

The Commoner. ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Entered at the Post Office at Lincoln, Neb., as second-class matter

Table with subscription rates: One Year \$1.00, Six Months .50, Three Months .25, Single Copy .05, Foreign Postage 52 Cents Extra.

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"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."—Lincoln.

Prosperity Items

The Iron Age, of New York, in its issue of March 11, says: "Announcement of wage reductions in the iron industry are becoming more numerous and others are about to be made. It is evident that this phase of the readjustment has only been fairly entered upon, and it may be expected that the process will be thorough, affecting every operation from the mining of ore to the rolling of the finished product.

Brockton, Mass., March 8.—(Special to the Washington, D. C. Star.)—The factories of the W. L. Douglas Shoe company resumed their customary activity today with the return of the 425 stitchers who had been on strike since March 1, causing the enforced idleness of about 1,650 operatives. At a conference between the strikers and their employers last Saturday a satisfactory agreement was effected, but the terms were not made public.

Phoenixville, Pa., March 8.—(Special to the Washington, D. C., Star.)—A reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of the employes of the Phoenix Iron company went into effect today. About 3,000 men are affected. All departments except the draughtsmen and general office force are included in the cut. The Phoenix Iron company is one of the biggest of the independent concerns. The large plant of the company has been improved in the last year, but this winter has been the dullest the town has felt for many years.

Woodbine, N. J., March 8.—(Special to the Washington, D. C., Star.)—Several persons were injured today in a riot growing out of the strike at the hat factory here when a crowd of about 400 set upon a dozen men who had continued working in the hat shop. Stones, bricks and other missiles were thrown. During the rioting a revolver was fired and Abraham Willert, one of the men attacked, was struck by a brick hurled by some one in the crowd of rioters and

rendered unconscious. Several others were hit by missiles before they succeeded in getting clear of their assailants. None was seriously injured, however. The attack is said to have grown out of a refusal of the dozen men to quit their employment in the hat shop. When the disturbance had been quelled the shop was closed for the day.

Dr. R. E. Layton of Washington, D. C., writes: "With due regard to Mr. Taft and his party, I would not intentionally belittle either of them. But in the name of their arguments put forth last fall, how can such things come to pass? Can you explain to your readers why we are having strikes and reduction in wages just now? Can some of the people be fooled all the time or all the republicans fooled all the time by supporting such policies?"

"PROBLEMS"

Several weeks ago Mrs. W. Cartwright of Wilber, Neb., sent to The Commoner the following "problem:"

The number of fish Christ used in feeding the five thousand may be figured thus: Add to the number of letters in the name of the first Christian martyr the number of the chapter in the book of Isaiah that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading when Philip went up in his chariot; subtract the number of letters in the name of the mountain on which Moses died; divide by number of letters in the name of the woman who was one of the fifteen judges of Israel; multiply by the number of letters of the first king of the divided kingdom of Judah; add the number of letters in the name of the man who built the first temple; subtract the number of letters in the name of the man who led the Israelites across the Red Sea; add the number of pieces of furniture found in the court of the tabernacle, and subtract the number of books in the Bible; this will give the number of fishes Christ used in feeding the five thousand.

Ella G. Meador writes: "Seeing the problem in your last issue, I have solved it as I understand it. I have worked it as follows: Number of letters in the word Stephen, 7; the Ethiopian eunuch was reading 53rd chapter, total 60. Subtract 4, number of letters in Mount Nebo, equals 56; divide by 7, number of letters in the word Deborah, leaves 8; multiply by 8, number of letters in the name Rehoboam, equals 64; add 5, number of letters in word David, equals 69; subtract 5, number of letters in word Moses; leaves 64; add 4, pieces of furniture in the court of the tabernacle, equals 68; subtract 66, number of books in the Bible, leaves 2, the number of fishes Christ used in feeding the five thousand."

