

Does his right hand know what his left hand doeth?

—Courtesy of The Commoner.

**TRUSTS CONTROL ALL**

**IMMENSE POWER OF THE TARIFF—FOSTERED MONOPOLIES.**

With a Combined Wealth of Over \$20,000,000,000 They Practically Direct the Business of the Country—Are Mostly Illegal Combinations.

When Congressman Littlefield, last year, had printed in the Congressional Record his list of 300 trusts, with nearly \$14,000,000,000 of capital, the country was startled at the exhibit. Now comes Mr. John Moody, a Wall Street publisher, with a new book entitled "The Trusts of the Country," which gives us even higher figures. Mr. Moody gives a classified list of the leading trusts in the United States. He gives us 218 important industrial trusts, controlling 5,238 plants, having a total capitalization outstanding of \$7,246,342,533. He enumerates 111 important franchise trusts (telephone, gas, electric light and street railway consolidations), controlling 1,336 plants, and having a total outstanding capitalization of \$3,733,456,075. He discusses the six great steam railroad groups with a total capitalization of \$9,017,686,907, and the ten allied independent railroad systems having a capitalization of \$330,277,000.

The great total of the capitalization of all the trusts considered in this book, industrial, franchise and transportation, is \$20,379,162,511. After mentioning the fact that there is in this country about \$50,000,000,000 of wealth outside of the trusts discussed in Mr. Moody's book, the Wall Street Journal of March 17th, makes the following very significant statement:

"It should not be overlooked that the trust wealth is the most important, in that it largely controls all other wealth. The trusts are in con-

**FOOLING THE VOTERS.**

**Republicans Promise Tariff Reform, but Do They Mean It?**

The Republicans of Minnesota have declared for tariff reform in a mild way. At the state convention to elect delegates to the Chicago convention the platform adopted declared "for modification of the tariff schedules to suit changing conditions" and "in favor of reciprocity treaties with other countries for mutual interest and to extend our markets." No doubt Iowa, Wisconsin and other Western states will make similar declarations, and Massachusetts and some Eastern states may declare for reciprocity, but all will declare, as did the Republicans of Minnesota, "for the protective policy of the Republican party." How can the tariff schedules be modified "to suit changing conditions" if the policy of protection is to be upheld? The Republican organs of protection are constantly denouncing those Republicans who even favor reciprocity, let alone tariff reform, and have been powerful enough to defeat the ratification of the reciprocity treaties that have been before the senate since 1859 and expired by limitation in 1892. Does that look like favoring reciprocity?

The protectionists and the trusts combined control all the Republican members of Congress, so that no bill for tariff reform has even been reported from the committee on ways and means. Does that look like favoring a "modification of the tariff schedules?" Those Republican members of Congress who promised in the last campaign they would favor tariff reform on those schedules that gave the trusts a monopoly have made no effort to redeem their promise, but have "stood pat" with the ultra protectionists and concluded that their political salvation depended on "letting well enough alone." The Protective Tariff League, backed by trust influence and money, has

**"DO EVERYTHING WELL," SAYS PRESIDENT OF C. R. I. AND P. ROAD**



Everything worth doing is important. Don't think you haven't a responsible position until you are promoted. Do everything well. —Benjamin L. Winchell.

The photograph and sketch are portraits of Benjamin L. Winchell, the newly elected president of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. The drawing was made by a staff artist of the Chicago Examiner, and shows the man who has just been ex-

**Knows Much of Russia.**  
Dr. Edward A. Steiner, professor of applied Christianity at Iowa college, Grinnell, who wrote the authorized American biography of Count Leo Tolstoy, is credited with knowing more about Russia and the Slavic world generally than any other living American. He is a native of Vienna, where he began his education. Later he was at Leipzig and Heidelberg, receiving from the latter the degree of doctor of philosophy.

**Women to Make Statue.**  
Miss Caroline Wood, daughter of a prominent St. Louis judge, has received the commission to make a statue of "The Spirit of Missouri" to surmount the dome of the Missouri building at the world's fair. The Missouri statue is her first large effort. Another woman sculptor whose work will be prominent at the fair is Miss Janet Scudder, a Terre Haute girl. Her work for the exhibition is a statue of President James Madison.

