

The Commoner

ISSUED WEEKLY

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb

The paper trust has quit business—in the papers.

It seems that the Shaw presidential boom is not an "Iowa idea."

When that court injunction hit Tom Johnson it rebounded with a d. s. t.

If not impertinent we would like to inquire what has become of that injunction against the beef trust.

A Connecticut revolver maker left an estate valued at \$50,000,000. That represents a great many "innocent-by-nders."

Government by injunction will hereafter beware of a large, smooth-faced fat man who has the courage of his convictions.

Mr. Rockefeller assures us that he has never been a pessimist. But he has been an "assimilationist," if there is such a word.

Mr. Rockefeller says he is glad to get back to his own country. And he probably put especially strong emphasis on "his own."

We hasten to assure our South American neighbors that the brand of taffy dispensed by Secretary Root is not only palatable but unadulterated.

Mr. Rockefeller says "the day is coming when all of us in this country will be better acquainted with one another." Not if we can help it, Mr. Rockefeller.

The czar asked Ambassador Meyer what the American people thought of him as a ruler. That is where Ambassador Meyer had to show his training as a diplomat.

An actress now coyly admits that she was secretly married a couple of years ago. She kept the secret as long as she could because her husband is a Pittsburg millionaire.

Senator Penrose is inclined to think that he will be chiseled out of the g. o. p. leadership in Pennsylvania before they get those names chipped off of the capital doors at Harrisburg.

Mr. Parry's declaration that Representative Cannon's position on the labor question is all correct is not calculated to strengthen the speaker with the workingmen voters of the Danville district.

A. F. Mood, Claremore, I. T., asks where he can obtain the work entitled "History of the free trade movement in England," written by August Mongrieden. Will some one give Mr. Mood the desired information?

Cummins And His Tariff Plank

Friends of Governor Cummins have already discovered that they handicapped their candidate when they undertook to frame a platform which could command the support of the standpatters as well as the tariff revisionists. The differences between these elements were too radical to form a union on the tariff question unless one or the other surrendered. In order to cater to the tariff sentiment, Governor Cummins' friends framed a platform intended to be soothing to the standpatters, but it is plain from the reading of the Cummins platform that his platform builders went too far in their defense of the protective system.

Some of the comments on this line by newspapers throughout the country will be interesting.

The New York Commercial, a republican paper, says: "Next we shall hear that there isn't any 'Iowa idea' at all, that there never was one and never can be. Here is a Cummins supporter, fresh from the convention, explaining things in an interview at Sioux City: The fact that the six standpatters who controlled the committee on resolutions didn't raise a word of protest at the tariff revision plank shows, he says, that 'the impression that this has been a tariff fight is erroneous.' No tariff fight in Iowa? Then there can be nothing left of the Hon. Albert Baird Cummins but an empty name. The country at large had somehow come to look upon him as a tariff fight personified. But let our Sioux City iconoclast proceed with his explanation: Perkins circulated that story about a tariff fight, he says, when he was in search of an issue on which to make the race for the gubernatorial nomination against Cummins. And when Oyster Bay declared against using tariff revision in the congressional campaign Perkins grabbed at the incident like a drowning man at a straw. 'He thought,' our explaining analyst goes on, 'that he had put Cummins in such a position that he must either change his views or else promulgate a platform putting Iowa at issue with the national party and embarrassing congressmen in their campaigns.' And then follows this very remarkable confession: 'We met that problem by wording our tariff plank moderately and emphasizing the real issues of the campaign—the primary election law and the elimination of corporations from politics. But no one need think Cummins is less a revisionist than he has always been.' But everybody will—is bound to. If his apologist tells the story accurately, Alfred Baird Cummins is a smashed idol, and the 'Iowa idea' only the mere memory of a hollow mockery."

The Kansas City Star, an independent paper with republican leanings says: "The trouble with Governor Cummins as a presidential possibility is that he has not 'made good' even with his own commendable hobby of tariff revision."

