

Commoner Comment.

A CALL TO ARMS.

Democrats who are democrats from principle should assert themselves. Not only is it their duty to do it, but they need to do so if they would save the party from disaster and demoralization. Reports from every section of the country show that the Democrats are making a systematic effort to regain control of the party with a view to placing it in the position it occupied under Grover Cleveland's administration. In this they are being aided by the less extreme representatives of the corporate element that voted the ticket for regularity's sake without endorsing the platform. These elements do not work openly and honestly, but covertly and through agencies who beg for "harmony."

It is time that loyal democrats were aroused to the danger confronting their party and its principles. It is time they were organizing to combat the invidious influences at work within the party. Only thorough organization will be effective against these undemocratic influences. This work of organization should begin now and be prosecuted with vigor. The next year to about the 20th of January the organization of clubs within the party in every voting precinct in the country. These clubs can arouse enthusiasm, perfect organization, and make it difficult to delegate election to nominating conventions are men whose opinions are known and who may be relied upon to carry out the wishes of the majority; and they should be instructed by the people at the primaries. These clubs will enable Kansas City platform democrats to know each other and act together. They will furnish also a means for supporting democratic principles. By circulating democratic literature and debating public questions they may bring pending propositions and existing policies before the people. The work of organizing these clubs should begin with-out further loss of time. With a view to forwarding the work of organization the Commoner will furnish upon application a form of constitution and membership blanks to all who request them and every reader of the Commoner should appoint himself a committee of one to organize the organization of a club in his precinct without delay. A course of study will be outlined in the Commoner and from week to week the editor will discuss the subjects suggested.

Secretaries are asked to report organizations, notice of which will be made in the Commoner for the information of other communities. Do Not Delay! Organize Now!

FINANCIERS AGAINST TARIFF REFORM.

Hon. Francis J. Van Vorhis of Indianapolis, Ind., in an argument recently made, pointed out the fact that the bankers have made the great financiers peculiarly interested in the defeat of any tariff reform legislation. He says that the banks are now working without interest a large sum of government money, amounting \$150,000,000, and that they would have to give up this money and lose the interest upon it if the surplus was reduced by the lowering of revenue duties. Six per cent interest on \$150,000,000 would yield nine millions; 5 per cent, seven millions and a half. This is a tremendous sum, and operates, first, as a bribe to the banks to oppose any reduction of the surplus, and, second, it forms a fund from which the republicans can draw in their campaigns. In fact, the banks receive as a gratuity so large a sum in the shape of interest each year could afford to give a very considerable sum to the campaign fund every four years. In fact, the interest collected on the surplus of one year's interest for the opportunity to collect four years' interest, they would give to the republican campaign fund more than twenty times as much as the democratic national committee has had in either of the campaigns of 1896 and 1900. The fact that the elections can be carried by the interest collected on the people's money shows the perversion of the national government, an ought to make honest republicans recognize the abuse of power of which the republican party has been guilty.

Mr. Van Vorhis has done the public a service in pointing out the vital connection between the republican method of running the treasury department and the proposition which the great financiers show to tariff reform. It will be remembered that in 1888 the republican national platform denounced Mr. Cleveland's administration for doing the very same things, although on a less scale, that the republican administration is doing now. The fact is that both the republican administration and Mr. Cleveland's administration purchased the active support of the financiers with the loan of public funds.

Those who charge Mr. Quay with obstructing legislation would be thankful instead of critical. And they would be if they were cognizant of the average kind of legislation transacted by the senate.

Some of our most prominent citizens expend more energy in defending the American cup than they do in defending American traditions.

Perhaps Mr. Hanna was asked to accept the presidency of the Golden Rule association because he would be such a splendid example of how not to observe it.

Mr. Taylor from Kentucky has read the latest news from his state and proceeds to hurriedly adjust his gubernatorial friend and get him on straight again.

It appears to keep Uncle Sam busy reminding his European friends that there is such a thing as the Hague arbitration tribunal.

President Roosevelt has employed an Italian fencing master to teach him the art of singlestick. Singlestick is a strenuous sport, but it is not in the same class with trust fighting.

Those republican organs that had so much to say about Mr. Richardson's book publishing business will keep silent in seventeen languages about Mr. Grosvenor's venture in the book market.

