

to the astonishment of such men as Senator Ar-
rich that the president should have recommended
so radical a departure without consultation with
them. When it was learned from him that he
supposed that he had consulted Senator Knox, it
was easily discovered from the Pennsylvania sena-
tor that the president was mistaken. Mr. Knox
had been consulted about some other subject,
doubtless, at the time when Mr. Roosevelt was un-
der the impression that he was talking of nothing
but rate fixing. Since then he has heard a good
deal from men who have had large interests in
their keeping and who know that the power to
fix rates is almost equivalent to the right of own-
ership while it involves at all events, the power
to ruin the roads."

WARDEN JONES of the Fort Madison, Iowa,
penitentiary, recently made an interesting
report to the state board of control. In this re-
port the state warden refers to the books read by
the convicts. The Webster City, Ia., correspondent
for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "While as
in all statistics relating to free libraries and the
figures covering the sales of books, fiction has no
material competition for popularity, the board of
control notes that two books of sacred history
were withdrawn from the Fort Madison prison li-
brary during the month, and four books on theol-
ogy were perused by the colony. Twenty-six books
relating to religion, or 1 per cent of the total with-
drawn, were read by the convicts. This was 4
per cent of all the books read, not counting fiction.
The month showed that a total of 2,680 books
were read, being about an average of three to each
convict, and of these, of course, 2,007 were works
of fiction. This leaves 610 other volumes, history,
travel and poetry making up the majority, which
were withdrawn. Following is a statement of
the total number of books of each class which
were read by the convicts: Fiction 2,007, History
145, Travel, etc. 145, Biography 20, Religion 26,
Theology 4, Sacred history 73, Character 36, Sci-
ence 36, Forestry and agriculture 2, Domestic Sci-
ence 8, Political science 3, Psychology 17, Appli-
cation science 21, Language 27, Poetry and drama
68, Art 1, Miscellaneous 12. Total 2,680. This
list shows a wide diversity of tastes, and is con-
sidered as evidence that among the convicts are a
large number of educated men."

SINCE treaties can be ratified only by a two-
thirds vote of the United States, a condition
almost impossible of accomplishment, Henry B.
Blackwell of Boston, writing to the Chicago Rec-
ord-Herald, suggests that reciprocity be brought
about by legislation, rather than by treaty. The
defeat of the treaty with Newfoundland suggests
to Mr. Blackwell that it is useless to hope for
reciprocity with Canada, Mexico, or any other
country by treaty and he thinks that the friends
of reciprocity must, therefore, "circumvent our
senatorial autocracy by a flank movement." Mr.
Blackwell quotes the late Senator Hoar as saying:
"You will not succeed in getting reciprocity by
treaty. I do not think that to be the proper meth-
od. Such legislation, being a revenue measure
financial in its character, should originate in the
house of representatives."

MR. BLACKWELL says that recent experience
has demonstrated the wisdom of Senator
Hoar's remark, and adds: "The few men still in
active life who, like myself, took an earnest inter-
est in the annexation of Texas, will remember that
it was found impossible to accomplish this by
treaty. Although the south at that time dominat-
ed both parties and controlled the legislation of
the country, we struggled in vain to secure the
necessary two-thirds vote of the senate to ratify
the annexation treaty. Failing in that, Henry
Clay, then in the zenith of his popularity, was de-
feated for president because he refused to pledge
himself in its favor, James K. Polk was elected
president on the annexation issue and Texas was
brought into the union by a joint resolution enact-
ed by a bare majority of the senate and house of
representatives. The present movement for the
commercial annexation of the American continent
to the United States can succeed only by similar
tactics. We must organize a national league for
continental reciprocity through tariff reduction.
We must capture a majority of the states as we
captured Massachusetts last fall in the republican
state convention—by an appeal to the "plain peo-
ple" against the monopolies. Thereby we shall
compel a change of national policy and carry
our point by congressional legislation. So long as
our tariff against Canada averages 49 per cent,
while her tariff against us averages only 27 per
cent, reciprocity cannot be attained without a re-
duction in our tariff. A substantial equalization
of duties on both sides of the line is indispensa-

ble as the basis for equitable commercial reci-
procity between the two countries."