The Washington Post, which it would be difficult to classify, says: "Governor Cummins has performed the bombastic martial feat of that king of France who marched up the hill with ten thousand men and then marched down again. Having victory in his grasp he has surrendered to the distracted hosts of standpatism. The country had expected something better of him."

The Philadelphia Press (Rep.) says that Governor Cummins' platform is "sound and strong enough for the stiffest protectionists. It stands by the protective system to the utmost and it contemplates revision only under such conditions as the intelligent protectionist has always recognized it."

The New York Tribune (Rep.) referring to Governor Cummins says: "Between nominating conventions and away from home he has sometimes seemed to antagonize protection sentiment. Yet to judge from the Iowa platforms of 1901, 1903 and 1906—all of them framed by his supporters for him to stand on—his position is in no way extreme or unreasonable. This year's tariff declaration, which merely repeats that of 1903, certainly reaffirms the best republican teaching."

The New York Evening Post (Ind.) says that Governor Cummins has backed down, adding: "We challenge any republican not minus one or more of his senses to read that ancient nonsense without laughing."

The Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald says: "The people who backed Cummins sought immediate tariff revision; Cummins sought personal advantage. He has gained what he sought; his supporters have lost what they believed from his assurance they would gain through him. He has betrayed his supporters. He has been loyal to his insatiable and ever ascendant egotism. He

is a chameleon and his dominant hue is yellow."

The Sioux City Journal, edited by George D. Perkins, Governor Cummins' chief opponent, points out that the platform adopted by the democrats says: "We believe in tariff for revenue only, and in approaching to that condition of our revenue laws there should be immediate relief granted to the people who are now being robbed by extortionate prices exacted under the shelter of the tariff."

The Journal then points out that the platform adopted by the Cummins' convention says: "We are uncompromisingly in favor of the American system of protection. * * * We believe that all inequalities in the tariff schedules, which inevitably arise from changing industrial and commercial conditions, should be adjusted from time to time; and, condemning without reserve all assaults upon the protective system, we favor such reasonable and timely changes as will keep the tariff in harmony with our industrial and commercial progress." The Journal suggests a joint debate between Mr. Porter, democratic nominee for governor, and Governor Cummins, and points out in advance that the democratic position is not dissimilar to the position all along taken by Governor Cummins until the tariff plank for 1906 was injected into the platform.

DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUNDS

A Washington dispatch says that Chairman Griggs of the democratic congressional committee will send a circular letter to each of the 30,000 democrats or as many of them as are living who subscribed one dollar each to the democratic campaign fund in 1896. Another letter is to be sent to the editors of democratic newspapers asking them to call upon their subscribers for one dollar contributions.

Some money is necessary to carry on a political campaign. Men who object to political parties obtaining their campaign funds from special interests ought to be ready to contribute at least a small sum for the payment of legitimate expenses. Every one who believes in democratic principles and who can contribute should send a dollar to Chairman Griggs.

Commoner readers ought not to permit this opportunity to go by. Remember that victory in the congressional campaign is important to popular government. If every Commoner reader who sympathizes with the work Chairman Griggs and other democrats are trying to do, will send one dollar, the democratic committee would not find itself embarrassed from a lack of money to pay all necessary expenses. Such contributions may be addressed to Hon. James M. Griggs, chairman of democratic congressional committee, Washington, D. C.

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 16.

Extracts from letters received at The Commoner office follow:

William Bayne, Varnells Station, Ga.—I hand you herewith primary pledge with eleven signatures.

Wake Massie, Lebanon, Mo.—You will find enclosed seven signatures to the primary pledge.

R. M. Roddie, Ada, I. T.—I am sending you herewith, forty-six signatures to the primary pledge.

I. R. Smith, Stoneville, N. C.—I send the above sixteen names as primary pledgers. Keep up the fight.

Wint Coleman, New Concord, Ky.—I send you herewith forty-two signatures to the primary pledge.