Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

OPTIMISM THAT IS FATAL. "God bless the optimist!" shouts the republican spell-binder. Well, optim is good when it rests upon a id foundation; it is bad when it blinds one to approaching dangers. It one thing to have faith in the ultimate triumph of a cause and quite another thing to ignore reasonable warnings and the lessons of experience. We don't say: "God bless the man who stumbles into a hole without seeing it," or "God bless the man who sleeps while his house is burning." There is a golden (and silver) mean between doubt that retards healthy progress and the over-confidence that invites catastrophy.

Just now the republicans are very optimistic; they want to "let well enough alone." They resent any suggestion of reverse and scout at the possibility of calamity. They are rushing headlong into new conditions and are leading the country into untried paths. They are sure that we can maintain a republic here and at the same time administer a colony in the orient, unmindful of the fact that consistency will ultimately compel us to adopt at home the principles which we defend abroad.

They are sure that they can safely encourage the growth of private mo-nopolies notwithstanding the inevitable tendency of man to use power for his own selfish purposes

They think they can permit watered stock and fictitious capitalization seemingly indifferent to the interests of those who must suffer from unjust rates in order that dividends may be paid on stock that represents no actual

They are giving free reign to the financiers, indifferent to the fact that in all history they have never been known to consider or conserve the interests of the producing masses.

They are allowing United States judges to abuse the writ of injunction when asked against laboring men. while those who violate the anti-trust laws go free, blind to the fact that such discrimination makes more anarchists than all the speeches ever de-

livered by Herr Most. Belshazzar was optimistic up to the night of Babylon's fall and the republicans of today are imitating him as closely as possible. Theirs is the fatal optimism that refuses to recognize the logic of events or to apply reason to

the affairs of government. TRUSTS AND THE REPUBLICAN

PARTY. Will any one be deluded by the hope held out by some republican news-papers that the republican party may be depended upon to give the people relief on the trust question or on the tariff question, or on other questions in which it is to the interest of those who provide the republican party with campaign funds to maintain present

conditions? Republican leaders cannot claim that the failure to provide relief was due to oversight. Democratic members of the house of representatives met in caucus on June 27, and adopted resolutions in which it was charged that the republican majority in congress "is dominated and controlled by the trusts and monopolies which have the great industries of our country in These resolutions дгаар." charged that the republican party refused and failed "to bring in any measure to suppress the trusts or to favorably report any of the numerous antitrust bills introduced by democratic members during this session." Then the democratic members resolved:

"We favor the immediate passage of a measure to amend the present antitrust law, so as more fully to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies, and also a measure to reduce the duties on all articles and commodities manufactured and controlled or produced in the United States by a trust or trusts, so as to destroy such illegal combinations, and to reduce the rate of duty on any article or commodity manufactured in the United States and sold in foreign country more cheaply than in

the United States. "We oppose the adjournment of congress until the measures mentioned above have been enacted into law."

The republican congress adjourned. The anti-trust law was not amended. Nothing was done to more fully protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; nothing was done to reduce the duties on articles and commodities manufactured and controlled or produced in the United States by a trust or trusts, so as to destroy such illegal combinations; nothing was done to reduce the rate of duty on any article or commodity manufactured in the United States and sold in a foreign country more cheaply than in the United States.

The republican congress clearly showed that the arraignment made by the democratic caucus was justified. In the refusal of this congress to provide the people with any of the relief demanded, the republican congress provided proof, if, indeed, proof was necessary, that the republican party "is dominated and controlled by the trusts and monopolies which have the great industries of our country in their grasp.'

Does any wise man believe that a party whose existence and success depends upon the liberality and favor of the trusts will keep any promise it may make the people to destroy the trusts?

Let us hope that the new justice of the supreme court will be an "autocrat of the judicial table" in the same sense that his famous and kindly progenitor was an "autocrat of the break-

Perhaps the harvester trust would be frightened to death if it knew of shipping subsidy bounty he expects to the terrible punishment inflicted upon the beef trust.

The new harvester trust comes at an opportune time. It will keep the farmers from saving enough money to make them plutocratic.