Honduras is experiencing great difficulty in crowding Venezuela out of the slug head position.

A REFORMER IN OFFICE.

The readers of the Commoner had occasion to rejoice when a Kansas City platform democrat, Hon. Lucius F. G. Garvin, was elected governor of Rhode Island, for they knew that he was interested in doing something more than drawing his salary and enjoying the honors of the position. They will be glad, though not surprised, to know that Governor Garvin is justifying their hopes and expectations. He begins his message to the legislature by using language which the republicans may regard as scurrilous. He points to the great productive capacity of the United States during the year 1902, but instead of attributing this prosperity to the republican administration he attributes it to our "vast natural resources and to the industry and enterprise of our people." He calls attention to the abuses of governmental functions of the state—first, the passage of laws by one general assembly which can not be amended or repealed by subsequent assemblies; second, the establishment of a board of police commissioners which spent money raised by taxation, although not responsible to the people who pay the taxes; third, the post-office regulations of the general assembly which passed laws that they would not dare to pass before an election; fourth, the domination of a third house, causing legislation to be sold to the highest bidder. He also points out that the theory of representative government is constantly violated in Rhode Island, and that under the constitution of Rhode Island one-twelfth of the inhabitants living in small towns possess as much influence as eleven-twelfths of the people living in large cities. He calls for a constitutional convention, and points out other needed reforms.

The eastern democrats are looking around for a presidential candidate. Why is it that they ignore such timber as that furnished by Rhode Island? Why do they pick up men who have never expressed themselves on public questions and have never given any evidence of sympathy with the people? Why, because the reorganizing element of the party does not want a president who would be democratic in office and who would use the great prestige of the presidency to protect the people from the encroachment of organized wealth.

Governor Garvin lives in an eastern state, but he would be an westerner to the reorganizers as any obstinate foe of the people who believes in the Kansas City platform. If he were to announce his candidacy for the presidency he would be assailed as a small, insignificant, narrow-minded man, "an accident in politics," and a person lacking the breadth and depth which the metropolitan papers are in the habit of conferring upon those who are under secret obligation and pledge to the corporations.

The doctrine of natural rights is not yet absolute, and it is this doctrine that will ultimately destroy imperialism and overthrow the imperialists.

A great many eastern papers who sneer whenever fusion between democrats and populists was proposed took very kindly to the suggestion that the anti-Addicks republicans combine with the democrats in Delaware for the election of one democrat and one anti-Addicks republican to the United States senate. The New York Evening Post, for instance, says: "Senator Hanna is certainly loyal to his friends, even when the latter are disreputable. He has now come forward to the rescue of Addicks. In his official capacity as chairman of the republican national central committee he telegraphs to the regular republicans in the Delaware legislature that he hopes they will never stoop so low as to vote for an honest democrat in order to prevent the success of a republican corruptionist. The republican party, he declares, is entitled to the fruits of victory," and the fact that they are rotten fruit does not trouble Mr. Hanna in the least."

Senator Aldrich will adjourn March 1th.

Senator Elkins offering anti-trust bills somehow or other recalls the historic incident wherein a certain individual rebuked sin.

ALWAYS A TRIMMER

SOME LIGHT ON THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL RECORD.

His Connection with the Ford Franchise Bill in New York an Illustration of His Methods—Never an Enemy of the Trusts.

Very few appreciate more highly than does the president the value to a politician of being generally considered the enemy of the great corporations. Ever since he resigned from the Free Trade Club of New York in 1884, that he might get on better in politics, as he told a friend, he has utilized every opportunity to hit the corporations—with a stuffed club. The voters in New York will no longer take the president seriously. On Jan. 20, the appellate division of the supreme court of New York decided that the Ford Franchise bill was unconstitutional. The most interesting methods of President Roosevelt.

