

# Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

**The Ohio Platform.**  
The Ohio democratic convention was the political event of last week. The platform adopted made a strong presentation of some of the issues, but failed to reaffirm the Kansas City platform.

It began with municipal and state issues and the handiwork of Mayor Tom L. Johnson was evident in the terse and emphatic declaration of democratic principles so far as they apply to local questions. The necessity for municipal reform is an urgent one and there is sound democracy in the plank demanding that the people be given an opportunity to vote on questions involving the granting or extending of a franchise.

The plank which declares that "steam and electric railroads and other corporations possessing public franchises shall be assessed in the same proportion to their salable value as are farms and city real estate" is both logical and just, but it is likely to offend the very people who were to be expected to give an evasive of the silver question.

The plank against passes is all right but will not make votes among the so-called conservatives. The platform urges tariff reform.

The anti-trust plank would have been stronger if it had reiterated the Kansas City platform on the subject. The free list and the prevention of railroad discriminations are good so far as they go but they do not go far enough. Whenever a trust can export its goods to other countries it can live here without any tariff. Something more than free trade is necessary to such a case. Absolute fairness in railroad rates is desirable, but even this will not make private monopolies impossible. The Kansas City platform suggested a complete remedy, the only one yet proposed—and it is to be regretted that the Ohio convention was so prejudiced against the last national platform of the party that it ignored a remedy endorsed by more than six millions of voters.

The plank condemning imperialism criticizes the republican policy without pointing out a remedy. Here again the failure to reaffirm the Kansas City platform has weakened the Ohio democracy.

The convention endorsed the proposition to elect senators by the people. The labor plank is excellent, but those who wrote the platform failed, either intentionally or unintentionally, to mention government by injunction, the black list and arbitration. A reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform would have covered these points also, but having failed to reaffirm, the convention should have been careful to touch on all the important questions. The convention not only failed, but refused to endorse the Kansas City platform, and, from the manner in which the gold element has rejoiced over this feature of the convention, one would suppose that the main object of the convention was not to write a new platform, but to repudiate the one upon which the last national campaign was fought.

General Finley was right in insisting upon a vote on his resolution endorsing the Kansas City platform, but he made a mistake in including in his resolution a complimentary reference to Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan is not a candidate for any office, and a mention of him might be construed by some as an endorsement of him for office. The vote should have been upon the naked proposition to endorse the platform of last year, and then no one could have excused his abandonment of democratic principles by pleading his dislike for Mr. Bryan. The cause ought not to be made to bear the sins of an individual. Mr. Bryan will endure without complaint any punishment which the democracy of Ohio may see fit to administer to him, but he does not want his name used to the injury of a good platform.

The gold papers assume that the convention refused to endorse the Kansas City platform because it contained a silver plank. If so, it would have been more courageous to have declared openly for the gold standard. If the gold standard is good it ought to have been endorsed—if bad, it ought to have been denounced. To ignore the subject entirely was inexcusable.

The money question is not yet out of politics. Every session of congress will have to deal with it. Republicans declare that it is dead but they keep working at it. At the last session of congress they tried to make the silver dollar redeemable in gold and when that was accomplished they will try to limit the legal tender qualities of the dollar. The gold standard will not be complete until gold is the only legal tender money and bank notes the only paper money. Then our supply of primary money will be controlled by foreign financiers, and our supply of credit money by domestic financiers.

This plan has been developed gradually and every step has been taken secretly and stealthily. The republican leaders have been in this movement for years; as soon as the democratic tariff under protest are not worrying. They added enough to the price charged to the consumer to pay the tax, and now they are to get the tax back. The tax payer who fails to see the point deserves to be held up.

This is the season when the beneficiaries of republican policies meet at cool summer resorts and devise plans for making it hotter for the masses, who have neither the time nor the money to take a vacation.

It is because the republican editors are unselfish and anxious to see the democrats win that they are exultant over the repudiation of the Kansas City platform by the Ohio convention?

