

torial states in a very concise manner the exact understanding we democrats, in this section have of the political situation. We do not look upon your work as that of a dictator, but rather as the work of a protector.

Personally, I will say that I have supported you and the ticket in all of your campaigns for the presidency and believe, though we have lost insofar as offices and control are concerned, that we have been the means of educating the people of our country. And believe that in the near future, our labors will be rewarded by the electing to official positions of men who will not be sold, body and soul, to the special interests, and that then the common people will come into their own. Yours truly,

I. L. HUBBELL.

Editorial in Grand Rapids (Mich.) News: Whoever may be the coming democratic presidential nominee—Wilson, Clark, Folk, Marshall, Foss, or someone not yet considered a possibility—it is risking little to name two men who will not get it.

The nominee will be neither Harmon nor Bryan. The latter, because he has repeatedly declared he will not be, and the former because the rank and file of the democracy class him with the reactionaries.

It is not too much to say that neither Harmon nor any other man whose nomination Bryan opposes as he does the Ohio governor, stands any probable chance of nomination—nor, if by any fluke nominated, any possible chance for election.

For dislike and chafe as they may over it, and as do many if not most of the democratic leaders in congress and leading democratic journals quite generally, the fact remains that the Nebraskan dominates his party today more completely than ever before—and this because more than ever before he commands the confidence and reflects the radical views of the great mass of its voters.

It is worth noting, too, that the popularity or unpopularity of the democratic presidential aspirants is conspicuously in proportion to their acceptance or rejection of the Bryan political program—which reflects the views of the great mass of the rank and file of the democracy.

Is the Nebraskan, then, a party dictator? In a sense, yes—but only because the policy he dictates is that in which the voting masses of his party earnestly believe. Should, however, he commit himself to "Baileysism," or other reactionary policy Bryan would be as powerless to dominate his party as the Texas senator has lately proved himself to be.

#### WATCH IT GROW

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.

The following named readers have sent in new subscribers: Alex Butler, Ind.; B. B. Garrett, Tex.; F. M. Staley, Neb.; W. H. Fisch, Mich.; F. D. Hornbaker, Kan.; Mrs. P. Loveman, Okla.; L. McReynolds, Neb.; Joe Williams, Wash.; J. T. Rhyno, O.; A. G. Foogman, N. D.; H. R. Dickinson, Mich.; Roger Williams, Mo.; J. R. Artherholt, Pa.; T. J. Brownson, Ill.; L. A. Ellis, Nev.; S. W. Warfield, Ark.; J. P. Hedges, Mo.; J. H. Crumley, Neb.; Mrs. Peter Mell, O.; Oscar Packard, Minn.; Jeff Kennedy, Kan.; Albert A. Mann, Colo.; Mrs. M. B. Pullen, Ia.; F. Grantham, Ill.; E. S. Scudder, Ill.; Wadley Bros., Ark.; Frank McKinney, Ind.; Dr. J. N. Metcalf, Tenn.; J. B. Alexander, Mo.; Thos. Carmony, Ind.; R. P. Hargrove, Okla.; B. B. Fichtner, Pa.; D. Hays, Cal.; H. N. Peckham, Ia.; J. W. Hedges, N. Y.; W. H. Baker, Ill.; Enoch Baker, W. Va.; Wm. H. Carr, Mo.; J. C. Holcomb, Tex.; O. C. Stewart, O.; Jas. Daniels, Ia.; C. C. Sherman, Mo.; P. J. Webber, Wis.; J. G. Shafer, Neb.; S. F. Douglas, Ill.; H. L. Case, Ind.; Jacob Väder, Kan.; P. McCullough, Minn.; A. N. Huffnab, Kan.; A. J. Anders, Ia.; J. S. Buttner, Ia.; J. D. Loomis, O.; Gregg Williams, Mich.; E. M. Scott, Mo.; J. A. Johnson, Ill.; W. B. Van Horn, Ia.; Jno. Bachtler, W. Va.; E. E. Pendergrass, Ark.; A. L. Ronell, Ia.; E. W. Daws, Neb.; J. F. Karraker, Ill.; Louis C. Stein, Ind.; M. P. Coventor, Ark.; G. K. Massie, Va.; Ernest Peninger, Ark.; Enos Ortman, O.; Fred W. Brown, Me.; Gilbert Wright, N. Y.; Daniel Hoffman, O.; Wm. Nusbaum, O.; Lee J. Sandridge, W. Va.; W. H. Kesterson, Mo.; Joe Williams, O.; L. A. Carter, Kan.; S. H. Myers, Ky.; Hubert Berghoff, Wis.; J. K.