As introduced by Senator Ford, a Republican, the bill simply put the franchises of all public utilities into the category of real estate, where they had been previous to 1893. There was no doubt about its constitutionality, as New York's courts had declared that franchises were properly real estate, for purposes of taxation. Senator Ford was making a brilliant fight and was contending with attorneys and lobbyists of the great corporations, whose franchises were worth about \$1,000,000,000, when the governor, perceiving Ford's growing popularity, took a hand in the game. Then, as now, he ostentatiously called the legislative leaders before him and read the riot act to them. He accused them on the unfairness of allowing the corporations to go untaxed, while leading taxes upon the people. After he had gotten great and undeserved credit for forcing the bill through, at the end of the session, in 1899, he surprised the friends of the bill by not signing it, and by calling an extra session of the legislature to amend it in several ways, and especially by taking the power to assess franchises away from the local assessors and transferring it to a state board. It was well known that these amendments were urged by Platt and other friends of the corporations. They pretended that it would never do to have the wicked Democrats of New York city assess these franchises. A Republican state board, without bias against corporations, should be created, they said. Against the advice of all friends of the bill, who said the amendments were intended to kill it, he signed the bill. "The corporations got Gov. Roosevelt to weakly yield to their demand," as Senator Ford now says.

Commenting on the court decision, Senator Ford says: "I told Gov. Roosevelt that the creation of a state board of tax commissioners was both expensive and unconstitutional. He told me that he had been advised by the very highest judicial authority that even if the creation of the state tax commission was declared unconstitutional, that the establishment of the principle that a franchise or privilege could be taxed as real estate would not be affected. He also told me, however, that the same highest judicial authority maintained that no part of the new bill was unconstitutional." It has been said that Gov. Roosevelt was hoodwinked by the corporations. I do not think so. He is an intelgent man and had long talks with his lawyers on the danger of listening to the sophistry of the corporation lawyers. Why, he would not consent to the law as it was finally passed until he had put off its operation a year. He thus made the corporations a present of so many millions.

In consequence of Gov. Roosevelt's extra session of the legislature, the corporations refused to pay taxes on their franchises and about \$12,000,000 of back taxes are now lost to the state, although the assessors appointed by Gov. Roosevelt assessed the franchises at New York city at only \$211,000,000, while Senator Ford and others say they are worth \$500,000,000.

As governor of New York Mr. Roosevelt delayed and defeated the overwhelming sentiment of the people for franchise taxation and thus proved himself the best friend of the corporations? His popularity because of his action on this bill was probably responsible for the high position which he now holds. Three years from now we shall probably look back and say that President Roosevelt, while pretending to be the bitter enemy of the trusts, really protected, for the time, effective anti-trust legislation, and thus was the true friend of the trusts.

President Roosevelt told us last summer that "Words are good when backed by deeds, and only so." In view of his New York action, what value can we put on his present words?

Pathetic Incident in the Life of a Strenuous Man.

What a lot of bother and tribulation these pesky fellows, the newspaper correspondents, cause the leaders of the Republican party. If we could only have a law enacted to punish "nose men" all would be well. Then with a few of the most obstreperous correspondents or editors in the Bastille the others would cease the pestiferous writings about the goings and doings of these great men. We are informed by the newspaper that the steel trust has put on a republic, the court organ of the effete monarchies of the old world, that our beloved president is in great trouble and distress. The newspapers will persist in publishing too much about his doings.

"President Roosevelt does not expect the pleasures of any hunting this year," says the Washington Star. "It is a great disappointment to him, but he is getting tired of that kind of a sportsman's hunt with red-fire accompaniments and vivid newspaper stories. Those who know him realize that this is the true spirit of the hunter. The thrilling roar or dash after the game, the quick shot in the

solitude of the woods, and communion with nature as exemplified in the flight of the birds and the call of the animals, are what he longs for. He sees no way of getting it, however, because of the persistence with which he is followed by newspaper men, and he does not want to play to the galleries. It is absurd to him, and while his whole nature yearns for a few weeks of complete disappearance from public affairs, public men and the newspapers, he has not been able to evolve any plan that will secure him just what he wants."

It's too bad, but the President must cheer up; it might be worse. It will be distressing in a few years when the game has all been slaughtered. Think of what some future President, "who has the true spirit of the hunter," will have to endure. His only excitement may be to sit on the back porch of the White House and read President Roosevelt's exciting books about hunting in the wild and woolly West.

Speaking further of some plan to prevent the intrusion of the newspaper men, the Star feelingly says: "There is a longing in his whole nature to get one more chance at the bear family. Now is not that pathetic? It has so appealed to the kindly feelings of the Washington Post editor, that in a leading editorial he has offered to forego the publication of any news about the bear hunt, and not allow any of his young men to be within sight or sound of the fray."