There are indications that the republican leaders are becoming sadly mixed in their "home market" and "foreign market" arguments.

The British war office admits the presence of 251,000 troops in South Africa. The British tax payer is certainly getting a long run for his money.

## THE WHITE SLAVES.

### STRIKE AGAINST THE TOBACCO TRUST.

Daily Papers Suppress News—Low Wages of Girls Employed in Birmingham Factories—One of the Evils That Cry for Vengeance.

From Birmingham, N. Y., Independent: Last week Wednesday sixty-five girls working at the Trust Cigar factory struck for an increase. On Saturday about 300 more were locked out of the same factory. It is now more than a week since the strike started and not a mention of the matter has appeared in the daily papers. Brief reports have appeared in a few papers outside, and the silence of the home papers is causing much comment, and a great deal of adverse criticism.

The American Tobacco company, commonly known as the Tobacco trust, after having secured a practical monopoly of the chewing and smoking tobacco business, has now turned its attention to the cigar making branch, and an attempt is being made to control this also. As Birmingham is next to New York as a cigar center the trust decided to open a factory here. Barlow, Rogers & Co., sold out their large factory to the Trust about two months ago. When the change was made Mr. Barlow assured the employees that no change would be made in wages and that it would be a good thing for the men and women working there. A superintendent from Kingston, where the trust has a large factory, was put in charge, and several foremen from the same place installed.

Very soon a change was made in the system. Girls were paid the amount they had averaged under the old system while they were learning the new method. What are known as bunch makers were paid seven and one-half cents a hundred, the same price that was paid by Barlow. But while before they could make from 1,000 to 1,200 bunches a day, under the trust system they could make but 700 or 800. Rollers were paid twenty-seven and one-half cents per hundred, or the same as before, but instead of being able to make 700 or 800 a day they could make only 300 or 400.

The effect of the change was to reduce wages nearly one-half, and instead of making from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a day, the girls could make only seventy-five cents to \$1.25. After working from two to five weeks under the new system the girls were convinced that they could not make enough to support themselves decently, and when their request for a higher price was refused, they struck. About 300 employees were still working on the old work, but as they understood that it was but a question of a few weeks when they would have to do the work under the new system they agreed to help the strikers.

In addition to the increased amount of work they are compelled to do, the strikers complain about the way they are given tobacco. Out of each pad they are required to get 100 cigars. They say that the pads have been made so small that they can get but about eighty, and as they are docked for all they use over at the rate of 30 cents a pad, this still further reduces their wages. Another thing they complain of is the practice of taking out of each hundred from 3 to 17 cigars as defective, for which they get no pay. These cigars they say are put up in hundred packages and sent to the packing room.

The work that the trust wants is practically hand made cigars. At the prices paid the cigarmakers would get \$4.50 per thousand for doing the work. The same work at the union scale would come to \$16.50 a thousand. The trust claims that the same work is being done at Kingston for less than the price offered here, and that the girls are making big wages. Those who know the conditions at Kingston know that the wages there are very low, and that the girls make barely enough to pay expenses. A few speedy operators may be working long hours for what would seem to them to be fair pay, but on the average the pay is not what girls should have in order to live respectably.

**A DANGEROUS DECISION.**  
Some years ago a Chicago woman was engaged in a labor strike. She was no worse than all the others participating in the same strike. After the strike was over and peace was declared she attempted to get work, but could not do so. She applied to a firm after firm and always met the same answer. Nobody would give her employment. She could beg, steal or starve, but she couldn't work. There was no way by which she could make an honest living. She had been black-listed. The decree had gone forth that no employer should give that woman a job. A brand had been set on her brow. She was a pariah among her people—helpless and homeless. She was like Cain, a fugitive and a vagabond on the face of the earth.

