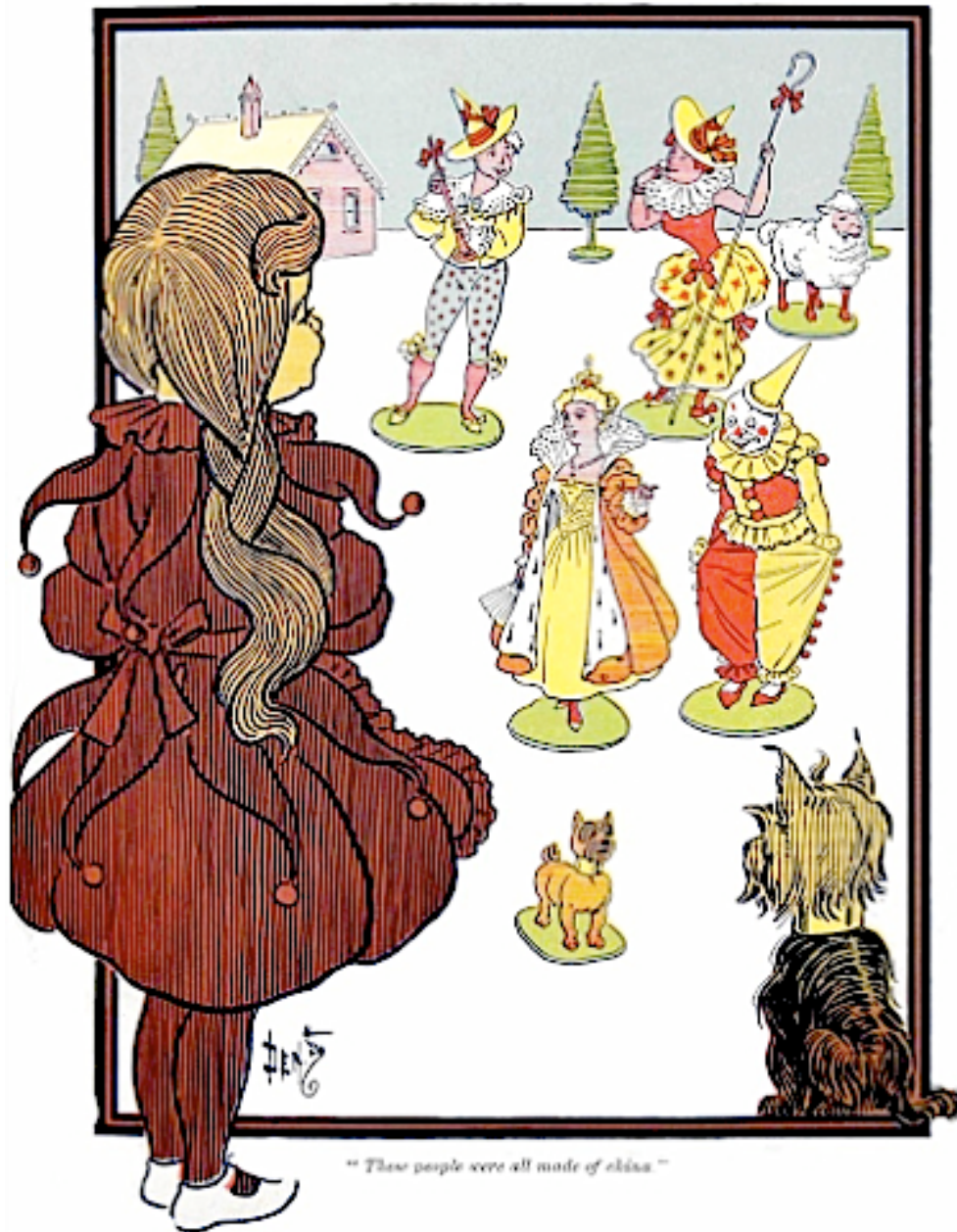


Then the Scarecrow asks one of 'his' soldiers, who suggests that they contact Glinda, the good Witch of the South, who is the most powerful of all the Witches and rules over the Quadlings. So, the four travelers (and Toto) go south to see Glinda.

