

THE ROOSEVELT STAMP IS NOT SUFFICIENT

Following are extracts from the report made by Messrs. Judson and Harmon to the department of justice:

This secret agreement with the fuel company involved the carriage of hundreds of cars per month; the concessions from the established rates must have amounted to \$1,000,000 for the two and one-half years during which they were granted; and it is incredible that this scheme was devised and carried out by any authority but that of the chiefs of the railway company who were in control of its traffic department.

What we have said is peculiarly true of the great corporations of our day. They can not be imprisoned, and punishment by fine is not only inadequate, but reaches the real culprits only lightly, if at all. The evils with which we are now confronted are corporate in name, but individual in fact. Guilt is always personal. So long as officials can hide behind their corporations, no remedy can be effective. When the government searches out the guilty men and makes corporate wrongdoing mean personal punishment and dishonor, the laws will be obeyed.

The violation by a corporation of an injunction against it and its officers always calls for a rule against such of them as had control of its conduct, to show cause why they should not be held personally responsible. They are prima facie guilty of disobedience. It was their duty to see that the acts forbidden were not done, as well as not to do them.

Yet Mr. Roosevelt "entirely agrees" with Attorney General Moody, who refuses to bring proceedings against the railroad officials individually.

Lawyers generally agree with Messrs. Judson and Harmon's statement of the law principle. Mr. Roosevelt will find it very difficult to sustain his reputation for sincerity in the battle against rebates and conspiracies in restraint of trade so long as he adheres to the position that guilt is impersonal and that influential wrong-doers can hide their crimes behind a soulless and fleshless corporation.

A well known attorney of Newport, Ark., referring to the Morton affair, says:

It seems the president and his attorney general do not think that the officers are chargeable with the crimes of a corporation and

should not be held to account, but we all have in mind the promptness with which the department of justice acts in strikes and the readiness with which the federal court and the district attorneys arrest and punish the officers of labor unions. I suppose that there must be some theory they have which makes the distinction, but I can't see it.

The rule laid down by President Roosevelt and by which rule Paul Morton escaped prosecution, could be successfully invoked for the protection of every law breaker, great and small. If Mr. Roosevelt's position in the Morton affair is correct, then why the grand jury investigation of the beef trust? The members of the grand jury did not positively know that the beef trust magnates had personal knowledge of the conspiracy. It is a terrible thing for an indictment to be brought against these gentlemen under such circumstances.

Mr. Roosevelt has enjoyed great popularity and some of his friends seem to have rested under the impression that his mere word is sufficient to set the stamp of morality upon any act, regardless of its character. They are beginning to realize their mistake. Mr. Roosevelt's popularity has suffered greatly during the past two weeks, and he has been openly and somewhat bitterly criticised by many who, feeling kindly toward him, have been loath to say aught to his discredit. But as every intelligent man knows, Mr. Roosevelt went altogether too far in the Paul Morton affair. The widespread criticism to which his action has been subjected is well reflected in an editorial appearing in the New York Press, a republican paper, from which editorial this extract is taken:

To the American people the attitude of the national administration toward the Atchison rebate violations and toward Paul Morton, disclosed by the correspondence made public, must be simply astounding. Mr. Morton's excuse for violating the laws of the United States was that "all the other fellows do it." The administration's excuse for not punishing Mr. Morton and the other Atchison law-breakers and defiers of interstate commerce committee decisions is that "all the other fel-

lows do it." No wonder Messrs. Judson and Harmon, retained as special counsel of the government to prosecute the rebate criminals, withdraw from the case, in view of the government's acceptance of the logic and morality of Mr. Morton! They could not continue to touch a case influenced by such principles without losing their self-respect and forfeiting their professional standing!