In her dire extremity she was induced to sue the cowardly scoundrels who blacklisted her. She proved her case all right. There was no question about the facts. Everything was established as above set forth. But the court decided that employers had a right to blacklist employees and prevent them from getting work elsewhere. It practically decided that slavery still exists in America. Not the mild kind of slavery that existed in the south before the war, but a condition a thousand times more terrible. Black slaves were sure of a comfortable support—they were not overworked—they had their holidays and their simple pleasures. The slavery established by this corrupt court has none of these ingredients. This poor wage slave is entirely helpless—she can find no work—she can earn no wages—she can only starve, live on charity or do worse. This is all accomplished by the order of a tyrant, backed up by the decree of a court.

What hope is there for a laboring man or woman who is blacklisted when the law sustains that form of slavery? He or she had better get

out of the world or else procure a gun and learn how to use it.

No intelligent man believed that any court would ever make such an outrageous decision, but it is made and it will be sustained by the higher authorities.

Our judges are daily advancing in infamy. They are making decisions now for which they would have been impeached twenty years ago and if any judge had made a decision so disreputable a generation ago he would not have had the privilege of an impeachment, for the people would have hung him round on the nearest lamp post.

—Central Farmer.

### THE TRUSTS MUST BE PROTECTED.

Wilbur F. Wakeman is secretary of the American Protective League, and as such is of course opposed to the entry of any foreign goods into this country that would compete with our trust made products. He also, by the grace of the President and the Republican majority of the Senate, holds the important office of appraiser of merchandise of the port of New York. This occupation of these two offices by the same person accounts for the universal ruling of the appraiser against the importers of foreign goods and the stretching of the tariff law, almost to the breaking point, to make such goods subject to the highest duty that can be assessed against them.

That Mr. Wakeman is most active in this matter and more intent on lobbying to prevent a revision of the tariff and to protect the trusts from competition than he is in fairly carrying out the law, will be seen from the following interview: Speaking of the threat of certain Republicans to support the Babcock movement to place trust made articles on the free list, Mr. Wakeman says, the league will make no fight against any such manipulation of the protective tariff system. "We do not propose," said he, "to allow the system to be used as a stalking horse for the purpose of doing work which should be done by state legislatures. These bodies have the power to deal with trusts doing business within the borders of their states. Let them apply the remedy."

That is it. No national legislation against the trusts, they are, to quote Hanna, good things and must not be disturbed.

### WAGES FALLING IN ENGLAND.

Last year it was quite the usual thing in England to see each month that numbers of workers varying from 100,000 to 200,000 had obtained substantial increases of pay, whilst those who had sustained slight reductions totaled up to only a few hundreds.

In November, however, the figures began to tell a different tale. The number of those who had received additions to their wages were, it is true, still as many as 137, but the reductions had risen to 11,036. In December the increase had diminished to 18,383, and the reductions were 8,216. But it is January that shows whether we are drifting. During last month only 3,061 workers received increases of pay, whilst, on the other hand, the decreases had risen to the large total of 51,631.

—Justice, London, England.

Cuba is a spot that can be handled at leisure. Just now the administration is making the refractory child understand that the velvet glove can be the hand of steel. Poor deluded Cuba must first swallow the Platt amendment in order to prove that it has acquired a sufficiently meek and contrite spirit to fit it for dealing with the United States; then other things will happen to it—not independence, by a long way, either.—San Francisco Star.

If endowing one man with unrestrained power over the lives, liberties and property of 10,000,000 people lacks a single feature of an ideally perfect despotism, then one never existed on earth.—Congressman McCall.

It is estimated that the men of Great Britain spend \$250,000 a year on silk hats.

A small sample of the wholesale land-grabbing which was the almost sole impelling motive of the war on the Philippines, has cropped out at last in the form of a deed from the Sultan of Sulu to Prince Poniatowski (of this city) and others, of the island of Palawan, for fifty years. A copy of the contract has been filed with the Secretary of War, who says that "serious questions are involved."