They first meet some magic trees that do not let the travelers pass. The Tin Woodman and his Axe soon puts a stop to that. "The other trees of the forest did nothing to

keep them back, so they made up their minds that only the first row of trees could bend down their branches, and that probably these were the policemen of the forest, and given this wonderful power in order to keep strangers out of it." What were they guarding? The group soon finds "a high wall which seemed to be made of white china. It was smooth, like the surface of a dish, and higher than their heads." The Tin Woodman makes a ladder, and they use the Scarecrow's straw-stuffed body on the other side of the wall as padding when they jump down--the Woodman's ladder is too heavy to lift while on the wall.

On the other side of the white wall, they see "a great stretch of country having a floor as smooth and shining and white as the bottom of a big platter. Scattered around were many houses made entirely of china and painted in the brightest colors. These houses were quite small, the biggest of them reaching only as high as Dorothy's waist. (...) And, strangest of all, these people were all made of china, even to their clothes, and were so small that the tallest of them was no higher than Dorothy's knee."



The people aren't very friendly. "No one did so much as look at the travelers at first," and the travelers scare a cow, who breaks a leg, a bucket, and causes the milkmaid to suffer a chipped elbow. "There!" cried the milkmaid angrily. "See what you have done! My

cow has broken her leg, and I must take her to the mender's shop and have it glued on again. What do you mean by coming here and frightening my cow?" The milkmaid leaves, vexed and reproachful. None of the other people are much friendlier, and Dorothy's group travels uneventfully until they reach the other side of the 'white' china country. The wall on this side is slightly shorter, so the travelers climb it by standing on the Lion's back. Then the Lion gathered his legs under him and jumped on the wall; but just as he jumped, he upset a china church with his tail and smashed it all to pieces." Metaphorically, the brittle, 'little people' behind the white china wall must be 1890's Southerners. Perhaps Bryan's 'Cross of Gold' speech upset the leaders of a few churches. The white Southerners at the time were very conservative and disliked strangers; partly because they had had many bad experiences with 'carpetbaggers' from the North after the Civil War.