A DAMAGING ADMISSION. Major Glenn, who administered the water cure in the Philippines and who was punished by a ridiculously light sentence (\$50 fine and one month's suspension from duty) attempts to defend himself, but in doing so makes a damaging admission. The administration tries to make it appear that hostility to American rule is confined to few people, but Major Glenn says that "every man, woman and child in the island was an enemy." And what method was employed for making friends of them? The methods best calculated to give them new reasons for hating us. The following extract from a recent interview given out by him will give some idea of the implacable animosities engendered by imperialism and shows what must be expected while we have a colonial system supported by an army of invasion:

"I found very soon after my arrival in Panay that every man's hand was against us; that every man, woman and child in the islands was an enemy, and in my best judgment they are today, and always will be. Practically every presidente and other official has been playing double. They organized and were the active members of secret societies, known as the Katipunan, etc., whose avowed objects were to advance the cause of 'independencia' in any and all ways, and under this high sounding phrase they have made use of every means forbidden to them by

the laws of war. "These men of peace have actually waged war by killing straggling American soldiers. They have made use of polson in the drinks sold to American They have poisoned their arrows and the tips of their spears and bolos, together with the bamboo tips placed in the deadly traps that abounded on the trails. They have hired assassins to kill those who were even suspected of being friendly to the Americans, and likewise have endeavored to have our American officers assassinated.

"They openly stated in the island of Bohol that they would gladly sacrifice twenty natives for every American officer assassinated. They employed corps of assassins, who, under the name of Ducot, Mandoducot, or Sandathan, spread death and terror in

A TERRIBLE COMMENTARY. A New York butcher, John Barschen, a victim of the food trust, recently gave an interview to a New York newspaper reporter, and in one paragraph of that interview there is something pathetic. Mr. Barschen said: When the newspapers were making that great fight against the beef trust tney succeeded in making Roosevelt say that the ravages of the trust must be stopped. But the price of beef is higher than it ever was, and Roosevelt has done nothing, Knox has done nothng, and they never will do anything. Nobody appears to be big enough or strong enough or brave enough to do the right thing." Roosevelt has done nothing, Knox has done nothing; nobody appears to be big enough or strong enough or brave enough to do the right thing! What a terrible commentary upon the courage, the intelligence, and the patriotism of republican leaders.

ADMINISTRATION AND TRUSTS. The Houston Post tays itself open to the charge of lese majeste by suggesting a very plausible explanation for recent proceedings when it says: 'Does it not look like the administration wants to be able to say to the people, 'See, we have prosecuted the beef trust,' and to the beef trust, 'See, we have postponed the case till after the elections, and if you put up for the campaign fund like good republicans we will drop the case when the elections are once safely over?"

"AFTER THE ELECTION." It is now announced that Mr. Roose velt will call an extra session of the senate on November 11 to ratify a reciprocity treaty with Cuba, and also a treaty which will embody the essential features of the Platt amendment. It is also promised that there will be a bit of tariff revision after the elections. The elections will take place prior to November 11. It is significant that every hope held out by republican leaders depends upon what the party will do "after the election."

Mr. Neeley now wants the money he had on his person when arrested and which was taken from him by the federal authorities. Even the arrogant trusts might be benefited by securing the name of the nerve food Mr. Neeley

The Tennessee democracy reaffirmed the Kansas City platform without dodging or equivocation, and then turned in and won the election by 40-000 majority. It pays to stand squarely for principle and adopt platforms that can be interpreted but one way.

The president waited until congress adjourned before making any parade of anti-trust sentiments, and he naturally will wait until after the election before calling the senate into extra session to consider reciprocity treaties.

When Mr. Roosevelt said that a good soldier should be anxious to fight he may have had in mind the feelings of the Ninth infantry (colored) on a certain memorable day in 1898.

The republican campaign book declares that everything that has been done against the trusts has been done by the republican party. If this is true the trusts are glad of it.

Mr. Morgan is hustling to get his shipping trust all ready to receive the secure after he has elected the proper kind of a congress.

By refusing to arbitrate and enjoining others from feeding the striking miners the anthracite mine owners expect to solve the problem.

SABCOCK'S TWO ATTITUDES ON THE TRUST QUESTION.