### Girls Forbidden to Wear Corsets.

An active crusade against the wearing of corsets is being carried on at Budapest. The Hungarian minister for public instruction has issued an energetic order against their use, forbidding all girl pupils attending the public and private day schools in Hungary to wear them. Herr von Wassics declares in his order that the corset prevents the full development of the bodily organs and stunts the growth. He desires a uniform blouse to be adopted in its stead. This order has been sympathetically received in educational circles, but the female teachers have not been included in it, as it is thought their example may be prejudicial to their pupils.—London Telegraph.

### Music for Antarctic Explorers.

A lady member of the Baxter family, so well known in connection with the industrial development of Dundee, where the steamship Discovery was built, has presented Commander Scott, R. N., with a piano and a quantity of music for the entertainment of the members of the exploring party during their adventurous voyage to the Antarctic regions. Piano-forte music has not heretofore formed any part of the explorers' equipment—fear of frozen fingers presumably, being the reason—but with the piano all such reasons disappear, and the exploring party will now be able to enjoy the best music without any misgivings.—Cardiff Western Mail.

The census returns giving the area of various states show that the one which has the largest amount of land under water is Florida, and the least, in proportion to size Wyoming. Many estates are spent in the getting.

## AGAINST THE PEOPLE

### REPUBLICAN PARTY HOPELESSLY FOR TARIFF LOOT.

Evidence That They Intend to Protect the Trusts and Perpetuate the Tariff—Making the Issue for the Next Campaign.

That the Republican party does not intend to legislate against the trusts, however much individual members may proclaim that it is necessary, is shown by the evidence of Hon. Robert Taylor, member of congress from the 15th Ohio district, given before the industrial commission. In his opening remarks he declared that any attempt to take the tariff off even trust made goods would be bad in its effects. The tariff principle, he said, should not be abandoned.

As a general proposition, Mr. Taylor announced himself as opposed to trusts. "I am one of those," he said, "who have not been able to bring themselves in harmony with the idea that the trusts are good things."

"The trusts," he declared, "put too much power in the hands of a few men."

Speaking of dealing with trusts, he said he knew of no remedy for that evil, if it is an evil. Publicity might be a good thing, but it would be a mere scratch on the surface. He knew that a trust has power to reduce the price of an article, but he did not think the public would get much benefit from that. In order to pay dividends on securities of the United States Steel Company that company would have to extract a great deal from the public.

The witness said that apart from any other question he thought that it would be exceedingly unfortunate to introduce any elements of unrest in the country by discussing the tariff in congress or opening up the tariff for any revising.

Now, Taylor is chairman of Election Committee No. 1, and was selected as such because he could be relied on to do the bidding of those who rule congress and being a friend and follower of the administration, his evidence makes it certain that there is "no remedy for the evil" as far as the Republicans intend to discover one and that even to discuss the revising of the tariff "is to introduce elements of unrest in the country."

If Mr. Taylor represents the Republican policy on the trusts and the tariff, nothing will be done to abate the evils.

He admits there is robbery being committed when he says the steel trust will "have to extract a great deal from the public," but he and the large majority of protection Republicans intend to sit still and see the steel trust and the other combines "extract a great deal from the public." A very cool proceeding on the part of those who have been selected as the servants of the people to protect their interests.

The Democratic position is entirely the reverse of this. They believe that there is a remedy to prevent the trust from carrying out their plan of robbing the people and that is to revise the tariff by placing trust productions on the free list except what duties may be necessary for raising revenue for the support of the government—a tariff for revenue.

This will not kill the trusts but it will allow the world to compete with them by withdrawing the protection that now gives them a monopoly.

### A ROBBER TRUST.

The law under which corporations are organized in the state of New Jersey certainly ought to be amended or repealed. Minority stockholders have no protection and from appearances the law was created especially to swindle them. Public Policy says: By its charter the United States steel corporation may deal in its own securities, which has not usually been regarded as a proper function of corporations. It may or may not pay any dividends on the common stock, no matter what the profits may be, and the recalcitrant stockholders will get no consideration; he can see the books as much as the statute, the board of directors or the whole body of stockholders permit.

