

logue is not complete but it is good as far as it goes and worthy of consideration. He says:

"To understand and appreciate the nature of those services, it is only necessary to bear in mind what the care and promotion of the special interests of labor will imperatively call for. It will require labor to stand for equality of opportunity for all men and against privilege in any form, for taxation measured by the protection given and the ability to bear its burdens and against taxation insidiously devised for the enrichment of particular classes; for economy and thrift in public expenditures and against graft and extravagance, however disguised; for the largest measure of personal liberty consistent with public order, and against all forms of paternalism; for international trade relations conceived in a spirit of equity and fairness, and against the continuance of relations so aggressive in their selfishness and greed as to inevitably arouse national anger and hostility; for peace and pacific methods of settling international controversies, and against war and the huge armaments which find in actual war their sole excuse and justification and inevitably operate as a temptation to war."

Not only the laboring man but the farmer and the business man may well examine this list, for they are all interested in the reforms which the late secretary of state points out. He closes with a paragraph that contains both a tribute to the laboring men and an appeal, and The Commoner is pleased to bring this paragraph before its readers:

"In these circumstances, however indifferent others may be to the fate of our political institutions, the loyalty to them of American workingmen is something that ought not to be susceptible of a doubt. In the ballot they have the precise weapon by which to make that loyalty effective—by which to counteract prevalent reactionary tendencies and to make it plain that whoever will rule in America must be a true American both in sympathy and convictions. That they will use the weapon thus fitted to their hands, will use it unitedly and therefore efficiently, self-interest as well as patriotism make reasonably certain. Not until it is demonstrated that their use of it will be unwise and injurious both as regards themselves and the public at large will it be time to despair of the republic."

The ballot is the effective weapon for the redress of every grievance, and the laboring man ought to be quick to avail himself of it. The laboring man ought to be more of a factor in politics than he is, and it is to the credit of Mr. Olney that he so clearly recognizes and so forcibly states this fact.

#### A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

A dispatch from Galveston, Texas, announces that an organization with three thousand members has been formed among the "better class of negroes of the state for the suppression of crime." The existence of the organization was brought to light by the surrender of a negro who was wanted for a crime.

This is a step in the right direction. The good negroes have suffered a great deal because of the action of brutal and lawless negroes. The whole race has suffered because so many negroes have spent their time denouncing mobs and violence without denouncing the crimes that called forth mobs and violence. As soon as it becomes known that the better element of the colored race is willing to help suppress crimes committed by members of the race, there will be a different feeling among the whites. President Roosevelt's action in suspending the negro troops was due to the fact that the innocent ones refused to give testimony against the guilty ones. The Commoner has already referred to an organization in Alabama similar to the one in Texas. It will be a promising sign for the future relation of the two races when there is such an organization in every community having a considerable colored population.

#### ENGLAND'S PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS

The attempt of the house of lords to nullify the educational bill by amendment has been resisted by the house of commons. The ministry, after duly considering the matter, decided to withdraw the bill as a protest against the action of the house of lords. The premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, announced the withdrawal in these words: "It may be necessary to submit, but neither the resources of the British consti-

tution nor of the house of commons are yet wholly exhausted and a way must and will be found whereby the will of the people, expressed through their elected representatives in the house of commons, will be made to prevail." This challenge to the house of lords raises an important question. The liberals have two hundred majority in the house of commons while the conservative strength in the house of lords is overwhelming, the conservatives having about ten times as many members as the liberals. Ordinarily the house of lords pays very little attention to what is going on in the commons. Three constitute a quorum and business is transacted by routine, but the liberal victory meant a number of important reforms, and the house of lords, assuming itself a co-ordinate branch of the legislature, has undertaken to enforce its ideas. The result is that the house of commons will appeal to the country sooner or later and in the end the will of the people will prevail. "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad," and it is evident that the conservatives are mad. That their madness will lead to their undoing is not at all improbable.

#### A NEW IDEA

A dispatch from New Haven announces that a Yale college has been organized in China. A number of Yale men have been endeavoring for some years to establish an American university in the heart of China, and they have now succeeded in securing the site for their institution. It is a splendid move. China is awakening. A large number of Chinese students are leaving home every year to study abroad, but naturally but a few are financially able to go abroad. The establishment of American colleges in China will vastly increase the opportunities, and these colleges will make friends among the Chinese. Every American college established in China is a new center of western civilization, and every boy brought under the influence of such a college becomes an apostle of western civilization. No one living outside of China can do for the people what the Chinese themselves can do. America can furnish teachers and ideals but the real work must be done by the Chinese themselves who, receiving an education and embodying ideals, go to work among their fellow citizens. The Yale graduates are to be commended for this very worthy undertaking, and the graduates of other institutions may well follow the example set.