**Commoner Comment.**

**FORWARD, MARCH!**

How will the democratic party meet the present issues? Or, rather, how will the democratic party meet the present issue, for there is in reality only one issue, and that issue runs through all questions? The great and overshadowing question presented by all issues discussed is, Shall the corporations or the people control the government of the United States? Today the corporations are in absolute control. Even when the supreme court decides that the government has power to destroy the trusts, the attorney general rushes forward and assures the combination that the administration has no intention of disturbing them. The rule of these corporations is unlimited and complete. The president refuses to enforce the law as it stands, and the republican congress refuses to enact new legislation. The government is being used for the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many, officials are making money by the sale of their influence, and corruption is rampant in city, state and nation. The public conscience has been stupefied by commercialism until the grossest offenses against liberty and good government do not awaken the protest that ought to be made against even trivial departures from the path of rectitude. The government is used as a business asset by those who can control it and enormous campaign funds are contributed by the financiers of class legislation and distributed as bribes to the people. Republicans as well as democrats recognize the menace of such a condition, but when confronted with the acts of their own party, make but one reply: "But will the democratic party, if entrusted with power, do any better?" And to give force and reasonableness to their inquiry they point to the administration of Grover Cleveland. Whenever an attack is made upon republican wrongdoing, there is always a response from some republican, and that response is always the same: "You had your chance under Cleveland and you did the same." It is vain to point out the inconsistency of such an answer, vain to point out that the republicans rather than the democrats ought to shoulder the responsibility for Mr. Cleveland's administration. To the ordinary republican, Cleveland stands for democracy because he is the only democratic president we have had. They overlook the fact that his assistance gave the country a republican administration that followed in his footsteps as he followed in the footsteps of his republican predecessors.

Secretary Shaw, in a recent speech, emphasized the fact that Mr. Cleveland did nothing on the trust question. That is no justification of the inaction of the present administration, but it is a taking reply and imposes upon the democratic party the necessity of making democracy mean something entirely different from either Clevelandism or republicanism. The fact that the great duties which booted in 1896, but which still claim to be democratic, present Cleveland and Clevelandism as representing democratic principles and democratic aspirations, is a great embarrassment. It remains for the convention to show, as it has twice before, that these papers controlled by the influence that controls the republican party, do not speak for the democratic masses.

Just now the republicans are making merry over the merger decision, but what is there in it to cause exultation among republicans? Why does not the president enforce the law if the law is good? Why are the numerous great trusts allowed to continue business?

A Chicago business man makes the startling announcement that avarice is the basis of graft. This demands the attention of those who imagined that charity, or love, or patriotism, or something like that, was the real basis.

The time has gone by when the democratic party will nominate for president a man whose sole qualification is that nobody knows where he stands on the great issues of the day.

King Sally and King Schwab might flock together for a time and swap condonances.

The democratic platform will stand for something. The republican platform will be passed around as an argument for a cheerful compliance with the requirements of the trying-pan.

President Roosevelt fears that he will be unable to attend the St. Louis exposition. There will be no bear hunting there, and the visitors will be too busy to talk politics.

The republicans of Minnesota have declared in favor of tariff revision, but they still seem willing to entrust the work of revision to the people who profit by high duties.

**WHY INSOLENCES PREVAILS.**

The Financial Age, New York, talks interestingly on the subject of the merger decision. "The decision of the supreme court was not unexpected," says the Financial Age, and then it continues: "It cannot be doubted that some plan satisfactory to the present controlling interests will be devised whereby the ownership of the road will rest where it does at present. In addition to the plan for a liquidation of the company through a pro rata distribution of Great Northern and Northern Pacific stock to Northern Securities holders, there is now under advisement a further plan which would leave the Northern Securities company in existence. In accordance with this plan, the Northern Securities company would continue to hold either the shares of the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern and would give up to a trustee the shares of the road whose stock it decided to part with. Under this plan, if the company decided to hold Northern Pacific shares, the shares of the Great Northern would be turned over to a voting trustee and voting trust certificates would be distributed to Northern Securities stockholders. This plan, it was believed, could be carried out without infringing on the terms of the supreme court's decision." This sort of evasion is to be expected under existing circumstances. But if a few of the insolent violators of the anti-trust law were imprisoned, as the law directs, there would be less insolence and more regard for the rights of the public.

