

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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It is presumed that Public Printer Leech will stick.

Speaking of successful flying machines, how about the beef trust?

The beef trust has revised its price schedule just like the friends of the tariff would revise the tariff if allowed to go ahead.

Recent remarks by William Allen White indicate that the Cannon presidential boom is scarcely visible to the naked Emporia eye.

It will be noted that none of those foreign gentlemen of title ever happen to fall in love with beautiful American girls who are not heiresses.

Judge Newcomer of Chicago has ruled that a new spring bonnet is not a household necessity. A great many men will hope that Judge Newcomer will stay longer.

After studying it over for eight or ten years General Stoessel will doubtless come to the conclusion that it is better to use discretion and live than to die foolishly.

Recent executive orders, when compared with former executive orders are calculated to make the people wonder if after all there really was any rioting at Brownsville.

If the San Francisco authorities want some expert advice on "rat extermination" they should apply to the boys in the composing rooms of the San Francisco daily papers.

The New York elephant that was scared into a fit by the sight of a mouse wasn't a bit worse frightened than the republican elephant is at the mere thought of tariff revision.

With 100,000 idle men reported the Philadelphia city council is preparing to appropriate \$50,000 to tide them over. Fifty cents per man will not keep a dinner pail full very long.

Mr. Ogden Armour is reported as taking an optimistic view of the business outlook. Perhaps he views it from the altitude of his beef prices and can therefore see more than most of us.

The town of Boozy, West Virginia, went "dry," and the city of Coldwater, Michigan, went "wet." This is mentioned merely as an excuse for quoting that old saying about "there's nothing in a name," etc.

Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., April 13.—It is unfortunate that the democratic national committee does not begin the work of the campaign until after the national convention has been held, and this year that convention has been put at a singularly late date. But the democratic congressional committee is already at work. It has organized under the chairmanship of Representative James T. Lloyd of Missouri and is sending out documents to every section in which they are needed or from which they are requested.

While there is much talk concerning the democratic filibuster, the real fact of the matter is that the systematic filibuster has been conducted by the republican majority in the house of representatives and aided by Speaker Cannon. They are talking now of adjourning on the 20th of May, and yet not one committee has reported any legislation of general importance.

What is the answer? Not that the republicans under the leadership of Speaker Cannon and Messrs. Payne and Dalzell will bring in any important measures, but that by their control of the house they will bring in a rule of order which will prevent the democrats from interfering with the trivial business the republicans are willing to transact. That is a very insufficient response.

The democratic party, and particularly its leader in the house of representatives, John Sharp Williams, are to be congratulated upon their success in forcing through the house the employers' liability bill which the president urged, but which the party he is supposed to belong to, ignored until democrats compelled its attention.

by democratic insistence and democratic aid.

It is a time-honored rule in the house of representatives that what has been done in a committee is never formally repeated on the floor of the house. Of course individual members of the committees kindly and confidentially tell everything that happens to the newspaper correspondents, just as all that has been done in an executive session leaks.

The subject for discussion was the campaign contribution publicity bill. The five were present and two republicans, Mr. Burke of Pennsylvania and Mr. Diekema of Michigan—both somewhat famous for the size of the campaign funds that enable them to hold their districts—were also on hand.

About this time the chairman engaged in a whispered conversation with Mr. Diekema and Mr. Burke, the two republican members present, after which they immediately left the room. The chair then announced to the democratic members, all of whom were present, that no quorum was present and that he would not put the motion to report the bill.

The fact that for the first time almost in congressional procedure the secrets of the committee room have been divulged by a formal signed statement entered into by all the minority members of the committee shows how thoroughly they were outraged by the action taken.

And the character of the action taken by the chairman of the committee indicates how apprehensive the republicans are lest the character of the campaign fund which they are already planning to collect should be given publicity. Their frank assertions that however Wall Street may feel toward Roosevelt, it is friendly to Mr. Taft, their scheme for a tariff commission which will be nothing more than a touching commission during the campaign, and Mr. Taft's enormous expenditures of money already, indicate the lines on which they hope to fight the coming presidential campaign.

WILLIS J. ABBOT.

Advertisement for J. B. Gray, Shirleysburg, Pa., enclosed please find money order for \$6.60 in full payment for eleven yearly subscriptions at club rates. Never since 1860 were the prospects so bright for democratic victory. I would like some republican to explain on what pretext the republican party is going to go before the American people in this year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eight, and claim their suffrage. Will some one please answer? Democrats put your shoulders to the wheel and make it a two million army.