

The Commoner.

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The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of July. Take advantage of this offer at once and send in your renewal.

Practical Tariff Talks

The oils and chemical schedule of the new tariff law, notwithstanding the reductions made in certain items, carries a total increase of 5.63 per cent. In this schedule twenty-two items were increased and eighty-one reduced. There were four times as many reductions as there were increases, and yet if the duties levied in this law were applied to the actual importations in the last available year—1907—the revenue would have been \$650,000 more than was actually paid under the Dingley law then in force, an increase of almost 6 per cent. Fifteen acids paid, under the Dingley law in 1907, as duty, the sum of \$87,704. There are seventeen acid items in the new law, and the estimated revenue, computed by the finance committee of the senate, will be \$206,980. Oxalic acid, formerly on the free list, now taxed at 2 cents a pound, is so largely consumed that the tax on this one item alone is \$146,000. It is the only increase in the acid paragraphs, and by taxing it, nearly \$120,000 has been added on the seventeen acids. Of these seventeen acid items eight were reduced and eight unchanged. If oxalic acid had been allowed to remain on the free list the reduction in these acid items would have been 22 per cent instead of there being more than double the total duty levied.

The interests of the consumer were not under consideration when this schedule was made up. In order to make him believe they were, Mr. Payne has been claiming that the decreases were on necessities and the increases on luxuries. In the list of acids he includes these: Acetic, acetic anhydrous, boracic, chromic, citric, lactic, sulphuric, tannic, gallic, tartaric, formic and others. All of these he lists as necessities of life. How much of any of them do you buy in a year? Not very much, a quarter's worth possibly. The truth is that all of these acids are bought in large quantities by manufacturers,

who use them in their processes, and it was in their interest, be it remembered, this law was fashioned and passed.

Some very wise men—or some heavily interested men—must have revised this schedule. Look at these facts: \$373,000 worth of camphor is yearly imported, but there was no change in this item, while borax, of which there is but \$48,000 imported, was reduced from 5 to 2 cents a pound. The borax trade is monopolized. Coal tar colors valued at over five and a half millions were imported in 1907, but no reduction was made in this item, while in that of chloroform, imported to the value of \$2,000 a year, a reduction was made. Over two and a half million dollars of glycerin are yearly imported, but there was no reduction in this item. We import \$80,000 worth of licorice, and this was reduced. Licorice is largely used by the tobacco trust to flavor its products. The oil trust controls the linseed oil trade. On this item there was a reduction, but none is noted in the case of these used by the masses, castor oil, cod-liver oil, fish oil, fusel oil and hemp seed oil—importations yearly, \$2,250,000. Which do you buy most of, linseed or castor oil?

Schedule B, earthenware and glass, contains 187 items, an increase of seventeen over the Dingley law. Of these 46 are reduced, 12 are increased and 112 unchanged. The net reduc-

tion on this schedule, which covers yearly importations of over fifteen million dollars, is \$60,000, or 32-100ths of one per cent. The senate committee classifies two-thirds of these items as necessities and one-third as luxuries. Marble is listed as a necessary and onyx as a luxury, yet there was no reduction whatever in rough marble, the only item under which there are large importations, while onyx is reduced from \$1.50 per cubic foot to 65 cents, the same as marble. Cheap spectacle glasses pays a 96 per cent tariff, while agate, classed as a necessary, is taxed at 50 per cent. China ware is classed as a luxury, and on the ten items or subdivisions, the tax runs from 48 to 60 per cent. Common earthenware is also heavily taxed, 25 to 35 per cent, notwithstanding the fact that American potters have this field to themselves and could undersell the foreigner if the stuff were on the free list. There is a slight reduction on common glass, not enough to affect the price to the householder, but enough to enable the republican stump speakers to include this large production in the group of goods reduced by the tariff. C. Q. D.

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The Commoner's Million Army

The congressional campaign upon which we are entering is exceptionally important. This campaign involves more than the control of the next house of representatives; it will have a most important bearing on the presidential election of 1912. If we gain control of congress and then find that the predatory interests are in control of enough democrats to prevent the adoption of an aggressive program, we shall be defeated in advance. If congress is to be democratic in name, it must be democratic in fact.

Put none but the faithful on guard. The privileged classes never sleep; their agents are always at work. If a weak corporation republican is nominated in a republican district, they at once set about to nominate a corporation democrat against him, so that a defeat of the republican party will still be a victory for the interests. If a republican revolts against servile surrender to the favor-seeking corporations, the corporation republicans immediately take the democrats up to the mountain top and offer them the earth if they will but nominate some democrat who wears the corporation collar. Be not deceived. Democracy is not satisfied with office-holding; it is content with nothing less than the enforcement of a creed—a democratic creed applied to government.

The Commoner is doing what it can to protect the wealth-producing masses from exploitation, and it deserves your co-operation if you approve of its policy and are satisfied with its efforts. But The Commoner has infinitely more interest in the success—real success—of democratic principles than it has in its subscription list. Whether you are now or ever shall become a subscriber to The Commoner, you are invited to join with the readers of this paper in the attempt to secure democratic candidates who will

honestly and boldly stand for a definite platform specifically outlining the reforms demanded by the people.

Daniel Jones, Iowa.—I enclose herewith my check to pay for club of subscribers herewith. Please send me more of The Commoner's Million Army blank applications.

William Fisher, Iowa.—I have your letter and in reply will say that I shall certainly try to raise a nice club for The Commoner's Million Army. I am always willing to do all that I can for Mr. Bryan and his cause.

Horatio Roush, Ohio.—I am glad to see a blank in your publication for membership in The Commoner's Million Army. I am now a subscriber and desire to be a member of this great army. Will secure additional members in this community.

John L. Holden, Iowa.—I enclose signed enlistment in The Commoner's Million Army. Whatever influence I may have will be given to the kind of democracy of which The Commoner is the ablest exponent. Defeats in the past have not discouraged me, nor moved me a hair's breadth from democratic principles.

J. H. Ventrees, Ky.—I will get up a club for The Commoner's Million Army just as soon as I can. I want both The Commoner and the American Homestead. I think the dear old Commoner is the best paper for everybody to read that has ever come to my notice and I wish that all democrats as well as republicans would carefully read The Commoner every week; it would enable them to cast an intelligent ballot.

Let every Commoner reader ask his neighbor, "Have you joined The Commoner's Million Army?" Let every Commoner reader lend a hand to this particular effort at democratic organization. A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together, will bring great results.

APPLICATION BLANK
The Commoner's Million Army
I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization.
Signed
Address
With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead). If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.