**REDUCING THE DINNER PAID.**

One hundred and ninety thousand miners in the soft coal district have voted to accept a wage reduction. While they have no legal cause of action against the republican leaders, they can justly complain at this reduction in the size of the dinner paid. In the face of present business conditions, they were probably wise to accept a reduction rather than strike, but can they be deceived again by the prosperity argument? With shrinking stocks, decreasing dividends and falling wages the republican campaign ammunition is likely to run short.

The press question is being discussed in congress and some of the members are denying that such favors influence representatives. Why do the railroads give passes if they do not expect a legislative return? The Commoner has already shown by the testimony of railroad officials that they expect pay in legislative favors. In some instances they have demanded a return of the pass when the holder has shown his independence. The railroad pass is one of the most demoralizing as well as insidious of all the means employed by corporations for the corrupting of officials.

The democrats of Nemaha county, Kansas, instructed their delegates to the state convention to vote for no man as national delegate who did not unqualifiedly support the Kansas City platform, and who will not vote "first, last and all the time for the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform." After the convention they organized a Strong Jefferson club.

Mr. Knox kindly tells the trusts that the administration "will not run amuck" with its prosecutions. The trusts would feel better if Mr. Knox would assure them that the "trying-pan" would also be held in abeyance.

Governor Cummins is laboring under the hallucination that republican promises mean something. This will explain the bovine hoos that greet the governor's animadversions on current political affairs.

The York (Neb.) Democrat, after listening to the chorus of the reorganizers, flares out that it is about a thousand croaky to one frog. Even though this be true, loyal democrats should not be less active.

That confirmation having been landed, General Wood will probably find it unnecessary to pacify any more of the already pacified Filipinos.

Republican Newspaper to the Trusts: Cease your extortion on print paper and we will overlook your oppression of the general public!

Reorganization will hardly be left to the eminent gentlemen who have been actively engaged in trying to spread demoralization.

No wonder the trusts would like "four more years of Grover." A corporation justice in place of Harlan could reverse the merger decision.

Men's eternal punishment for the eating of the forbidden fruit was having to pay for the clothes women wear because of it.

You can always tell a lady by the way she doesn't have to tell you so.



With falling wages and the cost of living the highest ever known, the position of the workman is not an enviable one.—New York Herald.

control of the transportation facilities of the country. They are practically in control of its banking facilities, and they control its main industrial systems. Through control of the banks, the railroads and the leading industrial companies, the directors of these trusts practically direct the business of the country, and when it is said that of the \$20,000,000,000 of trust capital in the United States, upwards of \$1,000,000,000 is held by one family, and that the greater amount is represented by a group of perhaps a dozen capitalists, one gets some conception of the immense power which is wielded in this country by a few capitalists.

The fact that the Wall Street Journal, and to some extent, also, Mr. Moody, attempts to justify the existence of these trusts is of no consequence. It is of great importance that nearly every one of the trusts, with over \$20,000,000,000 of capitalization, are illegal combinations and would probably be so declared, if they were brought to the bar of justice. Our easy-going attorney general, however, got frightened when he won a suit against one of them, really begun by the governor of Minnesota, and hastened to tell them that the government was not going to "run amuck" in its opposition to trusts. Wall street interpreted this statement, and other assurances that were said to come from the White House, to mean that there would be no more suits begun against these illegal and criminal trusts this year, and proceeded to buy up the prices of trust stocks. The Supreme Court decision was given on Monday; on Saturday the prices of these trust stocks closed higher than they had sold for many weeks before.

