

pressed the views of the intelligent laboring men, as he did the views of the general public, when he said:

"Above all and beyond all, the leader intrusted with the conduct of a strike must be alert and vigilant in the prevention of violence. The strikers must be made constantly aware of the imperative necessity of remaining peaceable. \* \* \* Under no circumstances should a strike be allowed to degenerate into violence. \* \* \* A single act of violence, while it may deter a strike-breaker or a score of them, inflicts much greater and more irreparable damage upon the party giving than upon the party receiving the blow. \* \* \* It is sometimes claimed that no strike can be won without the use of physical force. I do not believe that this is true, but if it is, it is better that the strike be lost than that it succeed through violence and the commission of outrages. The cause of unionism is not lost through any strike or through any number of strikes, and if it were true that all strikes would fail if physical force could not be resorted to, it would be better to demonstrate that fact and to seek remedy in other directions than to permit strikes to degenerate into conflicts between armed men. \* \* \* The employers are perfectly justified in condemning as harshly as they desire the acts of any striker or strikers who are guilty of violence. I welcome the most sweeping denunciation of such acts, and the widest publicity that may be given to them by the press."

THE CHANGING TIDE OF POLITICS

Those who have memories encompassing the campaign of 1908 will remember that during Mr. Bryan's memorable speaking tour he took occasion to advocate the limiting of any concern to fifty per cent of the country's production in any line. He proposed this that monopoly in that line might be prohibited. The proposition was received with ridicule by our business guardians. Now, E. H. Gary, of the United States Steel Corporation, comes forward with the same plan, but puts the percentage at 60. His company now produces 55 per cent of the steel products of the country. His proposition will be received by those who scoffed at that offered by Mr. Bryan as a good business regulation. If this purloining of democratic doctrine continues during the next decade as it has during the last, the democratic party will soon have nothing left that it can call its own but the rooster.—Indianapolis New Era.

McDERMOTT'S VOTE

John C. Hamm, Los Angeles, Cal: At the bottom of the right hand column, page two, in the issue of April 21st, The Commoner charges Mr. McDermott with having voted against the election of United States senators by direct vote. This is in accordance with the Associated Press dispatch of the day on which the vote was taken. It seems to have escaped your notice that the next day Mr. McDermott arose in his place in the house and asked to have the correction made in the record according to the fact that he had intended fully, and wished to be recorded, as voting in favor of the amendment. This correction should be made not only in justice to Mr. McDermott, but as showing that not a single democrat in the house of representatives voted against the Rucker resolution.

Practical Tariff Talks

Readers of The Commoner have noticed in the daily papers the record of the proceedings instituted by the government against the sanitary enamelware trust. This organization, composed of sixteen different manufacturers of goods embraced in the list of plumbing supplies for modern houses, is one of the comparatively recent feats of modern finance. It is another one of the trusts made possible by high tariffs, but the enamelware business seems to be so large that it can afford two different trusts. During the hearing before the ways and means committee of the house in 1909, a very thorough exposition was given of the conditions which make possible a monopolization of this industry. The raw material of the business is steel, and the trade is protected by a forty-five per cent tariff which is several times the average protection given by the steel schedule. A sharp division of the business between those factories

which make sanitary appliances and those which make household articles has permitted a trust in each line.

There are twenty-eight factories in this country which manufacture this enamelware and about 15,000 working people are employed in the industry. The product embraces a great variety of useful articles made of steel which has been stamped or worked into shape, coated with a glaze and then fired in an oven from one to four times to harden the glaze. The articles produced range from the dinner pail of the workman to numerous kitchen and household articles, such as sauce-pans, kettles, wash-basins, milk-pans, dippers, etc., and hygienic utensils for hospital and medical use, such as hospital trays, bed pans, pus basins, sterilizers, medicine cups, bandage baskets and the like. All of these articles belong to the list of necessities, and the fact that a republican congress, with full knowledge of the facts, would continue a protection that placed the price control in the hands of a few men, demonstrates the remarkable method of tariff making and points out a clear path of duty to the new democratic house.

A glance backward over the history of this enamelware schedule shows how deliberately tariff makers in the past have gone about the business of creating conditions favorable to the formation of trusts. Under the tariff act of 1894 a duty of thirty-five per cent ad valorem was fixed upon these goods, then just coming into general use. The effect was to tremendously increase the domestic production. When Mr. Dingley and his friends set about the remaking of the schedules they ignored the fact that the thirty-five per cent duty was accomplishing all that protection is supposed to provide, and raised the rate to forty per cent on the finished article. This raise was followed by a large amount of new capital going into the business, but instead of this bringing about those competitive conditions under which the consumer profits, nearly all of the companies had, within two years, gone into a trust. This trust, which operates under the title of the National Enameling & Stamping Co., does seventy per cent of the business of the United States, and has been the dominating factor for ten years, raising prices and depreciating the product.

This trust, for some reason or another, seems to have been more fortunate than those enamel ware manufacturers who have been making bath tubs, lavatories, sinks and laundry supplies. It has not been prosecuted. The high duty on the raw material gives all that business to the steel trust, while the high duty on the finished product enables the trust to fix prices as it pleases, subject to the national trade limitations that if it asks too much or turns out too poor a product it invites importation. The figures, however, show that the importations, notwithstanding Germany has been turning out a very good article and has been pushing its sale in our market from only about from seven to ten per cent of the entire consumption in the United States. C. Q. D.