Democratic Congressional Chairman Gets After the Republican Leader by Means of the "Deadly Parallell" -Policy of "Scuttle."

Chairman Griggs of the Democratic Congressional committee has sprung he deadly parallel on Chairman Babtock of the Republican Congressional committee on the trust question. "I will let Mr. Babcock answer Mr. Babcock on the great trust issue of this ampaign," said Chairman Griggs, and he submitted the following:

Mr. Babcock in Wisconsin in 1901
—"Il maintain that it is part of the policy of protection to protect the consumer." "We can to-day produce and undersell the world. Shail we continue a tariff on articles that are in on such articles, the whole theory of protection falls to the ground, and it simply inures to the benefit of those who may seeure the control of any such commodity, since by its aid they can fix exorbitant prices in the domestic market. How can such a policy be defended?"

Mr. Babcock in Washington Post. Reptember 21, 180—"The Republican party is ready to morely and the tariff. "The Republican party is ready to more than 1,000 carled the swell of a good time on the desirability of reviving the steel schedule was information I obtained in Scotland of the placing of an order for 20,000 tons of American steel, When you stop to think that 20,000 tons of steel means more than 1,000 carloads in the tariff plan at every possible opening. The bill is going to be pressed every time he smallest chance off lumber or not. That is a threat that has no terror for me. That won't him go by our manufacturers is so only thing go by.

"If the bill ever gets be fore the House, it will not do to find to take a the country desirable opening. The bill is going to make trouble if the duty is taken off lumber or not. That is a threat that has no terror for me. That won't hur Wisconsin. The people who are going to make trouble if the duty is taken of the pressed every time he smallest chance off lumber or not. That is a threat that has no terror for me. That won't hur Wisconsin. The people who are going to make trouble if the duty is ready to more than 1,000 carloaded the proposition for them to hold the proposition of the proposition of the proposition of the proposition of the proposition. The proposition of the proposition of the proposition of the proposition. The proposition of

way is going to be worried by the taking off of that duty. It would have been taken out of the Dingley tariff, when that bill was passed, if it had been passed by schedules."

culated through his section just that much more in the much more in the wear than if he had supplied his own market, to close down his mill. That rule of trade will operate always."

"Here it will be seen," said Chairman Griggs, "that the Republican chairman reverses himself and replies fully and completely to his interview. His first interview was a

CHANGED HIS VIEWS, the bill and made a long report the President is not heartly in sympathy with the striking coal miners or he would not select a lieutenant who opposed remedial legislation that was fraught with so great consequences to laboring men and especially the striking miners. In spite of the opposition of Mr. Littlefield and others, the bill passed the House but corporation influence was too powerful in the Senate and it was laid aside. The Democrats of both Houses were anxious to pass this bill and it was a sorry day for the striking coal miners when their efforts were defeated by the Republicans.

In telling of the injunction campaign now going on in West Virginia against the strikers' rights, the New York Journal says:

"One more crime has been added to the catalogue.

"Judge Jackson by his injunctions made it a punishable offence to ask a coal miner to join a labor union. and now Judge Keller, another West Virginia jurist, has issued injunctions forbidding the establishment of strike camps, which are established in connection with the purchase and distribution of food for the striking miners.

"The law-breaking railroads, which mine coal illegally and in defiance of their charters, are to be congratulated on the presence on the bench of two such convenient justices as these.

"If they do not win the strike, it will not be the fault of Judge Jackson and Judge Keller.

"The splendid response of the union conference in the matter of strike benefits made it impossible for the coal operators to carry out their beneficient scheme of starving the miners into abandoning their union, so this injunction, directed at the leaders of the National Executive Committee and others charged with the duty of providing supplies for the men who are out on strike, comes along in the very nick of time.

"The encroachment on the liberty of the miners is greater with every example of this misuse of the power after describing the old penal laws the Journal goes on to say:

"It was from this condition of slavery that labor unions rescued the men who do the world's work.

"The injunction principle would bind the hands of labor and make it absolutely dependant on the gener osity of employers.

"It is not for the law to say that men shall not join unions for their mutual benefit, or that they shall not endeavor to get others to join them or that they shall not form camps or do anything else that is not in itself unlawful, and when the law is turned and bent to make these things criminal, to the end that some man or set of men may hire workers cheaply, there is engendered a contempt for laws that may not always be confined to the judge-made rulings.