It is perfectly safe to say that the present occupant of the White House knows full well on which side of his Republican bread is the trust butter and that he will not do anything to greatly disturb the harmonious relations which have for many years existed between the Republican party and these hundreds of tariff-fostered and franchise trusts. Certainly not this year, if these great criminals show their appreciation for favors, as they usually do, by fattening the Republican campaign fund.

**BYRON W. HOLT.**

**Robbery by the Steel Trust.**  
A beautiful object lesson in the tariff for the American people is in the contract of a steel mill in the United States to deliver at Montreal 40,000 tons of rails for the Canadian Pacific railway at \$21.25 a ton. This, allowing for cost of delivery, is \$18 a ton at the mills, or \$10 a ton less than the cost to American purchasers of steel rails at the mill. The contract price to the Canadian Pacific railway left a margin of 64 per cent for the manufacturers, and all that is above this price is an iniquitous extortion upon American consumers which can be practiced only under cover of shamelessly exorbitant tariff.—Philadelphian Record.

whipped those members into line who promised tariff reform by threatening to fight their renomination or defeat them at the polls. How long the voters will continue to be fooled by promises and pay high trust prices, knowing that the trusts are exporting their products to foreign countries and selling those products for much less to the foreigner, remains to be seen. The platform promises of the Minnesota Republicans indicates the voters are tiring of trust extortion and may become weary of promises that are not redeemed.

**More Rotteness.**  
The Republican leaders are gradually being caught in the net set for grafters. Over one hundred Republicans were included in the Bristow report, a majority of whom will hardly succeed in attaining a coat of white-wash. When the Bristow report was under discussion, the Democrats made a motion for an investigation of the whole postoffice department, which was defeated by the Republicans, who claimed that there was nothing wrong except in the first assistant postmaster general's department. It now appears, from evidence produced, there is even greater rotteness in the department under the second assistant postmaster general. This was brought out in a speech by Hon. Robert Baker of Brooklyn, which will be found in the Congressional Record of March 18, on page 3603-4, in which he quotes from the Milwaukee Free Press, charges against Hon. J. W. Babcock of Wisconsin of collusion to defraud the government by padding the amount of the official weighing of the mails. The charges are supported by affidavits of those government employees who carried the mails and makes a very clear case against Mr. Babcock.

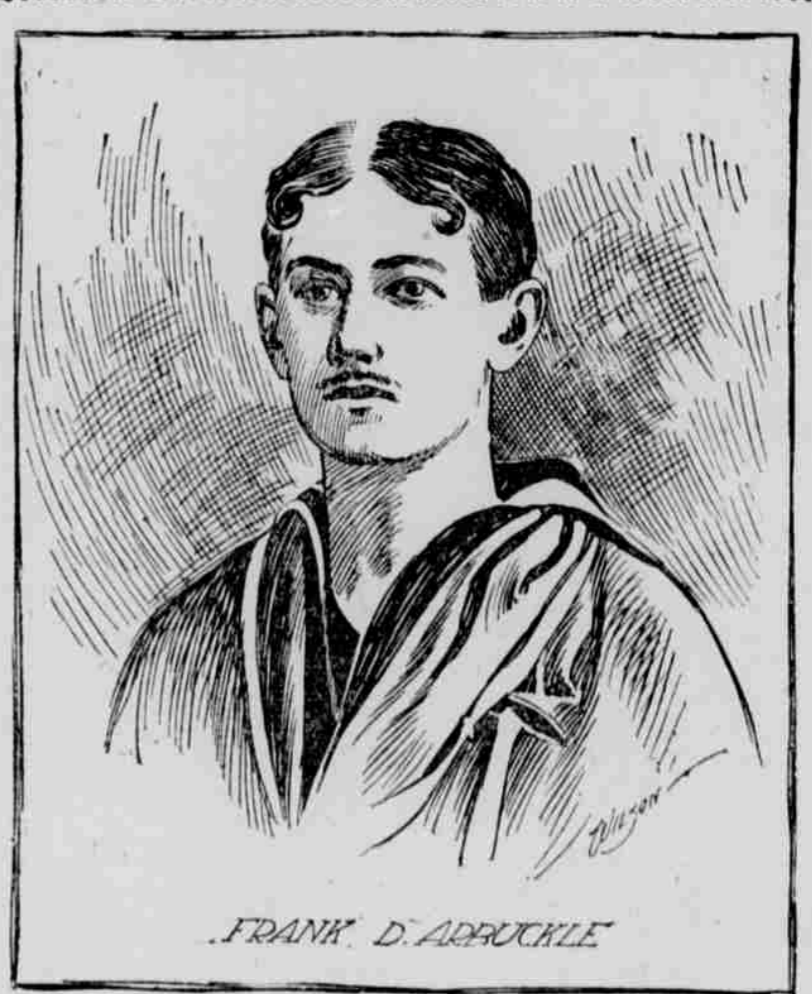
This is a very serious criminal charge and the more so as the newspaper printing it is Republican and Congressman Babcock cannot afford to allow it to pass without demanding an investigation. If he does not take that step, the Republican members of the House of Representatives will have to inaugurate it and expel him or themselves be classed with the grafters.