Now is not that a nice corporation to own stock in? If any one buys any of it and knows of these restrictions and loses his money he has only himself to blame, except that rascally legislature that passed a law that allows such a trust to be organized.

There are millions of stock on the market and the trust is trying to push it off on the public and doubtless many an innocent purchaser will buy it, not knowing the way the steel trust may rob him.

And yet the Republicans say the trusts are all right.

### RECIPROCITY AND TARIFF REFORM.

The attempt of President McKinley to reform the tariff by reciprocity treaties was stopped by the United States senate refusing to ratify them and yet there is strong evidence that the president will persist in that line of action. Reciprocity is a back-handed way of revising the Dingley tariff that can be better accomplished by straightforward methods. We cannot make a reciprocity treaty with one country that does not virtually make it apply to nearly all the others. This is brought about by the clause which allows the same rights and rates as the most favored nation is given. If a treaty is made with France that allows certain of her productions to be imported into the United States at a less duty than the rate provided in the Dingley tariff, Germany, who produces the same articles, under the most favored nation clause must be granted the same rate.

There is also another obstacle to these reciprocity treaties, a constitutional objection, that has not been adjudicated, but is believed by most of the constitutional lawyers to be a bar to such legislation. Congress cannot delegate its power to raise revenue, which is a constitutional province of Congress alone and such revenue bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

sentatives, thus keeping the taxing power in the hands of the direct representatives of the people.

To revise the tariff law by making reciprocity treaties is a makeshift that does not touch the protection granted the trusts and monopolies and those who advocate it are attempting to still protect these giant corporations. As the trusts are selling their productions in Europe for less than they are obtaining from our own people, they no longer need protection and their products should be put upon a tariff for revenue basis or even placed on the free list that competition may benefit all alike.

### POLITICAL COMMENT.

A Canadian newspaper tells us that the French statesman, M. Jules Siegfried, says not long ago when he was at the White House, President McKinley admitted that he was no longer an ultra protectionist, "the time for heavy protection has passed," are his quoted words. The president evidently sees that the tariff must be revised, but how to do it, that is the question. What a row it will raise. The American Protective League and the Home Market club will be on the warpath and the protected trusts. Well, we shall see.

And now comes Senator Chauncey M. Depew and joins in the third term chorus, he says McKinley is the only man against whom there is no opposition. There is no doubt some truth in this, the price of an article, the corporations, especially the railroads, want McKinley as long as he is so complaisant to their interests. A strong government that will put down strikes under the name of a republic but really an empire, just suits them. They are under the present administration the oligarchy that controls the United States and the senator is their mouthpiece.

### HOW TO KILL MOSQUITOES.

Chinatown Sells a Cheap and Most Effective Obolator.

It is the experience of the average housekeeper in Philadelphia that no matter how thoroughly the doors and windows of a house are screened, mosquitoes will get inside. Many of them do not understand that a small pool of stagnant water in a cellar or water standing in potted plants is a birthplace for thousands of mosquitoes. In flower vases on the table, where the water is not frequently changed, mosquito eggs are found in great numbers. Applications of kerosene oil will stop that. The general question is how to get the small insect pests out of the house when once they are in. To persons of careful habits chlorine gas is recommended. Pour into a plate containing four teaspoonsful of chloride of lime about ten drops of crude sulphuric acid. This liberates the chlorine gas, which is said to kill the mosquitoes. The plan can be used only in rooms not temporarily occupied, or in which the gas vapors can be allowed to remain for several hours. The burning of pyrethrum powders in a room will also kill them. The powder should be moistened and then made into little cones, which are dried in the oven.

