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ISSUED WEEKLY

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Mr. Perkins of Sioux City may well point with pride to the fact that he died in the last ditch.

Mr. Fairbanks would be pardoned for believing that the fight on the ice trusts is a direct attack on his boom.

An official of the sugar trust refused to produce certain books before the grand jury. He is still at large, not being a mechanic or a striking workman.

An exchange declares that the Germans are the greatest ever when it comes to the adulteration of food products. Must we now discard the toothsome sauer kraut?

The revolutionists have condemned the czar to death and the czar has condemned the revolutionists to death. But the czar is doing the most of the dodging.

"Where is our gold?" frantically asks a New York exchange. Is the question asked as an assessor or merely as a matter of curiosity. The answer from New Yorkers will depend.

"Wizard" Burbank says he is going to "improve the watermelon." If Mr. Burbank really wants to help out he will devote his time to bettering the opportunities to get melons.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says the echo of all trusts is: "I don't remember." Certainly they forget many things, but they always remember their best friend and helper, the republican party.

The Associated Press carries a dispatch dated July 28 stating that the Standard Oil company has been caught billing a 5,000 gallon car of oil at 2,000 gallons. Yet the Associated Press claims to be a news collection agency.

A Newport millionaire gave his first grandson a check for \$10,000,000. A mechanic friend of ours gave his first grandson a dose of medicine that children cry for, and we'll wager a cookie he has the better baby of the two.

The Paris aeronaut who couldn't make a promised ascension because the supply of hot air was too limited should have taken the precaution to have on hand a lot of republican leaders who believe in letting the tariff be revised by its friends.

Speaker Cannon says he opposed the "labor bills" in congress because he did not believe in legislating for "special classes." This is calculated to create a laugh among the corporation and financial classes who have been securing special favors from Speaker Cannon.

Pertinent Political Pointers

Following are extracts from the bulletins issued by the democratic congressional committee:

The Panama canal commission has elected J. B. Bishop as secretary of the commission at a salary of \$10,000 a year. It would seem that this should recompense this favorite of President Roosevelt for the refusal of the senate to confirm his appointment as a member of the commission, the salaries of the commissioners being \$7,500. It will be remembered that the appointment of Mr. Bishop as "press agent" with a salary of \$10,000 aroused a great deal of criticism and congress abolished the "press agent's" office. Why the secretary of the commission should receive \$2,500 a year more than the commissioners is still a matter of mystery and open to the charge of paying extra and exorbitant salaries to presidential favorites.

After some years of filling and backing the administration has decided at last to enforce the eight-hour law on all government work. This belated compliance with the demands of organized labor is viewed as an effort to in part remove the complaints of workmen against the republican party, but this concession will have no effect on the political campaign upon which the labor leaders have entered. Their bill of grievances against the republican party is so serious that nothing but the defeat of republican congressmen who have refused the legislation that the labor leaders believe necessary for the protection of the workmen will now satisfy them.

The view taken of the relation between the employer and employe in the great "protected" industries of this country is well illustrated by a story told recently by Mr. Stephen A. Knight, of Rhode Island. Speaking of the man for whom he once worked in a cotton mill, a man who was once governor of the state and a great advocate of "protection for American labor," Mr. Knight said:

"It was his custom to make a contract with his help on the first of April. On one occasion a mother of several children who were employed in the mill complained that the pay seemed small, and suggested that a better contract might be offered her.

"You get enough to eat, don't you?" asked the employer.

"Just enough to keep the wolf from the door," she replied.

"And you have enough clothes to wear, haven't you?" he continued.

"Barely enough to cover our nakedness," said she.

"Well," said the employer, ending the interview, "we want the rest." And he undoubtedly considered his point of view the just and reasonable one."