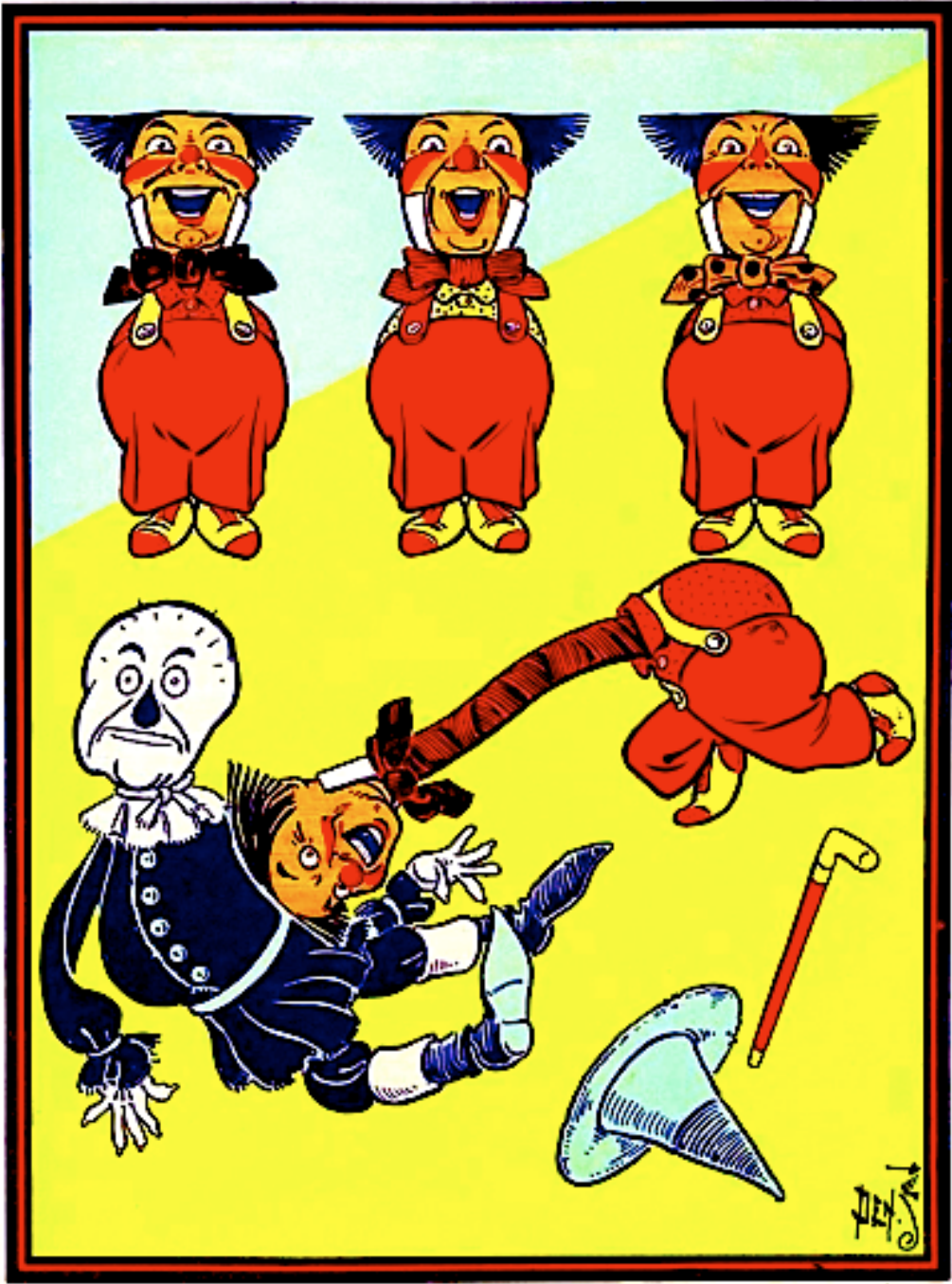
Further on, the travelers go through another forest. Soon, "they came to an opening in the wood, in which were gathered hundreds of beasts of every variety. There were tigers and elephants and bears and wolves and foxes and all the others in the natural history, and for a moment Dorothy was afraid. But the Lion explained that the animals were holding a meeting, and he judged by their snarling and growling that they were in great trouble." A respectful tiger tells the Lion: "We are all threatened (...) by a fierce enemy which has lately come into this forest. It is a most tremendous monster, like a great spider, with a

body as big as an elephant and legs as long as a tree trunk. It has eight of these long legs, and as the monster crawls through the forest he seizes an animal with a leg and drags it to his mouth, where he eats it as a spider does a fly." The animals agree to let the Lion rule them all if he kills their fierce enemy, which he does, finding the disgusting spider-thing when it is asleep and knocking off its head (unlike the real Bryan, who failed to fight the bank\$sters when in power).

Metaphorically, the spider-thing is probably a bank\$ster symbol. Spiders eat flies by sucking out their innards--like a vampire. Vampires, spiders, and octopi were (and are) common metaphors for bank\$sters, who get wealthy on the backs of the little people who must take loans.

After the travelers leave the forest, they come to a " steep hill, covered from top to bottom with great pieces of rock." The travelers decide to go over the hill. They meet a strange person. "He was quite short and stout and had a big head, which was flat at the top and supported by a thick neck full of wrinkles. But he had no arms at all..." This person tells the Scarecrow that "This hill belongs to us, and we don't allow anyone to cross it." The Scarecrow persists, and "As quick as lightning the man's head shot forward and his neck stretched out until the top of the head, where it was flat, struck the Scarecrow in the middle and sent him tumbling, over and over, down the hill. Almost as quickly as it came the head went back to the body, and the man laughed harshly as he said, "It isn't as easy as you think!" There are

hundreds of similar beings, who laugh at the travelers.