WATCH IT GROW

Mr. Bryan has given instructions that every new subscriber shall receive The Commoner for a period of two years (which will carry it beyond the presidential election of 1912) for the sum of one dollar. Every Commoner reader is asked to secure at least one new subscriber. Many will be able to secure more than one. Everyone, however, may render some aid in this work. Following are sample letters:

H. Woodruff, Nebraska—Enclosed find \$8.00 to pay for eight two-year 1912 special educational campaign subscriptions at \$1.00 each.

R. V. McDermott, Oklahoma—As a member of the democratic executive committee on the last presidential campaign I assisted in circulating The Commoner and consider it the most effective campaign literature used. Our vote in the county was increased over 150 of previous majority in presidential election. I heartily approve of the course taken by The Commoner in regard to candidate and platform next year.

New subscribers have been sent in in numbers as follows: Wm. H. Hamlett, W. Va., 10; Jno. H. Cochran, Tex., 5; Louis Henne, Tex., 5; Jacob Bandfield, N. Y., 7; L. M. Hilbish, Kan., 5; J. E. Watts, Kan., 5; J. L. Wheaton, O., 6; A. M. Clark, Okla., 5; W. R. Herteg, Mo., 14; Peter Hahn, Ind., 13; J. B. D. Evon, Cal., 5; J. W. Crawford, Ky., 5; G. M. Horne, Ky., 5; Gilbert Faber, Ill., 5; Jas. Foley, Ill., 6; F. A.

“MOST DEPLORABLE FAILURE” Philadelphia North American, republican: From Alaska to Mexico and in Washington every day the same spirit of special privilege is making the Taft administration the most deplorable failure in American history.

- Smith, Kan., 10; W. W. Kessler, Mo., 6; T. W. Huston, Mo., 5; Jas. Lindsay, Mich., 6; Col. W. H. Conrad, O., 7; M. A. McAuliffe, Cal., 8; Wm. Conrad, Ind., 11; Allen J. Goddall, Mich., 9; Jno. C. Smith, Okla., 5; Wm. H. Shaler, Pa., 6; Martha R. Haven, Cal., 5; Sapa Pitman, Neb., 5; Jas. E. Warren, N. C., 5; Geo. Beamer, Mo., 6; D. W. Mugan, Ia., 5; E. G. Smith, Ia., 9; Lewis Stentz, O., 5; Allen R. Brown, Wash., 8; Q. C. Righter, Ill., 5; J. M. Lamar, Mo., 9; A. E. Clark, Me., 5; D. E. Biggs, W. Va., 6; J. T. Quinn, Md., 8; Jens. Davidson, Wis., 6; W. H. Pearce, Tex., 5; D. Guthrie, Neb., 8; Wm. H. Anthony, Ind., 6; J. O. Shilling, O., 5; C. J. DeJean, Wis., 5; J. E. Candolfa, S. D., 7; J. B. McGinley, Neb., 6; Peter A. Rigden, Mo., 5; Lloyd Johnson, Kan., 5; J. C. Reams, Ia., 6; J. J. Kramer, Ia., 9; D. S. Churchill, Ia., 6; C. B. Coe, Okla., 5; W. T. McClard, Cal., 6; W. S. Ives, Minn., 5; W. C. Marshall, Cal., 6; Ben P. Porter, Colo., 5; L. E. Ickes, O., 5; R. E. L. Yankee, Mo., 5; J. W. Cline, Mo., 5; H. C. Dray, Ore., 5; G. W. Dalby, Ill., 8; J. W. Headen, Ga., 7; J. V. Wayman, Cal., 5; G. E. Weeks, Ia., 6; P. C. Schlytter, Wis., 8; Geo. W. Ferguson, Ia., 5; Ralph W. Meyer, Mo., 6; F. J. Steidl, Minn., 8; T. A. Berry, Kan., 6; A. D. Morgan, Mo., 7; Geo. O. Mathews, Tex., 8; Dr. M. A. Richards, N. Y., 5; Geo. W. Goode, Ky., 6; Aug. Soderstrom, S. D., 12; Jno. Higly, Ind., 5; J. F. Busey, Cal., 7; J. T. West, Mo., 7; J. W. Hamilton, Tex., 5; J. N. Walker, Va., 6; D. P. Weems, Mo., 5; G. T. Jones, Mo., 5; S. H. Myers, Ky., 5; D. T. McMullen, Fla., 6; S. R. Durbin, Ky., 6; C. E. Layman, Va., 5; Jas. C. Miller, Ind., 10; Chas. F. Jenks, S. D., 5; D. H. Rush, S. C., 8; H. S. Weary, Neb., 9; E. B. Perry, Miss., 13; T. L. Hungerford, Cal., 6; Thos. Peters, Ill., 6; Chas. F. Hood, Ala., 5; M. P. McGraw, W. Va., 6; Fred H. Sinclair, Ill., 5; Andrew McMehen, Mo., 6; J. E. Eyrat, Cal., 7; Lewis Straight, O., 5; Dr. Chas. P. Lashelle, Pa., 6; M. V. Hudson, O., 5.

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