"The progress of labor has been over the wrecks of just such obstacles as these, and it is absurd to suppos that this progress can be halted now-The injunctions of Judge Jackson and Judge Keller will never become pre cedents. Whether they are sustained for the present or not, they will soon be overruled by the court of public opinion, against the decisions or which no injustice can stand in a free country."

The Administration's Bluff. That much vaunted temporary in declaration of war. His last is the junction which Mr. Roosevelt and his white flag of surrender. Is this the Attorney General obtained against

DR. JEKYLL-AND MR. HYDE-BABCOCK.



'scuttle' policy of which we have the beef trust does not seem to have heard so much? Will the friends of the tariff ever reform it, except in the interest of trusts?"

GOVERNMENT BY INJUNCTION.

Republican Congress Refused to Pass

a Law to Prevent It. At the last session of Congress a hill was introduced under the title "to define conspiracies." It was drawn by an attorney for the American Federation of Labor and was intended to der the criminal section. prevent government by injunction. The Democratic members of the Judiclary committee were unanimous for the Itil but Mr. Littlefield, a Republican, who is said to be selected by President Roosevelt to lead the fight against the trusts, was opposed to

had much effect, for it is reported that the combine is about to advance prices again. But then the injunction only restrained the members of the combine from consulting together and joining in any action they might take. What a farce this administra tion attempt to control the trusts is any way. If Mr. Roosevelt really wants to bring the trusts to their knees, the anti-trust law points the way to do it, by prosecuting them un-

No man yet was so high up that his wife couldn't call him down.

The brilliancy of many a society leader depends largely upon her jewed DOX.

against it. This indirectly shows that the President is not heartly to the President is not he Stamped Out

By Hon. J. H. Bromwell, of Ohio.

HE doctrine of Anarchy is like of loul plague which, being bred in unclean and impure surroundings, is liable to spread and embrace the good and pure as well as the filthy and unclean.

Born in countries which give to their people few or no political or social rights, a revolt against unlimited tyranny on the part of rulers, it does not discriminate between such governments and those in which the people themselves make and execute their laws and enjoy the fullest measure of liberty.

Its aim is not to correct the evils of government, but to degovernment. It would not only reform abuses, but it would stroy all do away with the virtues and benefits of all good government and society. It would bring social chaos upon the world and would reduce buman society to a condition where mere brute force would reign triumphant. The theory on which governments have been instituted among men is,

not that they might conduce to the power or wealth of the few into whose hands the execution of their powers shall pass, but that they are for the protection of the great masses of the people; that the combined power of the many shall counteract the influence of the few.

From this theory of society all existing governments have been evolved, and all are equally interested in the suppression of a doctrine which aims at their destruction without discrimination as to the measure of liberty which they enjoy or the grade of civilization to which they have advanced.

No country in the world is more seriously interested in this subject than our own, for no country has more to lose and none has less occasion for social upheaval than ours. Thus far Anarchy has obtained but little foothold here; but with the almost unlimited license to speak and print which we have taught ourselves to believe is the constitutional right of every cititen, we are furnishing a fertile soil in which this deadly plant may take root and grow and bear its fruit.

Anarchy should be stamped out as we would stamp out yellow fever or the plague; it should be crushed as we crush the head of a dangerous reptile, and no Executive need fear to enforce with stringency the laws which may be passed, because he will have behind him and supporting him the practically unanimous sentiment of the country.

What Credit is Based On.

By O. S. Marden.

ANY young men, beginning a business career for themselves, make the mistake of supposing that financial credit is based wholly upon property or capital. They do not understand that character and reliability, combined with aptitude of one's business and a disposition to work hard, are far more important assets to have than millions of dollars. The young fellow who of the Federal injunction." And then begins by sweeping out the store, and finally becomes a clerk, manager or superintendent by his energy and reliability of character does not usually of England that punished a man who find it difficult to secure credit to start in business for himself. On the

refused to work at the prevailing rate, other hand, jobbing houses are not inclined to advance credit to the man who, though he may have inherited a fortune, has shown no capacity for business, and is of doubtful character. The young men who start for themselves, on a small scale, are more energetic, work harder, are more alert, are quicker to appreciate the chances

of the market, and are more polite and willing than those with large capital, The creditmen in jobbing houses are very quick, as a rule, to see the successful qualities in prospective buyers, and seldom make a mistake of what redit is safe to extend.