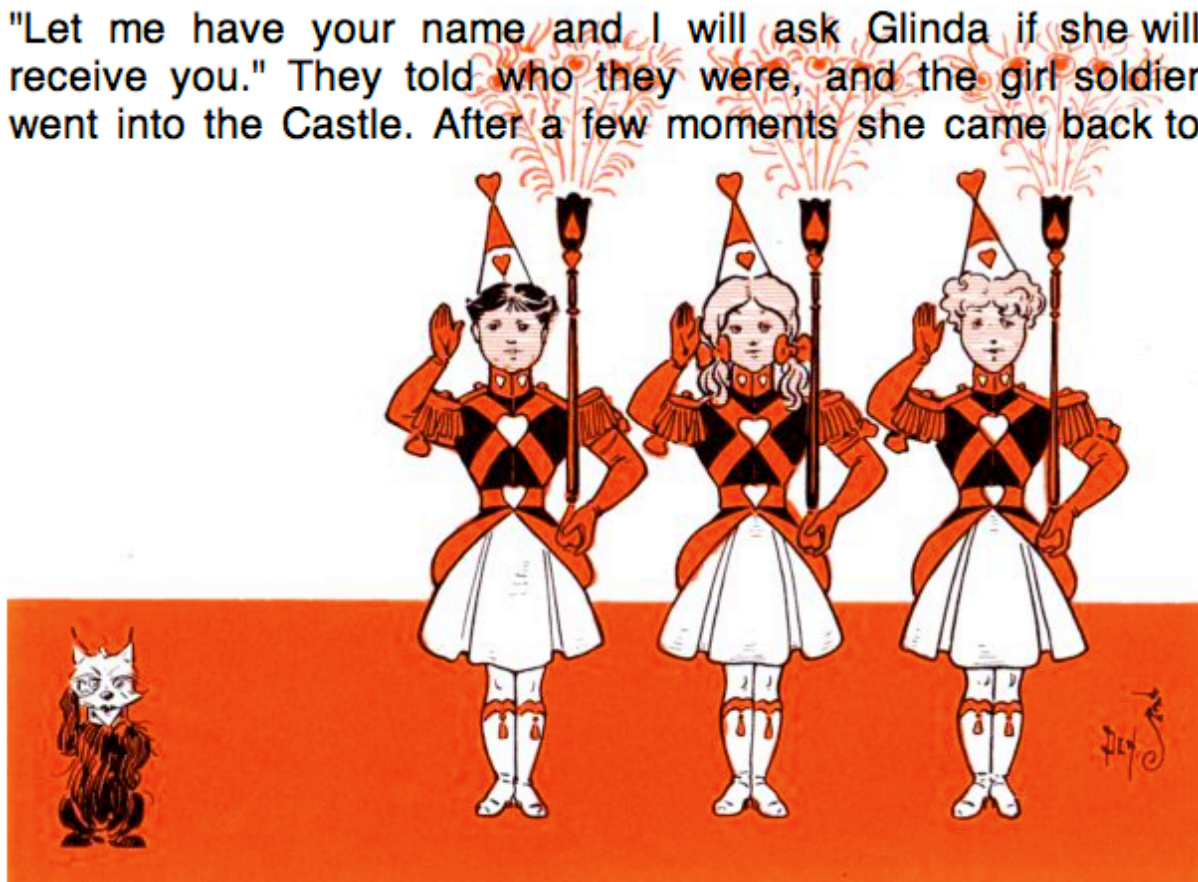


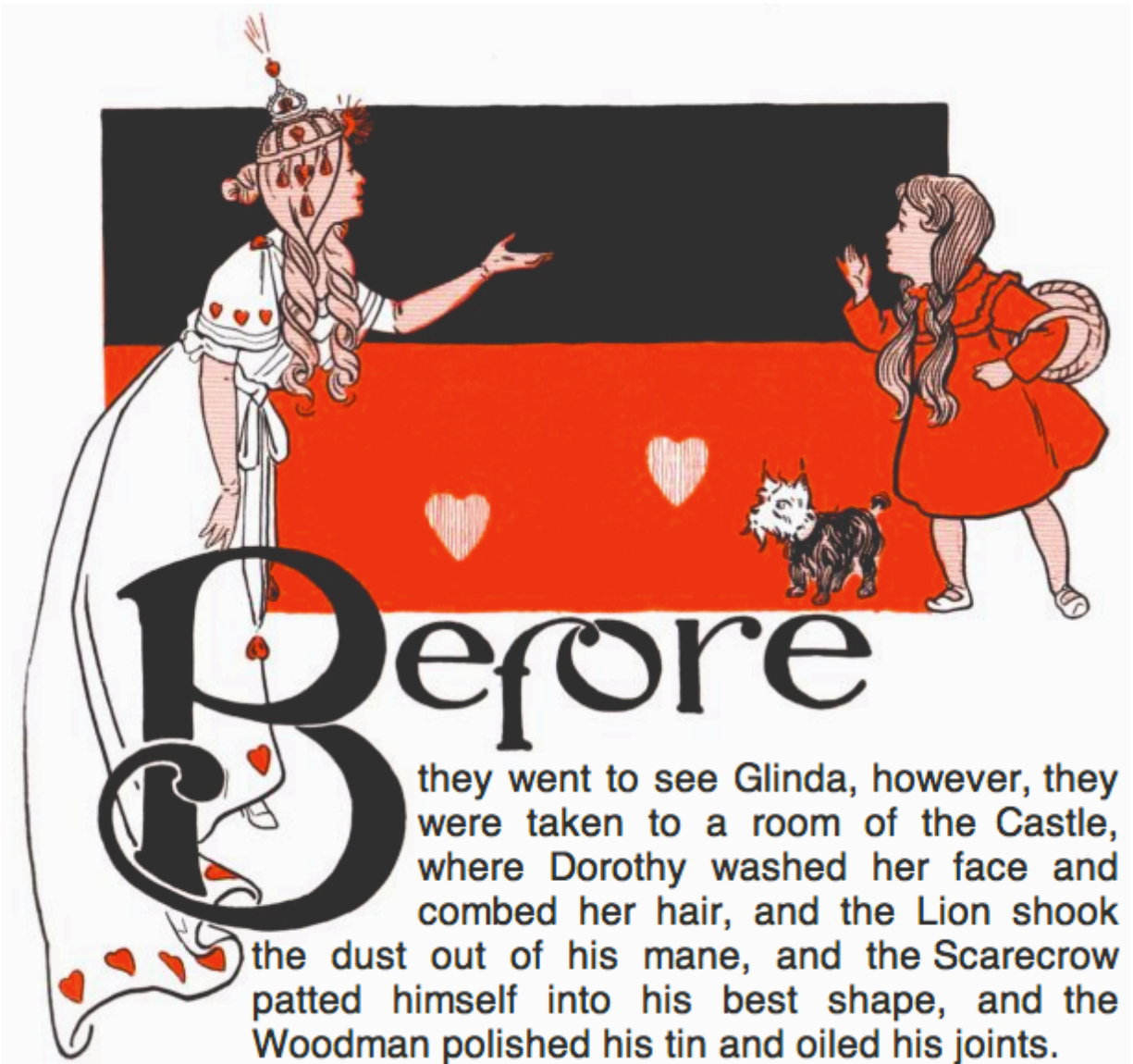
The Lion takes offense but is also knocked back down the hill. Metaphorically, these armless Hammer-heads are reminiscent of Western dragons--they do bad things for no reason. Western

dragons collect gold and virgins, but have no use for either. Some people are like that. These rude 'Block-Heads' are protecting a useless rocky hill from harmless travelers, and it is obvious that these armless beings will not use the hill themselves. Baum must have had some group of 'Dimwit Flatheads' in mind.

