The Commoner.

The Commoner

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The centlemen who advocate amending the Chinese exclusion laws are much more interested in exploiting China than they are in the welfare of the American wage earner.

By growing righteously indignant over Belgium's course in the Congo Free State a lot of eminent imperialists in the United States manage to forget all about this republic's course in the Philippines.

The failure to mention Mr. Cortelyou for the supreme bench may be due to the fact that Mr. Cortelyou has been studying law only two or three weeks. Even Mr. Cortelyou must have a couple of months' preparation for a job like that.

"I don't want any senator to insinuate that I have any special or railway interests," said Senator Foraker in a speech to the senate. And to the credit of the senate's spirit of comradeship it may be said that the senators never cracked a smile.

The Sioux City Journal says that the gas well at Caney, Kan., is giving the people a reminder of populist times. Strange that the esteemed Journal can never get its comparisons on straight. That gas well gave us a blowing example of republican reformation of the tariff.

Republican campaign managers deny that they received any contributions from the big corporations, but the New York Life managers are getting ready to return the \$150,000 they donated to the g. o. p. campaign fund. Mr. Cortelyou and Mr. Bliss are due for another denial.

WHAT DID THE PACKERS GIVE?

The American people do not know exactly the amount contributed by the insurance companies to the republican national committee. They had about concluded that the New York Life gave \$148,000 when, lo and behold, Andrew Hamilton came along with a receipt showing the payment of \$75,000 additional. Perhaps the public will never know just how liberal these insurance companies were with their policyholders' money in their dealings with the republican party.

But if we are not to know the entire truth on that line, would it not be well to obtain some sort of an idea as to the amount contributed to the republican party by the beef trust? If memory is not at fault George B. Cortelyou was secretary of commerce and labor at the time that Mr. Garfield, representing that department, was assigned to investigate the beef trust. We all know that Garfield gave the members of the beef trust an "immunity bath." What did the members of the beef trust give the republican party?

WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C., April 9.—Senator Tillman is uncertain as to when the followers of Senator Aldrich will agree to have a vote on the railroad rate bill. The South Carolina statesman thinks that the date is some time in the future, for the reason that Mr. Aldrich is undoubtedly sparring for time with a view of obtaining votes enough to incorporate in the proposed law a court review provision that will prove to be exceedingly liberal to the railroad corporations. Other democratic senators take the same view of the situation. They are decidely of the opinion that Mr. Aldrich will keep the bill hanging up high in the air until he is reasonably certain that he can count upon support enough to at least modify the amendment that at this writing is believed to be satisfactory to the democratic side and to those republicans who early in the session showed a disposition to join the minority senators in standing by the Hepburn bill, or else secure something akin to that measure.

Mr. Tillman does not hesitate to declare that if Mr. Aldrich can have his way the law will contain a court review so broad and lenient that in effect it will be all that the big railroad companies could desire. Mr. Tillman fears that unless Mr. Aldrich and his allies can be thwarted in their designs the court review proposition will be such that the companies will be able to go into the court and keep up a fight for their socalled rights under the "law and the constitution" that might be prolonged for three or four years. Meanwhile if the sort of provision is made that Mr. Aldrich demands the rates established by the interstate commerce commission could be suspended during long periods, and the legislation would amount to little or nothing so far as giving relief to the complaining public is concerned.

It has developed during the past week that Mr. Aldrich and those acting with him are doing their utmost to hatch a scheme under which some of the democratic senators may find it difficult to support the court review proposition that he and his associates will in due season bring to light. The wires are being pulled energetically in all directions, and the most desperate efforts are being made to divide if possible to a considerable extent the democratic side of the chamber. Mr. Aldrich is not a lawyer, but he has followers who are lawyers and sharp ones, and under his instruction in parliamentary tactics the latter are pouring sweet words into the ears of quite a number of the minority in the hope that their talk about a liberal court review and a proper regard for the constitution may cause them to break away from the leadership of Senator Tillman. Mr. Aldrich is being put to his wits ends to control a majority who will vote as he and other leading republicans may dictate.

Unless there should be a change in sentiment it is reasonably safe to say that nearly all of the senate democrats will favor the Bailey amendment which prohibits the courts from issuing injunctions against the enforcement of the orders of the interstate commerce commission. But this amendment can not be adopted unless a sufficient number of republicans who started out as ardent supporters of the Hepburn bill as it came over from the house of representatives will unite with the democrats in overruling Mr. Aldrich. The amendment that was recently patched up at the White House and which is said to have been inspired by President Roosevelt, has caused a wavering in the ranks of republicans heretofore counted upon to stand up for the Hepburn proposition. Mr. Tillman does not like the Roosevelt amendment, and he and his followers will not support it unless it should turn out that in order to down Mr. Aldrich it would be the best policy to pursue. Mr. Tillman stoutly contends that the democrats in congress have a splendid opportunity to make a most creditable impression in the eyes of the people before this big fight for railroad rate regulation ends. He thinks they will meet the situation, and if by any chance Mr. Aldrich and his allies succeed in their efforts to pass a measure that will not afford the relief asked for by the business interests of the United States the democrats will be in a position to clearly place the blame where it properly be-

The republicans have selected Representative James S. Sherman of the Utica district of New York to be chairman of their congressional campaign committee; they have designated Representative Tawney of Minnesota, for vice chairman, and Representative Loudenslager of the Camden district of New Jersey, will fill the position of secretary.

tion of secretary.

Judge Griggs, of Georgia, chairman of the

CITY LETTER

democratic congressional campaign committee, is nearly six years younger than his republican rival. The Georgian has managed one campaign and that experience his legislative associates consider will be valuable in conducting the fight this year, even though the democrats lost when Judge Griggs was at the head of the committee. The democrats in congress generally state that they are receiving advices from all parts of the country that clearly indicate this is going to be a year of disaster for their opponents, and all the indications point to large gains for the democrats in districts the republicans flatter themselves are safe for the "grand old party." The outlook for securing control of the house in the sixtleth congress the democrats consider from the advices they have received to be most encouraging. Both the democratic and republican committees will probably have their headquarters in operation before the middle of May, but neither committee will settle down to real, earnest effort until after the adjournment of congress.

Hon. Charles A. Towne made a speech in the house last week in which he severely arraigned the republican bosses in congress for turning a deaf ear to the appeals of the labor organizations of the country, and also sharply criticized the house managers for stifling debate and preventing consideration of measures not favored by the speaker and his republican lieutenants on the rule committee. Within the next three weeks Mr. Towne will deliver another speech. That will be a more elaborate effort, and the friends of this brilliant member confidently predict that it will be a speech worthy of the widest distribution in the campaign. In other words Mr. Towne is expected to sound the keynote for the battle of the democracy in the contest soon to open so far as the record of the democrats in congress is concerned. The republicans, of course, will be scored for their shortcomings. Representative Bourke Cockran, of New York, will also make a big speech shortly that his fellow democrats calculate will greatly please men in his own party and stir up the republicans. Representative Rainey, the lone democrat in the house from Illinois, by his attack upon the republicans for their failure to revise the tariff, made a most creditable

will be freely circulated by the democratic campaign committee.

ALFRED J. STOFER.

impression. His remarks greatly angered the re-

publican leaders. Mr. Rainey's speech, it is said,

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