ENFORCING THE CRIMINAL LAW

The indictments returned in the beef trust cases mark an epoch in the trust fight. For several years the democrats have been urging the president to enforce the criminal clause of the Sherman law, but he has refused. He has contented himself with an occasional injunction. The ineffectiveness of the president's remedy is shown by the fact that the trusts have grown more and more bold in spite of injunctions. But now several wealthy trust magnates of high business and social standing are brought before the criminal courts and have to face a year in the penitentiary. If the trial succeeds and the defendants are convicted it will do more to break up the trusts than all the injunctions that could be issued. The democrats can congratulate themselves that another of their remedies is to be tried. One after another the democratic plans are being vindicated. Democracy is growing and is forcing its policies on the dominant party.

FRANCIS W. BROWN

The special congressional election in the First Nebraska district takes place July 18. The counties comprising this district are Lancaster, Cass, Nemaha, Otoe, Johnson, Richardson and Pawnee. Mayor Francis W. Brown, the democratic nominee, has made a good fight and it is believed he stands an excellent show of election. If the voters of the First Nebraska district who believe in the principles enunciated in the platform upon which Mayor Brown stands go to the polls he will, undoubtedly, be elected by a substantial majority.

It is to be hoped that every reader of The Commoner will make it his duty to remind his neighbor that the special election takes place July 18. Let us have a full vote.

HELPING TO WIDEN "THE COMMONER'S" SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

S. S. McClendon, of Tyler, Texas, sends a list of ten new subscribers to The Commoner, together with the renewal of his own subscription. Mr. McClendon says that it ought to be the pleasure of all "who believe in the gospel of democracy—the broad gospel of humanity—of which The Commoner is so able an exponent" to aid in the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence by increasing its circulation. Mr. McClendon says:

I desire to ask each of your subscribers this question: "Is there any better way of effectually discharging the duties and spreading this gospel than by giving The Commoner widespread circulation?"

Let each one who can answer, No, to this question, send in his name to The Commoner office as a member of "The 500,000 subscription to The Commoner club," which the subscribers do now organize with this promise:

"Having faith and believing in the broad principles of democracy, I will do what I can toward increasing its influence and extending its principles by devoting one hour of the first Tuesday in each month for the following eight months to procuring subscriptions to The Commoner.

"You may enter my name as a member of the club and rest assured that unless unavoidably prevented I will live up to the promise."

I believe that our fellow democrats would feel amply repaid for the time and labor spent, in the satisfaction of having done a loving service—a duty well performed

to their country and party by devoting one hour in each month, or one day in eight months, to such service.

And as an encouragement to them and evidence that our object can be accomplished I desire to add that having come to a sense of my duty today, I went out and procured ten new subscribers to The Commoner in an hour.

I am confident that I can increase this number to at least forty within the eight months by acting upon the suggestion and fulfilling the promise made relative to the 500,000 club.

Now, are there not 10,000 who can do as much, or 40,000 who can procure as many as ten new subscribers?

Let me ask my democratic friends if it is not worth while? Then if it is let us make the effort.

Those who desire to co-operate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation have an excellent opportunity to do so by availing themselves of the special subscription offer. Already many Commoner readers are taking advantage of this offer.

B. H. Whitaker, Stillwell, Ind. Ter., sends list of fifteen subscribers to The Commoner at a clubbing rate of five for three dollars.

T. B. Snider, Bardwell, Ky., sends list of forty-four subscribers to The Commoner at the clubbing rate of five for three dollars.

Dr. Ed. B. Stukey, Lancaster, Ohio, sends six subscribers to The Commoner.

Curtis B. Smith, Prattville, N. Y., sends list of six subscribers to The Commoner, five new and one renewal.

According to the terms of the special sub-

scription offer, cards each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation:

THE COMMONER'S SPECIAL OFFER	
Application for Subscription Cards	
5	Publisher Commoner; I am interested in increasing The Commoner's circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold. Name _____ Box, or Street No. _____ P. O. _____ State _____ Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.
10	
15	
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25	
50	
75	
100	
If you believe the paper is doing a work that merits encouragement, fill out the above coupon and mail it to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.	