The Winged Monkeys are called, the last time Dorothy can call on them, and the travelers are carried over this hill (which vexes the Hammer Heads) and the Monkeys leave them in the country of the Quadlings. The Quadlings are cheerful and remind me of Tolkien's hobbits. Glinda admits the visitors at once when they come to her castle--unlike Oz, she has nothing to hide.

"Let me have your name and I will ask Glinda if she will receive you." They told who they were, and the girl soldier went into the Castle. After a few moments she came back to





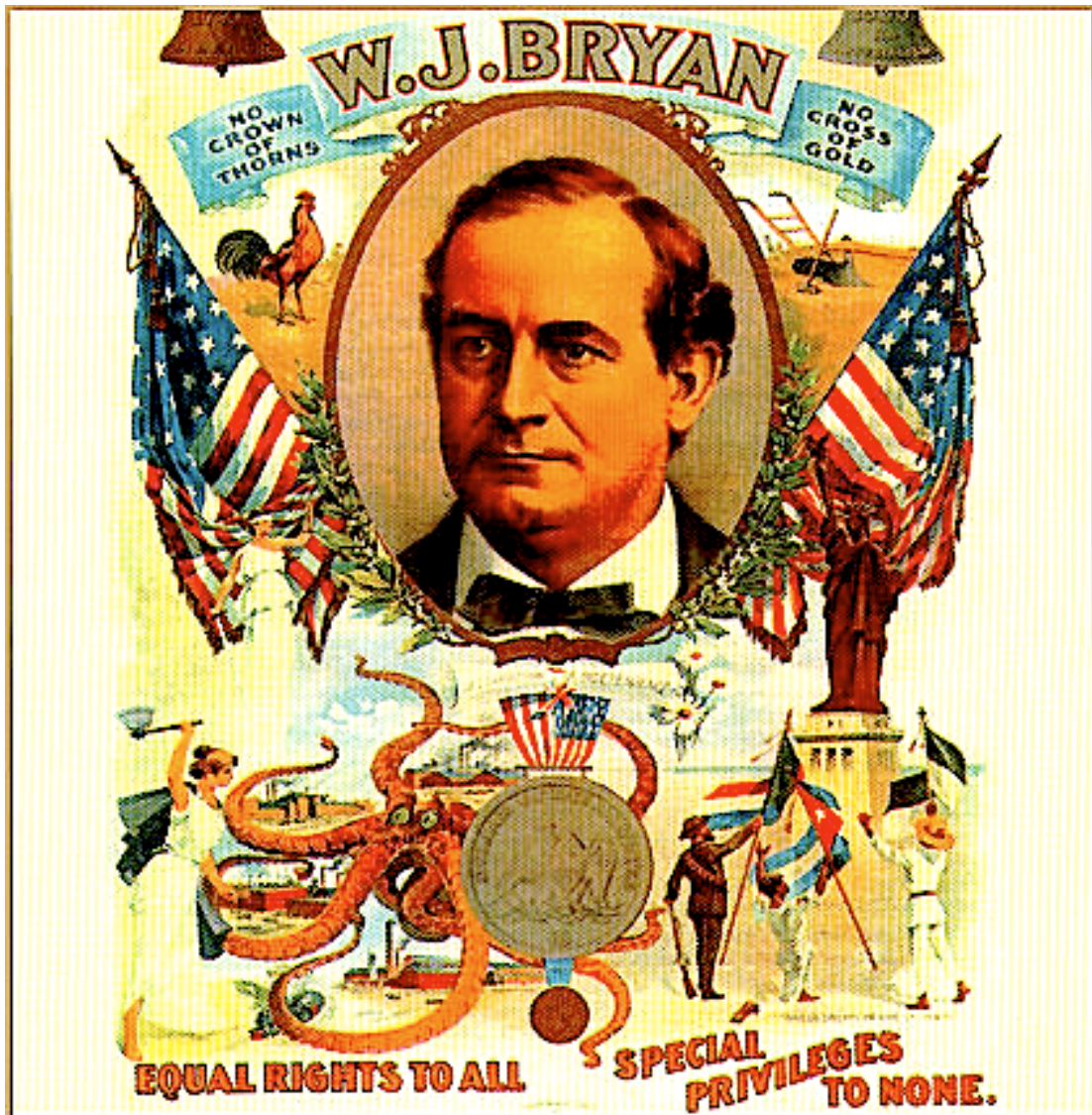
they went to see Glinda, however, they were taken to a room of the Castle, where Dorothy washed her face and combed her hair, and the Lion shook the dust out of his mane, and the Scarecrow patted himself into his best shape, and the Woodman polished his tin and oiled his joints.