WASHINGTON GLADDEN has filed with the
American board of foreign missions a pro-
test against the acceptance of John D. Rockefel-
ler's \$100,000 gift. In his protest, Mr. Gladden ex-
presses surprise and regret because the board has
accepted a large sum from Mr. Rockefeller and
objected to this because the money thus bestowed
does not rightly belong to the man who gives it;
it has been flagitiously acquired, and all the world
knows it. "It may be difficult in many cases to
judge of the methods by which wealth has been
gained. The operations are complex and we may
be in doubt respecting their honesty. It is no
doubt impracticable to undertake the investigation
of the sources of all gifts that are offered us. But
when the investigation has been thoroughly made
and the case is clear we are bound to guide our
conduct by the facts made known. In this case
the investigation has been thoroughly made and
the facts are known. The legislative inquiries and
the records of the courts have given the reading
people of this country the materials for a judg-
ment upon the methods of Standard Oil, and there
never was a day when their minds were as clear
on this subject as they are now. They know that
this great power has been built up by injustices
and oppression; they know that its immense gains
have been made by forcibly despoiling citizens of
their honest gains and shutting the doors of oppor-
tunity upon them."

MR. GLADDEN says that this has been done
very largely through "illicit and iniquitous
control of railways." He concludes: "Standard
Oil has never ceased to use this power in this way.
It is using it today as effectively as it ever did.
Mr. Rockefeller may deny that rebates are now
given to the Standard. But the Standard now con-
trols about two-thirds of the railroads of this
country, and its power is exerted in fixing the
classification of freights in such a way that it can
kill competition. Rebates are no longer necessary.
Thus this stupendous power which owes its exist-
ence to a shameful prostitution of the agencies
created by public law for the public service is now
able to lay its paralyzing hand upon all the in-
dustries of the nation and to force them to con-
tribute to its enormous revenues. And this is
the money which is offered to the American board.
We have no right to take it. It does not belong to
the man who offers it. It belongs to the people
from whom it has been extorted. It is often as-
sumed, I fear, that we do not need to be very
scrupulous about money which we can use in 'do-
ing good.' That indifference is deadly. The 'good'
that is done by lowering our ethical standards
might better be left undone. Shall the young men
and women of the missionary colleges be taught
to regard Mr. Rockefeller as a great benefactor?
The colleges might better be permanently closed."
Dr. Gladden says that he will continue to protest
until the conference of the Congregational church
in September and he calls upon all the Congre-
gationalists to unite with him in the protest.

GESSLER ROSSEAU, recently convicted of
having sent explosives to the Cunard line
pier in May, 1903, made to the authorities a state-
ment in which he claims that the battleship Maine
was destroyed by a bomb of his manufacture and
was exploded under the Maine through an error.
Rosseau said that for several years he watched
with deep interest and sympathy the contest
waged by the Cubans. He said he accumulated a
lot of material for the construction of two explod-
ing machines and started for the south. He says:
"At New Orleans I rented a room and put the
boxes together, after which I went on to Jack-
sonville. There I became acquainted with a party of
Cuban leaders who were planning a filibustering
expedition. They had engaged the Destroyer, a
small vessel, to take them to Cuba along with a
number of American and European adventurers,
who were anxious to strike a blow for Cuban free-
dom. Several leaders of the party are men now
well known and I will not mention their names,
although I have among my papers a list of them
all. I suggested to them that they use my ma-
chines to destroy Spanish warships in the harbor
of Havana and in other ports on the coast of the
island. They readily seized upon the idea, and
when the Destroyer sailed with the filibusters,
they took my machines with them. It was my
intention to go along with the party, so to direct
the work of sinking the Spanish ships, but they
dissuaded me, urging that I could be of greater
use in Jacksonville preparing other machines if
the first proved successful."

