

scribed educational and property qualifications for their voters.

There is no likelihood of legislation upon the race question at the present session or in the next congress. The south can therefore devote itself to the consideration of national reforms—reforms in which the whole country is interested—reforms for the proper solution of which the intelligence and patriotism of the south as well as of the north are required.

President Loses First Bout

In the president's fight with the stand-patters he has lost the first bout. We were informed by the newspaper dispatches that the president was going to recommend tariff revision. The announcement caused a commotion among the manufacturers and pressure was at once applied. As the time approached for the message we were informed that the president had decided not to refer to the matter in the message but to deal with it later in a special message. Now we are informed that the president has decided not to call any special session of congress, which means that the matter goes over till next fall. By that time the manufacturers hope to stem the tide and prevent any consideration of the tariff question. While they would have little to fear from the appointment of a commission, still they probably think it better to exercise the influence that they have to prevent any stirring up of the question. Not being able to defend the present schedules they do not want the matter discussed, and in their first bout with the president they have scored a victory.

How will it be with the effort to amend the Interstate commerce commission? Will the railroad managers be as successful as the manufacturers seem to have been?

"Democratic Opportunity"

The Milwaukee Daily News, one of the most loyal democratic papers in the northwest, in speaking of the election says:

The lesson is plain enough. There is no "democratic opportunity" unless there is a democratic party to meet it. The name democratic does not make the democratic party democratic. To be democratic, it must be democratic in principle, democratic in purpose, and democratic in its acts, and have democratic leaders at the head and not corporation lawyers and railroad company directors.

When it compromises its principles, when it appeals to special interests, when it contemplates the betrayal of the people, it ceases to be democratic and invites its own destruction. Unless the democratic party of Wisconsin shall rid itself of the men that are now using it as a personal convenience, a trading stock for their own personal advantage, unless it shall purge and rehabilitate itself, its days of usefulness will have ended and its utter extinction will follow as surely as decomposition follows death.

The News is right and what it says of the party in Wisconsin can be said of the party in any state in the Union where it is willing to abandon its principles and the interest of the people. The News well says that there is no democratic opportunity unless there is a democratic party to meet it. The republican party gave the democratic party opportunity enough this year, but the democratic party did not take advantage of the opportunity. Another opportunity will be presented in 1908 and whether the party takes advantage of it or not will depend upon the manner in which the party rises to the occasion.

Even at the Hub

Thomas W. Lawson, who has recently made contribution to the gaiety of nations, has exploded a bomb, which, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer: "landed so near to the Boston state house that the detonation when it went off must have shaken the sacred codfish from his perch." Mr. Lawson says:

The Massachusetts legislature is bought and sold as are sausages and fish at the markets and wharves. That the largest, wealthiest and most prominent corporations in New England, whose affairs are conducted by our most representative citizens, habitually corrupt the Massachusetts legislature, and the man of wealth among them who would enter protest against the iniquity would be looked on as a

"class anarchist." I will go further and say that if in New England a man of the type of Folk of Missouri can be found who will give over six months to turning up the legislative and Boston municipal sod of the last ten years, who does not expose to the world a condition of rottenness more rotten than was ever before exhibited in any community in the civilized world, it will be because he has been suffocated by the stench of what he exhumes.

Mr. Lawson, as is pointed out by the Enquirer, gives names, dates and details to establish the truth of his statement. After relating how the legislature was bribed to carry through a bill the purpose of which was defeated by Governor Walcott's veto, Mr. Lawson concludes his narrative with the following interesting story:

Early next morning there came to my office two wild-eyed, desperate creatures, Towle and Mr. Patch. When I looked upon the big, powerful man, who had always seemed in any light in which I had heretofore beheld him to fear neither man nor God—when I looked and saw his plight I pitied him deeply, sincerely. He carried a large traveling bag, and Mr. Patch two others.

Lawson, for God's sake don't do what they are all doing—don't upbraid me! I've got to get out into the world and be dead to all I know—family, friends, every one. If I stay it's state's prison or worse, and Whitney says I must go. I've got all the papers together, and Whitney has given me what cash he had on hand, and this check of \$10,000. Do me one last favor—get me gold for it. I know I have no right to ask any favors of you, but think if you were in my place. I have a wife and children—" and the great, strong man wept like a child.