Dorothy tells Glinda her story, and: "My greatest wish now," she added, "is to get back to Kansas, for Aunt Em will surely think something dreadful has happened to me, and that will make her put on mourning; and unless the crops are better this year than they were last, I am sure Uncle Henry cannot afford it." Even though Glinda is charmed by Dorothy, she asks for the Golden Cap in exchange for advice-- and Dorothy agrees to the trade. Glinda says she will command

the Winged Monkeys to take the Scarecrow back to the Emerald City, to take the Lion to the forest where he killed the spider-beast, and to take the Tin Woodman back to the land of the Winkies, where they will each have a Fairyland kingdom to rule. Then, she says she will give the Golden Cap to the Winged Monkeys, so that they may be free.

Glinda begins to tell Dorothy of the charm of the silver shoes: "All you have to do is to knock the heels together three times and command the shoes to carry you wherever you wish to go." Dorothy does so, and finds herself in Kansas, but without her silver shoes.

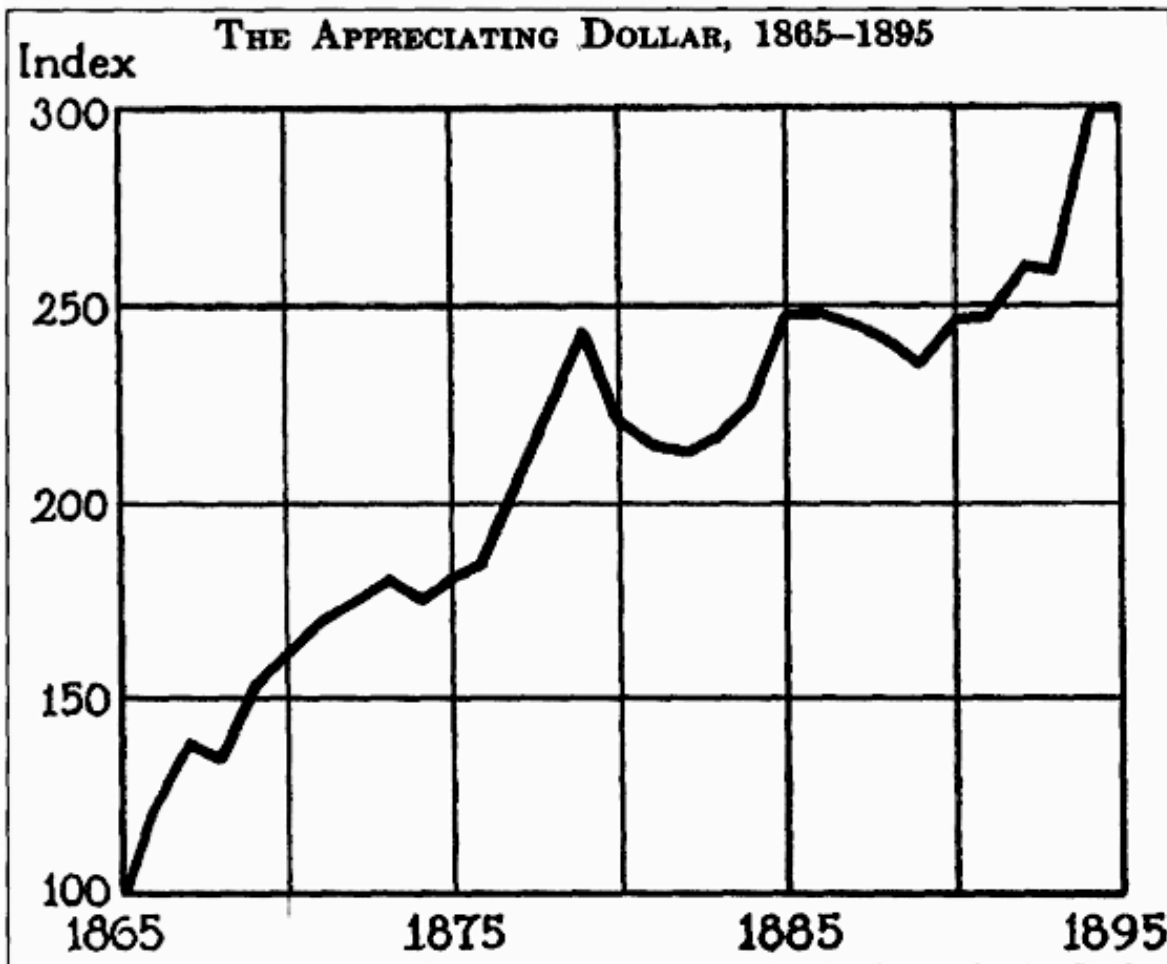
"Dorothy stood up and found she was in her stocking-feet. For the Silver Shoes had fallen off in her flight through the air, and were lost forever in the desert." In the real world, the election of 1896 was won by McKinley, who promised "(...) a year of patriotism and devotion to country. I am glad to know that the people in every part of the country mean to be devoted to one flag, the glorious Stars and Stripes; that the people of this country mean to maintain the financial honor of the country as sacredly as they maintain the honor of the flag." Financial honor? Sounds like yet another bankster puppet utterance. As Howard Zinn said (after he used this quote in A People's History of the United States): "The supreme act of patriotism was war. Two years after McKinley became President, the United States declared war on Spain."



