

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

Those ice trust magnates seem to have acted on the idea that the season does not last long.

The trouble with the "simple life" is that those who need it most can not afford to enjoy it.

A number of ball clubs that were winning pennants last March are now preparing to win pennants next summer.

Doubtless Mr. Rockefeller will return to Ohio just as soon as the remaining Ohioans work hard enough to make it worth while.

The presidential guard who was fined \$10 for striking a photographer will probably not develop such a decided negative next time.

Alfred Beit, "the richest man in the world," died in London recently. He will now have to take chances with the poorest of them.

Just as we predicted, the dry dock Dewey, the slowest thing that ever plowed the raging main, is a race horse in comparison with the Panama canal.

Mr. Perkins of Iowa announces that he is willing to adopt any honest course that will deprive Governor Cummins of the political advantage he has won.

The coffin of Charlemagne was opened at Aix La Chappelle, Prussia, on July 17, at the wish of Emperor William. It was ascertained that the occupant was still dead.

The two Denver reporters who tried to rob a bank scored just such a failure as might be expected of a couple of bank burglars who tried to edit daily newspapers.

The organized workmen of Uncle Joe Cannon's district show a disposition to let Uncle Joe look to the corporations he supported for the votes he needs to re-elect him.

If political fencing material were highly protected by the tariff a lot of republican congressmen would now be contributing largely to the support of the lumber and wire trust.

It is announced that Mr. Rockefeller will not return to Cleveland this summer. This indefinitely prolongs the vacation of the Ohio sheriff who declared he would remain in Cleveland until Mr. Rockefeller made his appearance.

The Milwaukee Sentinel sagely observes that "in Mr. Bryan's eyes a duty laid on the manufacturers of the old world for the protection of the American laborer is 'treason to the state.'" All American laborers who are benefitted by the protective tariff could hold up their hands with-

out stopping their work for a minute.

The mother of Evelyn Nesbit Thaw has locked herself in a room to escape the importunities of Pittsburg reporters. If the mother had locked the daughter up more it might not have been necessary now to lock herself up.

A pillow fight resulted fatally to one of the Philadelphia participants recently. This should be a warning to the eminent republican leaders who pretend to be opposing the corporations. One of their feather blows might land on a fatal spot.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 15.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

Joseph Davidson, Russellville, Ohio—Enclosed find 29 signatures to the primary pledge.

Hiram Greene, Mabel, N. C.—I send you eleven signatures to the primary pledge.

Virgil L. Penland, Mountain Grove, Mo.—Enclosed find primary pledge signed by 17 true democrats. Please send me a few blanks.

A. D. Fairman, St. Edwards, Neb.—Herein find primary pledge. My best efforts will be put forth to help win democratic victory this fall.

N. R. Tucker, Fremont, Ohio—Enclosed find thirty-eight signatures to the primary pledge.

Thomas Handrahan, Kansas City, Kan.—I send you nineteen signatures to the primary pledge.

A. Rogers, Grant, Ky.—Herewith find thirty-eight signatures to the primary pledge.

J. W. Allbritton, New Concord, Ky.—I send you thirty-five signatures to the primary pledge.

John H. Burkhardt, Vinton, Iowa.—Find enclosed eleven primary pledge signatures.

John B. Faltz, Jenera, Ohio.—Enclosed find eighteen names of democrats affixed to the primary pledge. So far as I can see all the democrats and some republicans in this county are happy over the prospects of democratic victory in 1908.

Fred R. Sanders, Pecatonica, Ill.—Enclosed please find primary pledge with twenty-two signatures. I am sorry this list is not longer, but we live in a very strong republican district. The names I do send are very loyal to the cause. I hope that for the safety of the country, democracy will win.

Henry A. Parsons, Kansas City, Kan.—Herewith 35 primary pledge signers. I never sat down until I filled the list after getting it out of the mail. I am always willing to help the cause. It is possible to secure 8,000 to 10,000 signatures to the pledge in this city. There are eight or ten pledge lists in circulation in this locality at present and they will probably be sent in this week. They are by men whose names I sent you a few weeks ago. The following are names of men in other localities who will be glad to secure signatures in their respective localities.