#### FREE LUMBER

Senator Kittredge of South Dakota is determined that the lumber trust shall be investigated and declares that if ever given the opportunity he will vote to put lumber on the free list, and adds that every settler in his state is forced to pay tribute to the combine. The senator is quite correct in declaring that there is a lumber trust, and that it forces tribute. But what about the wire trust? And the twine trust? And the harvester trust? And the sugar trust? And the beef trust? Is it not true that each of them exacts tribute, not only from settlers but from all the people, and that their ability to exact this tribute is due in most instances to the very same tariff that permits the lumber trust to do the things so bitterly complained of by Senator Kittredge?

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL BONAPARTE

When the name of Secretary Bonaparte was presented to the senate as the president's nominee for attorney general, Senator Culberson, of Texas, raised objection to his confirmation and based his objection upon a speech made by Mr. Bonaparte at the Chicago anti-trust conference in 1899. In that speech he said, speaking of the tendency of combination: "I am not, however, prepared to say that this tendency is harmful; it has a good side and a bad side, and there is the less reason to make up our minds as to its merits, because, whatever we may think, we can not prevent it, except at the price of liberty and civilization." He concluded his speech with this language: "Emphatically no legislative action in regulation or restraint of combinations, whether by congress or state legislature, is desirable. Our public men (with I need not say, some honorable exceptions) are wholly unfit to deal with any such matters. The attempt will be highly demoralizing to all concerned, the practical results (except in the levy of blackmail) altogether nugatory." He also expressed himself in favor of the consolidation of the railroads. While there are several sentences which indicate that he was still studying the question, there is no doubt

that at that time he looked at the question from the standpoint of the trust and sympathized with the trusts rather than with those who were endeavoring to exterminate them.

It was argued in Mr. Bonaparte's behalf that a great change has taken place in the minds of many on the trust question, and he was reported as having changed his views. Let us hope that he has, for it would be folly to entrust the execution of the law against trust magnates to one who really believes the trust magnates to be great benefactors or who believes that they are engaged in a work necessary to progress. The speeches made up by Mr. Bonaparte in the recent campaign do not indicate any enthusiastic support of the anti-trust movement even now, but as he has been appointed and confirmed, we can only hope that he will be spurred on to active reform work by a desire to overcome the effect of his former position. The zeal of the new convert is proverbial and the American people will be delighted if he shows himself not only a convert but a zealous one in the prosecution of the trusts.

#### IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A reader of the New York World writes to that paper in this way: "As to government by injunction, is there any good reason why an alleged violator of an injunction in a strike case can not be tried before a jury, where the witnesses can be cross-examined and seen by the jury, instead of by a judge, upon affidavits prepared by the counsel of the complainant? Jury trial is guaranteed in cases of felony, which is graver than violating a court order. Why can not a jury as well pass on the question of an alleged violation of such an order as on a question involving the life of an accused? If not, why not?"

Mr. Pulitzer should lose no time in answering this question. If not, why not?

#### SCHOOLMASTER EXPERIENCE

A friend of The Commoner sends in this item: The people of Goldfield, Nev., recently had a fuel famine. One of the public-spirited citizens went to San Francisco and secured four hundred tons of coal at \$14 per ton. He then went to the Southern Pacific railroad and asked for transportation, explaining the sore needs of the people. He succeeded finally in making arrangements by which the coal would be shipped at \$9.50 per ton, a 580 mile haul, which ought to be fairly remunerative to the railroad. If the railroads, however, insist upon charging such rates, the people in distress need not be expected to become hilarious in their advocacy of the private ownership of railroads. When government ownership comes, it will not be due so much to the speeches made as to the actual experience which the people have with the roads under individual management.

#### BREAK THE BOND

Although in his message to congress the president did not deign to notice the tariff question, indications that that question is conspicuous in the public mind multiply. In the language of Senator Rayner of Maryland: "The bond between the protected beneficiaries and the treasury of the United States should be broken. The contract between them should long since have expired by limitation. This is a renewal in a new form of this unholy combination. It announces the doctrine that the government of the United States has the right to take the hard-earned savings of the people collected by taxation and still further enrich its protected favorites. It is an attack upon the rights of the people for the benefit of their financial oppressors. It is in the interest of the American Protective Tariff league, which, notwithstanding the respectable membership that composes it, represents every monopoly on the American continent that is plundering the homes of the American people."

#### THE PHILIPPINE ASSEMBLY

A dispatch from Manila announces that an election will soon be called for the selection of members to the first Philippine assembly. The election will be held July 1, 1907, and the assembly will convene within ninety days. Each assembly district will contain about ninety thousand population.

This will be an important assembly, and it is to be hoped that the Filipinos will recognize that the success of the assembly will go a long