

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Possibly we can reduce the tariff and run the government on fines.

Now if Judge Landis could only hold court for a few days in Judge Pritchard's district the North Carolina situation might be improved.

The indications are that Rough Rider Franz of Oklahoma has not enough colored backing this time to save himself from overwhelming defeat.

Attention is called to the difference between the mention made of the two Alabama senators, and mention of the two surviving senators from New York.

The Portland Oregonian says that "automobiles are the most convincing sign of wealth." Sometimes they are a convincing sign of an indebtedness.

A St. Louis young woman has achieved considerable publicity by advocating the removal of the lid. Wish more of them would, in the opera house.

And yet the trust magnates used to insist on naming the candidates of both parties it's twenty-nine millions to nothing that they don't do it this time.

General Miles ventures the opinion that we may eventually lose the Philippines. Thanks for a suggestion that makes even this hot weather more endurable.

Results of the Philippine election indicate the necessity of rushing Secretary Taft over there to look sorrowfully into the faces of our recalcitrant wards.

Dr. Wiley has gone to France to tell the people what is wine and what isn't. The isn't is shipped to this country in bottles bearing a lot of pretty labels.

The Pennsylvania democrats have adopted the slogan, "Thou shalt not steal," and already the republican press is complaining of a campaign of personalities.

Mr. Foraker refers to tariff revision as a menace. Talk of revision naturally makes the trust magnates feel like ignoring the frying pan when it comes in sight.

It has been demonstrated that old Rameses was in the habit of claiming work belonging to others. Rameses must have been one of the original tariff standpaters.

COMMENT ON THE FINE

Philadelphia Press: In the presence of this heavy fine, at last inflicted after thirty years of public denunciation, since the first of these iniquitous contracts was published in this state and left unpunished, it is well to remember that by practices and rebates like these the producer has been robbed of his due, the railroad of its profits and the consumer of his claim to a fair price. * * * No peace can come save with justice. No property can be safe save under the laws. The one object of the law under which this fine is levied is to secure justice and the protection of equal rights in transportation. Heavy as is the fine, it is none too great if the courts decide—and two more have yet to pass upon it—that it is both lawful and deserved.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The trend of events is fast leading to a punishment about which there can be no vicariousness or uncertainty. The only real and effective way to punish a trust is by punishing the individual responsible for illegal transactions. The people, intolerant of punishing by a method which inevitably reacts upon themselves, will speedily see to it that the individual criminals are punished by incarceration. When the head of an offending trust, in the person of the party responsible for crime, is put in jail, the "square deal" will be in a fair way toward adoption, and not till then.

Chicago Post: Whether or not the supreme court sustains the decision of Judge Landis in the suit against the Standard Oil company, there can be no doubt that public opinion will sustain it. * * * The history of the oil monopoly has become notorious and lately it has been examined and analyzed officially in two governmental reports, which have served as a new testament of corporate sin. Thus the case against the Standard Oil, at first inchoate and largely an aggregate of mere suspicions and prejudices, has been placed upon a basis quite definite and firm enough for just popular judgment.

Detroit Free Press: One claim that we have been hearing for a score of years from socialists, labor agitators and radicals of various kinds, that the courts are owned by the corporations, will receive a rude shock from the decision of Judge Landis, which makes apparent the much-needed truth that the greatest of all the corporations is not above the law. On the other hand, it may be claimed with some degree of justice, if we may judge by the past, that the fine will not be a very severe penalty, after all. The Standard Oil company, with its practical monopoly of the market, has only to raise the price of its commodity a few cents a gallon, and the consumers will pay the fine.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: There is no reason to doubt that the penalty imposed by Judge Landis is but the first important step in the campaign of the national government against alleged illegal combinations in restriction of trade. * * * While the federal courts are by no means dominated by the federal government it is natural that they should feel sympathy with the aims of the president and his advisors. And whatever appeals may be taken must go before courts more and more closely in touch with the administration. For this reason there is at present no visible golden lining to the cloud which seems to have darkened the horizon of the Standard Oil company.

Milwaukee Sentinel: Now for the appeals. And thereafter, should the government again be successful, for the consideration, very interesting to the public, whether the oil trust will be able to recoup itself at the expense of the public by shifting the fine onto the consumers in the form of a lift in the price of oil.

Kansas City Star: Standard Oil and its fellows will continue to plunder the public in spite of fines, which they can recoup through extra charges, and in spite of imprisonments, if such be visited, until iniquitous tariff favoritisms are withdrawn, until the people run them and their hirelings out of legislative assemblies and popular conventions, and until the public regulation of trusts and transportation companies is so adequate that secret advantages can not be taken of the people. Let trust prosecutions continue by all means, for it is through

the publicity thus gained that the people are enabled to draw close the lines for equal opportunity and economic fair play. But action will be valueless if it does not go beyond these criminal proceedings.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Whatever dimensions the punishment against the Standard may take in this case, combines will be less likely to ask special favors from the roads and the roads will be less likely to grant them, if asked. It is a notable triumph for the square deal. President Roosevelt and Attorney General Bonaparte are not saying anything about this Standard case, but their work is talking for them.

Omaha World-Herald: The fine system of dealing with private monopoly is merely an endless chain under which the monopoly mulcts the customer and thus turns a small part of its pilferings into the public treasury. There is, however, a silver lining to this cloud. This case has become celebrated. The moment the Rockefeller gang proceeds to recoup by collecting from the public that patient beast of burden may be expected to awaken, at last, to the absurdity and injustice of punishing the consumer for the crimes of monopoly. And then public sentiment will either compel the national administration to proceed to enforce the criminal law against trust criminals the same as other criminals, or it will cause a new administration to be elected and installed in office that will administer the laws impartially.

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 straightforward 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 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.

SPECIAL OFFER

Everyone who approves the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of this offer cards each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents. Any one ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign. These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

The Commoner's Special Offer Application for Subscription Cards. Includes a table with options for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75, 100 cards and a coupon for remittance.