S. T. Kirtley, Fredericksburg, Va., writes: "I see by my last Commoner, under the head of "fish problem," quite a number of replies. I am glad to see some space in The Commoner allowed to short questions on the Bible. I am 70 years old and thought much on Bible subjects, and do here beg space in The Commoner to present a problem to such of its readers as may be fond of reasoning from definite statements to definite conclusions. The problem is as follows: According to Zechariah 9-9, Matt. 21-7, Mark 11-7, Luke 19-35, John 12-14, when Jesus made his grand entry into Jerusalem did He ride on only one, or two asses? Please give the above question a place in your paper and we may see what present day commentators will do with it. Fifteen hundred years ago they differed on it. Origen of old said Jesus rode on two asses."

A NEW VERSION

The Bible tells us of a feast that was spread by a happy father when his prodigal son returned, repentant, but the Iroquois club of Chicago has given us a new version of the story. It gives a banquet to the prodigal as he leaves his father's house, boastful and arrogant.

Former Mayor E. F. Dunne, of Chicago, was invited to a dinner given to Jacob L. Dickinson, the new war secretary, by the Iroquois club, a democratic organization. Judge Dunne declined to attend the dinner. In a letter addressed to the president of the Iroquois club, Judge Dunne said:

"If the reception and dinner were tendered to Judge Dickinson by citizens, irrespective of party and party affiliations, I would be pleased to attend, as I have the highest respect for Judge Dickinson. As the reception and dinner, however, is tendered to him by a club which has always claimed to be an exclusively democratic organization, at a time when he (Judge

Dickinson) has publicly abandoned the democratic party and entered the ranks of the republican party, I can not consistently attend, and must respectfully protest, as a member of this club, against tendering such an honor at such a time and under such circumstances. If Judge Dickinson supported Judge Taft for the presidency, he abandoned the democratic party in the late campaign and became a republican. If he did not support Judge Taft for the presidency his acceptance now of a position in the cabinet is a public announcement of his allegiance to and accordance with the principles of the republican party and a repudiation and an abandonment of the democratic party and its principles."

Bravo, Judge Dunne! A non-partisan dinner is one thing, but it is quite another story for a democratic club to give a complimentary banquet to one of its members when he declares that he has not been in the habit of supporting the ticket in recent years. And to make matters worse the honor is done the member just as he signalizes his abandonment of his party by accepting a cabinet position under a republican president.

There is only one excuse that could be offered—the club might thus give evidence of its delight to have the party relieved of the presence of the new secretary of war. A man whose corporate connections can draw him out of the democratic party is a burden, and his open departure is a blessing even if it did require a cabinet position to give publicity to a bolting that had become chronic.

The Iroquois club has many loyal democrats among its members but it will not strengthen its position in the party by doing honor to one who first pawned his political principles for a corporate salary and then sold the redemption check for a cabinet office.

DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER MEN ATTENTION The following letter explains itself: "Marion, Kan., March 4.—To the Editor of The Commoner: I know of a number of openings in Kansas for democratic weekly newspapers and I wish you would ask democratic newspaper men who are looking for locations to write me. Very truly yours, H. S. MARTIN, Chairman Kansas Democratic State Central Committee."

ALWAYS—ALTHOUGH

Former Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, declined to participate in a banquet given by a democratic club to Jacob M. Dickinson, the new secretary of war, on the ground that Mr. Dickinson had gone over to the republican party and that it was "highly inconsistent if not ridiculous for a democratic organization to extend its congratulations to a member who has abandoned the party."

Associated Press dispatches say: "Judge Dickinson flatly denied Mr. Dunne's allegation. 'I have always been a democrat and am still one,' he said, adding, after a moment, 'although I did not vote for Bryan.'"

In other words Mr. Dickinson has "always been a democrat"—"although" he did not vote the democratic national ticket in 1896, 1900 and 1908.

It may be said that the republican party is "paved" with such democrats as that.

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

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of any traveling companion. With its cotton fields and factories, its fruit and flowers—and above all with its lofty and uncompromisable principles, the south asks no favor and begs no one for fellowship.

The people of the south are not wanting in independence of thought. They are not terrified into being "solid." They do not divide, simply because they are honestly agreed. It has not been for a sham solidarity, forced upon them by intolerance, that they have contended in peace and war. Such a view of them is shallow and misleading. The south is solid first and most of all in the sacred things which lie deeper down in the soul than passing policies and transient expedients of party politics. The southern people are one in heart; and I mistake them very much if they do not so remain for years to come. W. A. CANDLER.