If the working people get enough to keep the wolf from the door and barely enough to cover their nakedness, while the great "governors" and tariff barons get "the rest," the aim of all tariff legislation is fully accomplished, American labor is protected, and the country is prosperous, according to republican ideas of prosperity. This rotten system that robs widows and orphan children of the fruits of their labor in order that "protected" interests may prosper, is bad enough; but the pretense that it is for the benefit of the laboring people is much worse. The excuse is worse than the offense. Yet the poor people of the mining and manufacturing districts too often accept both the system and the pretense, and vote to fasten the evil upon their fellow citizens for all time.

The republicans have had such bad luck with reforms that they have concluded in the future to stand pat and let the tariff still plunder us.

When President Roosevelt on October 4 addresses his fellow citizens at Harrisburg, upon the dedication of the "bronze doors" of the new capitol of Pennsylvania, he will have a great opportunity to advance the cause of good government. The time will be just about a month before the people of Pennsylvania will be called upon to decide between the "regular" republicans and the Lincoln reformers. The "bronze doors" will record for ages the most corrupt and degraded government that a free people ever submitted to, for the ringleader is embossed thereon in enduring bronze.

President Roosevelt can hardly endorse Quay, or his audacious and unscrupulous methods, but

will he have the courage to denounce Penrose, the successor of Quay and endorse the cause of the people, who through the reform organization known as the Lincoln republicans, are trying to wipe out stain and corruption of political bossism.

It will be a crucial test of how much the real reform spirit animates Mr. Roosevelt and how greatly his mind is bent on vivifying reform efforts in others.

The issue is plain, on the one side is the old Quay gang, now headed by Penrose, and still backed by the corrupt trusts and corporations that have so long dominated the old commonwealth. On the other hand are the plain people striving to overthrow corruption and grafting and laying aside political partisanship to attain that much desired end.

It is a great opportunity for President Roosevelt and he will have the undivided attention of all his fellow citizens, everywhere, who are fighting for real reform and who trust to find him unconditionally recorded on the side of decency and righteousness.

Another republican revolt is occurring in New Jersey, and Senator Dryden, the president of the Prudential Life Insurance company, is in danger of defeat. In his evidence before a committee of investigation, he admitted giving large sums of money, rightfully belonging to the policy holders and stockholders, to republican corruption funds, of which \$10,000 was to the Roosevelt campaign fund and justified this diverting of trust funds, on the ground that the interest of the company would be endangered by democratic success. As his own success is now endangered the policyholders may well dread the outcome for it may require the whole surplus to suppress the revolt.

The "boxer" movement in Mexico, which is giving the government there so much concern, is gaining great strength by its demand: "Mexico for the Mexicans." Everywhere there is a feeling of unrest where the people are exploited for the benefit of an oligarchy of wealth. The labor people even here are revolting against the republican party which has through the tariff and the trusts fostered monopoly at the expense of the great mass of the people.

Brazil and Costa Rica have both modified their tariff on imports. Are they afraid of the big stick that Secretary Root carries around with him?

Why is it that Norway is constantly increasing her merchant marine and built sixty-five steamers besides sailing vessels during the past year and yet she pays no subsidy? Is it because Norway has a tariff for revenue and the United States stands pat for protection that fosters trusts and high prices?

There is a good deal of work for the man with the hoe, but the muck rake is not being worked overtime, although there is sad need for it in many places.

The state elections will be of more than usual interest and importance this year and will be watched closely, as the result in several states will have great bearing on the presidential election two years hence. The important fact is the schisms in the republican ranks in the usually strong republican states of Pennsylvania, Iowa, Massachusetts and Wisconsin and the factional fights in Ohio, New York, Illinois, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont. These party disturbances must have more or less effect on the campaign for congressmen and the election of legislatures that will select United States senators and as the democrats have nothing to lose in the states mentioned, for their representation in the present congress is at the minimum, they may make surprising gains. There is a genuine reform feeling prevalent and if the republican reformers find themselves cut off by machine methods from tariff revision and a "square deal" their only resource is to quietly vote for decent democrats.

General Grosvenor, who has been discarded by his outraged constituents, will be put on the stump by the republican congressional committee to delude the voters of other congressional districts, where he is not so well known.