When a cone is lighted at the top it smolders slowly, emitting an odor which many persons find pleasant. But a good, simple and cheap mosquito killer may be bought in Chinatown. The Chinese use pine or juniper sawdust, mixed with a small quantity of brimstone and an ounce of arsenic. This mixture is put into little bags in a dr' state. Each bag is coiled like a snake and tied tightly with a thread. The outer end is lighted. The coils sell at 16 cents a hundred and it is worth a trial to be enough to clear any ordinary room of mosquitoes.

Here is another traitor to the protective tariff, Hon. W. P. Hepburn, of Iowa, who at a dinner in London given to the visiting members of the New York Chamber of Commerce, said: "The chairman of the Republican campaign committee has announced that the tariff will be taken from all so-called trust commodities, and our ability to produce has so largely outgrown our capacity to consume that the 'open door' is rapidly becoming the abomination of America." This is brave talk, but it will take more backbone than most Republican members have shown in the past to refuse to obey the caucus dictation that Hanna and the trusts will bring to bear on them.

Perry Heath, the man-Friday of Mark Hanna, when ways that are dark and tricks that are vain are required, has been interviewed again, this time in Chicago, he still sticks to Mark Hanna for president unless McKinley wants a third term. "I am not becoming Senator Hanna for president," he said, "I think he could secure the nomination if he went after it and believe there would be no doubt of his election." From the choice of these two evils, good Lord, deliver us!

As Congress is the sole arbiter of the fate of our new territory and the president through patronage and the caucus system controls congress, President McKinley will rule our annexed colonies until a congress is elected who will be independent of stratagem and spoils.

The amorphous government that you are setting up in the Philippines, President McKinley, will bring you trouble; you cannot govern people with half military and half civil administration, it is sure to result in friction.

Fred Grant, who is a general from being the son of his father, has none of the generosity of the victor of Appomattox; he would put Aguinaldo in jail and set him to breaking rock and recommends that when he comes over here we treat him with contempt. Grant will find that the American people respect a fallen enemy more than a general made by political influence.

The money power will never be satisfied until they have organized a banking trust that will control all the financial institutions of the country. This project is again being discussed in New York and is said to offer 3 per cent interest on bankers' balances, subject to call, as an inducement to join the trust. With such an institution in existence with branches in every city and town who shall and who shall not borrow money and even declining the accounts of those who do not act in business or politics to suit the trust, complete financial slavery would result.

Secretary of War Root, and Knox, the trust lawyer, are said to disagree as to the power of the President under the Spooner amendment to the army bill. The President has sided with Knox, who seems to be the new power behind the throne. Great is Knox, the steel trust lawyer.

**To Survey Bolivia.**  
The government of Bolivia has recently taken steps to obtain a complete survey of the country. A Paris firm has engaged to immediately survey and map 40,000 kilometers and to lay off a triangulation which will enable a complete trigonometrical survey of the country to be made. Bolivia has also arranged with Paraguay for a joint commission to trace and mark the boundary between the two nations. A joint commission with Brazil several months ago commenced surveying the Bolivian-Brazilian line. A school of mines has also been established by the Bolivian government to train and encourage its own people to the development of its mineral resources.

## WESTERN WATER FARMING.

### Wisconsin's Many Lakes Give Promise of Great Profit.

Scientists who make it their business to look ahead into the far future are now busy telling what will happen after all the land in the United States has been put under cultivation. When there are no more quarter sections upon which the settler can establish himself, it is predicted that water farming will become a general occupation. This information is comforting to the residents of Wisconsin. No state in the Union has better facilities for water farming than the one famous for the number and beauty of its lakes. When the time comes for men to fence off acre plots on the crystal waters of the inland seas Wisconsin will have a boom worth while waiting for with patience. Of course there will be drawbacks to water farming, but the industry offers great possibilities. Although it will be difficult to keep one's crop of fish from being mixed with one's neighbors, there will be no plowing or harrowing, no wrestling with stubs and no trouble over irrigation. After the fish are planted each season there will be nothing to do but to wait until harvest time. By a little diplomatic advertising water farmers may persuade city men to spend their vacations on the lakes as assistants during this harvest season. Houseboats on the water farms would be ideal places of residence during the hot months. It is estimated that the fisheries of the United States produce food of the value of \$45,000,000 every year. As soon as the water farming industry has a good start, Wisconsin will be able to add millions to this amount. If the calamity howler cannot find anything worse to prophesy about than the water farm, this state can pursue daily its business pursuits without any forebodings.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

### HOW TO KILL MOSQUITOES.

Chinatown Sells a Cheap and Most Effective Obolator.