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R. Spearman, Miss.—Herein find money order for \$1.00 for renewal to The Commoner. I can not do without The Commoner if I hope to keep posted as to the true conditions of governmental affairs. I think every democrat in America should read The Commoner regularly.

## Practical Tariff Talks

The administration has begun an action under the Sherman law to dissolve the steel trust, yet if two years ago, when the tariff was being amended by a republican congress, (was being revised by its friends), the president had insisted upon free iron ore he would have done more to cripple "the master of steel" than will be accomplished by his attorney general. The house placed iron ore on the free list for the reason that its investigation disclosed that the United States Steel corporation owned 65 per cent of the supply in the United States. As it claims to do only a little over half of the manufacturing of the country, this means that many of the independent furnaces must get their ore from the trust. As these independents are putative business rivals of the trust it places them, so long as they must depend upon the trust for their ore supply, in the power of that organization to the extent that they are forced by business caution not to cut prices.

Twenty-five cents a ton isn't very much, but it is sufficient for the purpose of the trust. Many of the independent plants are located along tidewater, and if iron ore were free they would get much of their supply from the Mediterranean or the West Indies. Under this arrangement, with no tariff on the raw material, ore could be laid down at these furnaces at about the same transportation cost as the Lake Superior and Mesaba range ore is put at the doors of the trust furnaces at Pittsburgh. The mines of the trust produce more ore than its furnaces consume, and it wanted a market for the surplus and it wanted the West Indian and Mediterranean supply barred from competition with it. Everybody in business is familiar with the fact that an apparently small difference in railroad rates makes all the difference in the world as to which of several cities shall control the trade territory affected. This is done, in the railroad business by means of a differential. The scheme, in effect, was worked by the steel trust, when it secured the insertion in the senate and in the conference report of the 25 cents a ton tariff.

The far-reaching effect of these tariff changes is illustrated by the fact that a tax on iron ore costs the wheat farmers a considerable sum yearly. In the days when the custom houses were free to this ore it was brought from the Mediterranean as ballast in ships that had taken, from Baltimore and elsewhere, cargoes of wheat. When a tariff of 40 cents was placed on iron ore, this source of supply was shut out, and ocean grain carrying rates from Baltimore went up 3 cents a hundred. Putting a tariff of 25 cents a ton on iron ore also had the direct effect of adding at least that much to the value of the mine holdings of the trust as well as of all others who owned such sources of ore supply. This, however, was merely incidental to the main purpose, which was to continue the steel trust in control of the business in this country.

No man who studies the steel schedules in the light of the testimony given before congressional committees can reach any other conclusion that there is not the slightest reason why the steel industry in this country should be pampered by any tariff protection. It produces the best steel at the least cost of any country on the globe. There are two reasons for its very favorable condition. One is that the supply of raw material is close at hand and transportation costs light, facilities being generally owned by the syndicate. The other is that the business is so organized, one set of mills producing one kind of product, another another kind and so on, that manufacturing costs are down to the lowest notch. The trust employs the highest paid labor in the world, but it has so standardized its products that as measured by results it is the cheapest. This was the direct testimony of Charles M. Schwab, its former president. The truth is the republican party with its right hand—the tariff—has built up this giant of steel, and now with its left hand—the injunctive process of the civil law—it is pretending to tear it to pieces.

C. Q. D.