It would seem to be possible for the friends of the President to arrange with the other newspaper editors for the immunity from observation that the President desires, for it is a serious case, this ardent longing for the chase, if not gratified may lead to serious consequences to all of us. The surplus strenuousness of the President must be worked off somehow, and it is better perhaps the bears should suffer than the President and the balance of us.

Still He Wants More.

He wants more of the profits of the trusts. He wants more of the profits of the monopolies.

ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION.

Amendments Proposed by the Democrats to the Bill Reported by the Republicans.

The Democratic members of the judiciary committee of the House of Representatives have made a minority report on the so-called Republican anti-trust bill. The report exposes how little the Republicans really desire to curb the trusts, for even on the questionable reform of publicity which President Roosevelt proposed as a main feature of the Republican program against the trusts, the report says: "It is now prescribed mainly for the trusts that may be, while as for the trusts that are the publicity remedy, may be administered to some of them, sometimes in broken doses, without being prescribed."

Several amendments are offered. One to require all the great corporations to make public that information which is deemed essential to the public welfare and to publish them if they do not. Also to provide that trust property, when transported from one state to another may be seized and condemned. Also that the following articles may be imported free of duty, when it is shown to the President that such are monopolized or controlled by a person or corporation:

1. Steel rails, structural steel, tin plate, iron pipe and other metal tubular goods; wire nails, cut nails, horse-shoe nails, barb wire, and all other agricultural tools and implements.

2. Borax, borate of lime and boracic acid.

3. Binding twine.

4. Paris green.

5. Paper and pulp for the manufacture of paper.

6. Salt.

7. Plate glass and window glass.

Amendments are also proposed to tax the trusts and to prevent rebates or special privileges.

Chamois is Dying Out.

Unless stricter game laws are introduced, the chamois is in serious danger of being exterminated in Switzerland.

If people were compelled to follow the advice they give there would soon be an advice famine.

BAD BACKS.

Had backs are found in every household.

A bad back is a back that's lame, weak or aching.

Most backache pains come from kidney derangements and should be promptly attended to.

Reach the cause of backache by relieving the kidneys and curing their ills.

Doan's Kidney Pills are for the kidneys only and cure the dangers of urinary and bladder disorders, from common inflammation, to Dropsy, Diabetes, Bright's disease.

Case No. 40,321.—Mr. W. H. Hamner, well-known builder, residing at 125 N. Hinde street, Washington C. H., Ohio, says: "I am glad to endorse a remedy which possesses such inestimable value as Doan's Kidney Pills. They cured me of inflammation of the bladder which had caused me much annoyance and anxiety because of the frequency and severity of the attacks. I have advised others to take Doan's Kidney Pills and I know they will not be disappointed in the result."

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cures Mr. Hamner will be mailed on application to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists. Price 50 cents per box.

The Gospel of Art.

Work thou for pleasure, paint, or sing, or carve

The thing thou lovest, though the body starve.

Who works for glory misses oft the goal;

Who works for money, coins his very soul.

Work for work's sake, then, and it may be

That these things shall be added unto thee.

—Kenyon Cox.

DO YOUR CLOTHES LOOK YELLOW?

If so, use Red Cross Bull Blue. It will make them white as snow. 3 ox. packages 5 cents.

Many of the people who live in glass houses go into politics and they don't seem to mind it a bit.—Puck.

DEFEANCE STARCH should be in every household, none so good, headier or more for 10 cents than any other brand of cold water starch.

A woman doesn't fully understand how essentially alike all men are until her boy gets old enough for other women to make a monkey of.—Puck.

If you don't get the biggest and best it's your own fault. Defiance Starch is for sale everywhere and there is positively nothing to equal it in quality or quantity.

Defiance Starch is put up 10 ounces in a package, 10 cents, one-third more starch for same money.

Justice only takes a man's part, but injustice takes it all.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, soothes the gums, reduces inflammation, always pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

Tell a man he mustn't, and he will; tell a woman she mustn't, and you'll see.—Life.

No muss or failures made with PUTNAM FADELESS DYES.

Love may laugh at boys, but politicians do not.

THE BEST RESULTS IN STARCHING can be obtained only by using Defiance Starch, besides getting 4 oz. more for same money—no cooking required.

According to the market reports Kentucky whiskey has gone up. Herefore it has made a specialty of going the other way.