ACCORDING to Rosseau, it was planned to
have some members of the revolutionary
party join the Spanish navy and get the machines
aboard, but if that failed it was decided to fasten
one of the boxes to the hull of a ship under the
water line, as he had constructed his machines so
they could be exploded under the water. Rosseau
adds: "That was late in the fall of 1897. The
next spring the Maine was destroyed. Only one
of the men in the secret of the machines ever re-
turned to America. I saw him some time after
the war with Spain had begun. He told me he
had nothing to do with the boxes after reaching
Cuba, but had been told a mistake had been made.
The man who had been intrusted with the task
of destroying a Spanish vessel attempted to fasten
a box during the night to one of Alfonso's war-
ships and blundered into blowing up the Maine.
I was told that the man, immediately after the
learning of the error he had made, committed sui-
cide." Rosseau said he had attempted to blow up
the statue of Frederick the Great in Washington
because he did not wish to see the statue of a king
in America. He added that he was not an anarch-
ist or a nihilist, and that he had made no effort
to supply exploding machines to the Russians.

TAKING HOLD OF THE TOWLINE

(Continued from Page Five.)

the national convention of the party. But too
often during the past ten years, particularly in
New York state, political power has taken a
course directly opposite to this. The state lead-
ers of the party have selected candidates and de-
termined what the party platform should be, and
then through the operation of machine methods
they have imposed their will upon county and state
conventions. The folly of political leaders at-
tempting to stultify and annul the wishes of the
democratic masses was illustrated in such a strik-
ing manner by the nomination and defeat of Judge
Parker that it is not likely to be repeated. It
surely will not be repeated if democratic voters
will take the primary pledge which you suggest,
and if after taking that pledge they will faithfully
keep it.

O. A. Gilmore, Cambridge, Pa.—Am most heartily
in favor of primary organization as outlined
in Commoner. Also send you names by request of
three of my neighbors who have it and wish their
names enrolled also.

Maurice McElhoney, Freestone, Ohio.—Please
find enclosed two pledges properly signed. I think
it a good plan. It will aid to put life and vigor
into the democrats. Our township always goes
democratic, but our county and state are largely
republican.

F. H. Doeden, Sadorus, Ill.—I most heartily
approve of your plan of urging the rank and file
of the democracy of the land to express their con-
victions upon the great questions confronting the
nation. Lukewarmness and indifference have been
the bane of democracy for the last eight years.
The great trouble with our people in the past is
that they have often been lacking in force and
strength to give expression to their honest con-
victions. The conscience of every believer in
"equal rights to all and special privileges to none,"
must be thoroughly aroused. A higher sense of
duty must be instilled in the heart of every indi-
vidual democrat.

Wm. Ayres, Eureka, Cal.—Herewith find duly
signed pledge to help secure a democratic orga-
nization of the democratic party. In order to gain
and retain democrats, the party must be demo-
cratic—in principle, in method and in practice and
in deeds. The great heart of the people is demo-
cratic, but is rendered indifferent to political obli-
gations by the aggressive assurance of the ubiq-
uitous "practical politician" who does not represent
the true democracy, the great common mass of the
people.

C. H. Mathews, New Philadelphia, Ohio.—If
age and experience count for anything, I am not
only willing but anxious to be enrolled among
those who believe in the rule of the people, and
am willing that the majority shall rule in party
management and in the nation. The people now
inhabiting the northwest territory, the dominion
of which was a priceless heritage conferred upon
them 117 years ago by the pioneers of that day,
should zealously guard their political rights. Eter-
nal vigilance is the price of liberty, civil as well
as religious.

T. Q. Brown, Ashley, Mo.—I heartily endorse
your plan of organizing and also the reform work
being conducted by your paper. Enclosed please
find primary pledge filled out.

H. L. Taylor, Newdale, W. Va.—With heart
and hand I sign the primary pledge and will help
fight the cause of The Commoner and common
people.