DIFFERENT IN ENGLAND

The London & Southwestern railroad company, upon whose line the awful accident at Salisbury occurred, in which twenty-seven people were killed, has accepted full responsibility. They admit that the engine jumped the track, and do not seek refuge behind the claim that the engineer disobeyed orders or some one deliberately wrecked the train. They say they have no defense to offer and accept all legal responsibility. This, it must be remembered, is in England. It would be different in the United States. If the coroner's jury did not acquit the company of all blame it would at least decline to fix responsibility. Then the case would either be dropped entirely, or individual survivors and the relatives of the deceased would have to pit their slim purses against the overflowing coffers of the rail-

road company in courts that have, in too many cases, admitted obligations to railroad machines that elected them. The English way will appeal to the general public.

HE LEFT IT ALL

Alfred Beit, the "African diamond king," died a few days ago. He was said to be one of the richest men in the world, if not the richest. For years people have been speculating upon the size of his fortune. He made it in the diamond fields of South Africa and in various allied enterprises, one of which was the seizure of land belonging to the natives, and the practical enslavement of the natives themselves. His fortune was estimated to be anywhere between \$500,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000. Whatever its size, everybody knows what he left. He left everything. After a life devoted to the mere accumulation of wealth, he goes into the great unknown on a level with the paupers, the princes and the potentates who have preceded him. Measured by the accumulation of wealth his life was a magnificent success. Measured by service to his fellows it was a dismal failure. Nothing that he gained in life could he take with him. He will be remembered for a time as a man who accumulated a fortune, and then forgotten. But men who never accumulated fortunes will live in history because they served their day and generation. Beit left nothing but money—and he left it all.

HOW THE CARDS ARE STACKED

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the United States, show that those at New York they are everywhere compelled to be withheld. Nowhere does there exist direct permission for loaning any portion of same. It is a monstrous travesty upon just law that thus (as on November 9, 1905) compels money to be withheld by 5,770 banks throughout the country, and its use thereby denied at any of such 5,770 banks, to be afterwards concentrated and 75 per cent thereof loaned at sixty-three (practically fewer) other and favored banks.

"Whether it be attributed to unjust and unequal law, or (with great reason), to its faulty execution, such is its practical operations; and the government is thereby responsible for the baneful results.

"What means the plain injunction of law, frequently repeated, that banks must 'at all times' have their reserves 'on hand in lawful money.'

"What more effective method could be devised to enable flotation of excessive watered capitalizations, which have been an invariable purpose in creation of monopolistic trusts and corporations, railroad and industrial, and from which have resulted towering aggregations of predatory wealth which exact tribute by great incomes, and absorb just earnings?

"The great natural law of demand and supply which alone should regulate the ebb and flow of the tide of lawful money, has by permitted use of the reserves at favored cities, been overridden in favor of the few and already rich, who could avail of such use. And the ocean of money thereby provided has enabled limitless 'graft' from the people, by the deals, syndicates and capitalistic juggles of 'high finance.'

"Let it be clearly understood that the deposited reserves came from 5,770 banks throughout the United States, being all except sixty-three banks in central reserve cities; that by each of these 5,770 banks its portion was withheld from local use by command of law for the only justifiable purpose of such command of law, namely, as a money reserve; that such command of law is an absolute denial of the loan or use of any portion of same at the 5,770 points of origination of the vast total; and, therefore, that the permissions to deposit, whereby 75 per cent of such deposits are loaned, mainly by a few banks in New York, Chicago and St. Louis, constitute a preference in law or its administration, for the use of this proportion of the money volume of the country.

"Substantial repeal of the permissions was recommended by Comptroller Dawes in his annual report December, 1900, to congress, in which he discussed the danger, which had made itself apparent years before, of continuing the practice. Even a gradual repeal, or correction, first making it apply only to Philadelphia and Boston banks, would probably distress Wall Street. But there is a consideration more important to the people of this country than regard for stimulated Wall Street prosperity, viz.: Equal laws and public justice; especially regarding the supply of money, which is the basis of credits, life blood of all undertakings, and measure of all values. Otherwise liberty fails and becomes a sham."