An Amusing Verdict.

At Fort Scott (Kan.) the other day a jury in the district court returned a verdict finding a certain accused person guilty of larceny. The verdict had not been prepared in the technical form desired, and the judge sent the jury back to make the necessary corrections. The jury was gone for half an hour, and when it returned it brought in a verdict acquitting the prisoner. But a verdict even more amusing was perpetrated by a jury at Pittsburg last Monday. The case was a criminal one, and after a few minutes' consultation the jury fled into the box from its room. "Have you agreed upon a verdict?" asked the judge. "We have," responded the foreman, passing it over. "The clerk will read, said the judge. And the clerk read: "We, the jury, agree to disagree."

Excavation Near Pompeii.

Excavation will shortly be commenced in a marsh near Sannazzaro, on the River Sarno, in the vicinity of Pompeii, because it has been ascertained that a very ancient city and necropolis were buried underneath during the eruption of Vesuvius several centuries before the destruction of Pompeii. A collection already exists in the museum at Naples of great historic value, consisting of indigenous vases and ornamental objects dating from the eighth and ninth centuries before Christ. The excavations are expected to lead to other important discoveries.

A Bright Dog.

"Speaking about dogs," said Representative Beldler of Ohio, "I suppose I have the most intelligent fox terrier in the country, and he's only a puppy yet. The other day he spilled his milk and I caught his ears and clucked him out of the window. The next day, after he had spilled his milk again, he clucked his own ears and went and jumped out of the window."

ONLY TEN DOLLARS FOR THREE MONTHS' TREATMENT.

Dr. Richards & Van Camp of 1004 Franklin St., Omaha, Neb., testifies that their medicine is a long standing, local and constitutional medicine of Omaha. Their treatment is of catarrh of the nose, throat or lungs in ninety days or refound the nature. If you are suffering in any way call or write for further information.

If men were half as good as their obituaries the recording angel would have to look for another job.

A mother not spoken well of by her children is an enemy of the state; she should not live within the kingdom's wall.

START A STEAM LAUNDRY

Write us, Paradox Machinery Co., 181 E. Division St., Chicago.

As miles test the horse, so years test a remedy.

Mexican Mustang Liniment

Buy it now. has been curing everything that a good, honest penetrating liniment can cure for the past 60 years.

WINCHESTER

FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS

"New Rival" "Leader" "Repeater"

If you are looking for reliable shotgun ammunition, the kind that shoots where you point your gun, buy Winchester Factory Loaded Shotgun Shells: "New Rival," loaded with Black powder; "Leader" and "Repeater," loaded with Smokeless. Insist upon having Winchester Factory Loaded Shells, and accept no others.

ALL DEALERS KEEP THEM

If a person were to be met calmly on going to a friend's house, he would say: "The shore in the same, but the shell fish is not the same."

An Ideal Woman's Medicine.



So says Mrs. Josie Irwin, of 325 So. College St., Nashville, Tenn., of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Never in the history of medicine has the demand for one particular remedy for female diseases equalled that attained by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and never during the lifetime of this wonderful medicine has the demand for it been so great as it is to-day.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, and throughout the length and breadth of this great continent come the glad tidings of woman's sufferings relieved by it, and thousands upon thousands of letters are pouring in from grateful women saying that it will and positively does cure the worst forms of female complaints.

Mrs. Pinkham invites all women who are puzzled about their health to write her at Lynn, Mass., for advice. Such correspondence is seen by women only, and no charge is made.

LEWIS' SINGLE BINDER

STRAIGHTS-CIGAR ALWAYS RELIABLE

SYRUP OF FIGS

Acts Gently; Acts Pleasantly; Acts Beneficially; Acts truly as a Laxative.

Syrup of Figs appeals to the cultured and the well-informed and to the healthy, because its component parts are simple and wholesome and because it acts without disturbing the natural functions, as it is wholly free from every objectionable quality or substance. In the process of manufacturing figs are used, as they are pleasant to the taste, but the medicinal virtues of Syrup of Figs are obtained from an excellent combination of plants known to be medicinally laxative and to act most beneficially.

To get its beneficial effects—buy the genuine—manufactured by the

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.

Louisville, Ky. San Francisco, Cal. New York, N.Y.

For sale by all druggists. Price, fifty cents per bottle.