Congressman Babcock being the chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee stands forth as a shining light of the Republican party and as the acts charged against him were committed when in command of the party interests, the whole Republican party is involved, if it does not clear its skirts of him.

It would seem to be an admirable time to re-echo the Democratic cry of 1896—"Turn the rascals out!"

**Will Not Be Overlooked.**  
It's going to take something more than a statement from the white house to account for the criminal carelessness displayed in the failure to blue-pencil that part of the Bristow report touching on and appertaining to the shortcomings of 191 members of the house.—Louisville Times.

**FRANK D. ARBUCKLE OF ILLINOIS CHAMPION GUNNER**



Frank D. Arbuckle, who now has the distinction of being the champion gunner of the world, was born April 19, 1885, at Kingston, De Kalb county, Ill. He worked on his father's farm and attended the district school until his sixteenth year, when he entered the United States navy as an apprentice, where he served two and one-half years. At present he is on the cruiser Newark. He was in the recent engagement at Santo Domingo Feb. 3. In a recent target practice for championship he fired a six-inch gun twelve times in one minute and fifty-four seconds, hitting the target eleven times, thus breaking all previous records. The world's championship was heretofore held in England, the best record being the firing of a six-inch gun twelve times in two minutes, hitting the target nine times. The United States championship was held by a gunner from Wisconsin, but young Arbuckle, only 18 years of age, has given to Illinois the world's championship.

**Kaiser Decorates American.**  
George W. Boyd, general passenger agent of the Pennsylvania railroad, has received from Emperor William the Order of the Crown in recognition of various special acts of kindness to Prince Henry of Prussia, who visited this country two years ago. The distinction was conveyed to Mr. Boyd through the medium of Ambassador Baron von Sternburg. The Order of the Crown was instituted in 1861 by William I to commemorate his coronation as king of Prussia.

**Judge Once a Factory Hand.**  
Judge C. W. Raymond, recently appointed chief justice of the United States court of appeals in Indian Territory, was a factory hand in an interior town of Illinois twenty-five years ago. Joseph G. Cannon, now speaker of the house of representatives, became interested in the young man, induced him to study law and has remained a helpful friend. Judge Raymond was appointed to the federal court at Muskogee by President McKinley in 1901.

**American Professor Honored.**  
Prof. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick observatory in California, has been elected a foreign member of the Societa degli Spettroscopisti Italiani. This society consists of thirty Italian members and thirty foreigners. Prof. Campbell has been requested to serve on an honorary committee, presided over by the minister of public instruction for France whose purpose is to forward the project for erecting a monument to the eminent astronomer, Jerome Lalande, at Bona, the place of his birth.

**Dose Should Cure Anything.**  
Congressman Lacey of Iowa has made a great medical discovery and he loses no time in presenting it to the world. "It's a cure for pneumonia," says Mr. Lacey, "and it's a sure thing. Take six drops of asafetida, mix it into a drink of whisky and take it before going to bed. To be sure, you'll smell rather emphatically, but no pneumonia germ that ever came down the track can stand the fumes. They vacate in a hurry, and, really, I can't help admiring their judgment."