The New Southwesterner.

A Practical Man Who Will Not Fight. By Ray Stannard Baker in the Century.

HE time has now come to introduce the new Southwesterner, indeed, the new Westerner, for he has come alike to the North and to the South, and he is setting himself to the gigantic task of overthrowing the old, wanton Westerner and saving what he can from the wreck. The new man-call him rancher or farmer-has not come suddenly. In some sections he has been at work for years-in parts of Texas, where he is protected by comparatively favorable land laws, since the early eighties; in others he is just arriving; but he has been strong enough only within the last few years to exert any perceptible influence. No

evolutionary changes are ever sharply defined; advancement is the result of many inextricably overlapping influences. The buffalo-hunter overlapped the cow-boy, the cow-boy overlaps the sheepman and the goatman, and all three have overlapped the new rancher. The miner has always been present. Jack, the cow-boy, is still powerful on the range, together with the oid careless life he represents so well; but he has had his fling; the time is near when he will shoot up a town or rope a constable for the last time, And the man who follows him is quite a different person-not so picturesque by a long way, not so carelessly free, a person whom Jack despises with all his big, warm, foolish heart, and dreads with all his unpractical head. For Mr. Brown is from Kansas-or is it Wisconsin?-a practical, unpoetic man, who wears suspenders and a derby hat, whose rear pocket bulges to no six-shooter. He is wholly without respect to the range boundaries set by honorable custom; he looks up his rights in a calfskin law-book, and sets down his expenditures in a small red book, so that he can tell at the end of the year how much he has made or lost. One of his chief weapons is the barbed wire fence, which he strings ruthlessly along the rivers or around his leased school land, where cattle once roamed free. Kill him, and be done with it; but next day comes Mr. Smith, from Ohio, and with him Mr. John Doe, of Boston, doing the same despicable things, as Jack sees them. Is there no end of them? And killing, unfortunately, grows unpopular-even dangerous. What is to be done with men who won't fight?

Scientific Ignorance About Volcanoes

By Professor Robert T. Hill, of the U. S. Geological Survey.

December ONCERNING volcanoes and volcanic action there is a vast amount to be learned, and the honorable scientific man will always frankly say, "I do not know," when confronted with many of the queries propounded to him. It is generally presumed that the cause of volcanic action is the meeting of water with the hot magma below the immediate surface of the earth, causing explosions whereby vents are opened through which the

not magma forces its way to the surface through its power of expansion. But the nature of that great unexplored magma of the earth's interior is to-day one of the profoundest and least solved problems concerning our globe.

The scientific man just now is confronted with the question of sympathetic volcanic outbreaks at widely distant points, but he can no more explain this mysterious coincidence than can the youngest born child in its cradle. Weak in his knowledge of the birth of volcanoes, deficient in sufficient data concerning their habits and action, it is utterly impossible for him to prognosticate with certainty their future behavior.

The object of every scientific man who recently visited Martinque and St. Vincent was to collect data whereby he could derive some knowledge of the laws of the phenomena, and yet they were obliged to depend for their information largely upon the testimony of eyewitnesses who had never seen a scientific book.

These volcanoes presented many phenomena hitherto unobserved, and it will require months of careful study and deduction before the cause of the outbreak can be stated.

It has been published in the papers that vast tidal waves were to be exected; that some of the islands were in danger of presenting more serious outbreaks than Pelee; that the present eruptions may be forerunners of approaching cataclysms which would annihilate the Island.

The writer must confess that he cannot see any ground for such prophscies and in the history of these islands, which have been built up to their present great heights by the ejection of debriz such as accompanied the present explosion, there is nothing to create such fears.

The vents of Pelee and St. Vincent are the same which were opened before Columbus came, and from which time and again similar eruptions to those of the present have come. The wounds are open and healthfully suppurating; why, then, should we predict that the patient will die?