1900 campaign poster for W. J. Bryan. In the lower left corner Lady Liberty is attempting to chop up the metaphorical bankster octopus.

"In 1894, the Greenbackers, who pushed for detaching the dollar from gold entirely to allow the government to spend freely on job-creation campaigns, invented the idea of the March on Washington-an idea that was to have endless resonance in U.S. history. L. Frank Baum's book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which appeared in 1900, is widely recognized to be a parable for the Populist campaign of William Jennings Bryan, who twice ran for president on the Free Silver platform-vowing to replace the gold standard with a bimetallic system that would

allow the free creation of silver money alongside gold. As with the Greenbackers, one of the main constituencies for the movement was debtors: particularly, Midwestern farm families such as Dorothy's, who had been facing a massive wave of foreclosures during the severe recession of the 1890s."



The 1865 to 1895 appreciation of the dollar was caused by a group of banksters who somehow managed to 'persuade' governments worldwide to demonitize silver while banksters loaned less money and hoarded physical gold. This meant that less money was available to circulate between We-The-People, so many debtors were unable to pay back loans.



The ♀ belongs to mercury. This lady deserves a better name
To call a certain iconic statue 'The Statue of Mercury' would be
just as terrible.

Her hat bears the metaphorical wings of free thought; long
sought, dearly bought, often forgot.



The US quarter, the half-dollar, and the silver dollar also carried
an image of the goddess of liberty, often wearing the same
'Phrygian' hat. Once upon a time, everyone knew that only a free

person could wear a hat like that.
The 'Winged Liberty' dime, like the Berber dime before it, bore the image of the goddess Liberty wearing the hat that symbolized freedom.

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The back of the 'Winged Liberty' dime has a fasces, a tied-together bundle of sticks that symbolizes the 'out of many, one' [E PLURIBUS UNUM]



This is a 'Standing Liberty' quarter, also wearing a Phrygian hat



Silver was 'demonitized' world-wide in the 1960's--then demonized.



The goddess Liberty, with the wind at her back, still wearing a Phrygian cap.