I called my secretary, and in a short time George Towle, with the \$10,000 in gold and bags of "evidence," faded out of my life and into the gray mist of eternity.

A few days after a vessel dropped anchor off the island of Jamaica. George Towle's body was carried ashore and buried, and Mr. Patch was escorted back to the ship. A few days later, with weights of lead to carry it to its last resting place on the ocean's bottom, the latter's dead body was dropped over the vessel's side. And somewhere floating the high seas is a venturesome sailor captain and a crew who, when in their cups, 'tis said, tell strange tales of bags of gold and queer documents.

Simultaneously the members of the great and good court of the old commonwealth of Massachusetts for the year of our Lord 1896 received, none of them could tell from where, their promised vote money in the form of a yarn that the "stuff" belonging to them had been delivered to George Towle, but that Towle had decamped with it to foreign shores, where he was living in luxury with Mr. Patch.

I sent two police officials to the island of Jamaica and had the contents of the coffin marked "George H. Towle" photographed. I could not photograph the contents of the ocean's bottom.

Whenever an anarchist's plot is laid bare, the people are shocked and yet the stories of the bribery of public officials and the debauchery of legislatures may be told and retold and many intelligent people are not in the least stirred, evidently accepting these deplorable features as part and parcel of the "destiny" that shapes our ends.

France Discussing Income Tax

The press dispatches announce that the French chamber of deputies has under consideration a bill establishing an income tax. At present there is a government tax on doors, windows and other evidences of personal property, and the sum of \$40,000,000 is raised from this tax. The new measure removes such taxes, provides for the raising of about \$20,000,000 by a tax on individual incomes and \$12,000,000 by a tax on real estate rentals. The income tax is a graduated one. The incomes under \$500 are entirely exempt and the rate gradually increases on incomes up to \$4,000 a year, the rate being 2 per cent on incomes above that amount. The tax applies to foreigners having furnished residences in France.

The dispatches announce that "strong opposition to the measure is developing on the ground that it will drive out capital." It seems from the last sentence that "capital" is about as timid in France as it is in this country, for this is the

argument always made against compelling capital to pay its share of the expenses of the government. Nearly all the other nations of Europe have an income tax, and the fact that the present administration in France is presenting this measure is a good sign. It is only a question of time when the income tax will be a part of our fiscal system in spite of the fact that "capital" opposes it here as it does everywhere.

Two Friends Die.

The editor of The Commoner is called upon to mourn the loss of two highly esteemed friends, Hon. Chauncey Black of York, Pa., and Judge W. T. Mooney of St. Marys, Ohio.

Mr. Black was a son of Judge Jerry Black, the famous Pennsylvania democrat, and was himself a man of great learning and culture. In 1896 he was president of the association of democratic clubs in the United States, and has taken an active part in politics for many years. His fidelity to democratic principles and his ability in presenting them made him a conspicuous figure in the party. His place will not be easily filled.

Judge Mooney was a man of great force of character and of commanding influence in his state. He was ever at his place and ready for every political task laid upon him. His election to the judgeship was a deserved recognition of his professional ability and of his political standing. The democratic party in Ohio has lost one of its pillars by his death.

An Iowa Idea

A very busy lawyer living in Iowa writes to The Commoner the following self-explanatory letter: "Yours containing subscription cards numbering from 59,676 to 59,725, inclusive received, and I beg to say that I have placed a few in circulation, I have now thirty-one of them sold, I sold them to my friends here at the same rate you are to receive, sixty cents each, and I herewith enclose the thirty-one cards numbering from 59,676 to 59,706 inclusive, with each subscribers name thereon and present postoffice address, also draft No. 116,334 for the sum of \$18.60 in full payment of said subscriptions for one year. I hope to secure sale for the remainder of the fifty cards I received in a few days. Best wishes for success of the cause which you are advocating."

This may provide a hint to others who desire to enlarge The Commoner's sphere of influence by increasing its circulation.

According to the terms of this offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

The coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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