It is the experience of the average housekeeper in Philadelphia that no matter how thoroughly the doors and windows of a house are screened, mosquitoes will get inside. Many of them do not understand that a small pool of stagnant water in a cellar or water standing in potted plants is a birthplace for thousands of mosquitoes. In flower vases on the table, where the water is not frequently changed, mosquito eggs are found in great numbers. Applications of kerosene oil will stop that. The general question is how to get the small insect pests out of the house when once they are in. To persons of careful habits chlorine gas is recommended. Pour into a plate containing four teaspoonsful of chloride of lime about ten drops of crude sulphuric acid. This liberates the chlorine gas, which is said to kill the mosquitoes. The plan can be used only in rooms not temporarily occupied, or in which the gas vapors can be allowed to remain for several hours. The burning of pyrethrum powders in a room will also kill them. The powder should be moistened and then made into little cones, which are dried in the oven.

When a cone is lighted at the top it smolders slowly, emitting an odor which many persons find pleasant. But a good, simple and cheap mosquito killer may be bought in Chinatown. The Chinese use pine or juniper sawdust, mixed with a small quantity of brimstone and an ounce of arsenic. This mixture is put into little bags in a dr' state. Each bag is coiled like a snake and tied tightly with a thread. The outer end is lighted. The coils sell at 16 cents a hundred and it is worth a trial to be enough to clear any ordinary room of mosquitoes.

**Great Production of Coal.**  
It is not at all surprising to learn from the statistical gentlemen at Washington that the United States leads the world in the production and consumption of coal, nor that the output for the last year of the nineteenth century exceeded that for any previous year. The statistics themselves are very impressive, however. The quantity of coal mined reached the enormous total of 267,542,444 tons, valued at \$297,920,000. The increase over the previous year's value was 16 per cent. Familiar as Pennsylvanians are with the magnitude of the coal business in this commonwealth, it is still worth while noticing that this state produced more than half of all the coal mined in the United States. The rapid development of the coal resources of West Virginia is seen in the fact that our neighbor reached a production of 20,000,000 tons for the first time, and showed the largest relative increase.

### A Remarkable Voyage.

The arrival at Manila of the squadron comprising the gunboat Annapolis and the ocean tugs Frolic, Piscataqua, and Wampanatuck, which sailed from Hampton roads early last winter, completes a remarkable voyage. This is the longest trip ever accomplished by such tiny naval craft and was probably never equaled by similar warships. The distance covered was nearly two-thirds around the world, crossing one ocean, skirting the southern part of Europe, thence through the tornado seas of the Indian ocean down to the Philippines at a season when typhoons are usual. There have been trips of small ships across the Atlantic and once an old monitor was sent around to San Francisco by the Horn, but no vessels of such light displacement have yet covered so much dangerous water area as the little squadron of American boats.

**To Survey Bolivia.**  
The government of Bolivia has recently taken steps to obtain a complete survey of the country. A Paris firm has engaged to immediately survey and map 40,000 kilometers and to lay off a triangulation which will enable a complete trigonometrical survey of the country to be made. Bolivia has also arranged with Paraguay for a joint commission to trace and mark the boundary between the two nations. A joint commission with Brazil several months ago commenced surveying the Bolivian-Brazilian line. A school of mines has also been established by the Bolivian government to train and encourage its own people to the development of its mineral resources.