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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Lorimer! Now we know why it is called the "Sucker" state.

The tariff was a local issue in Hancock's time; it is now largely a personal issue. Thus do we progress.

The present style in women's headgear is a reminder of the days of the old-fashioned choppin' bowl.

Animal hides are on the "protected" list. Everything is taken out of the hide of the consumer.

It is reported that the Roosevelt party has secured eighty-six pelts. San Juan count or real pelts?

The senate would save time by hitching an enacting clause to Senator Aldrich and letting it go at that.

Mr. Rockefeller has written a poem. Just because he has a mint of money that man thinks he can do anything.

The people who pay the tax seem to be about the only ones who are unrepresented in the congressional tariff debate.

Perhaps that earthquake shock felt in the central west was merely the echoes of an African jungle interview.

By the way, now that we are importing potatoes perhaps some one will kindly explain the benefits of the tariff on potatoes.

There is every indication that the Rev. Dr. Long is storing up trouble for himself against the day of the Mighty Nimrod's return.

Indiana reformers are preparing to prove, if possible, that base ball playing is a crime. Depends upon the position of the home team.

Statesmen who ridiculed General Hancock's assertion that "the tariff is a local issue" owe an apology to the memory of that distinguished soldier.

A good many of the Virginia democrats are giving Senator Daniel the horse-laugh because of his speech in favor of a tariff on quebracho, and the laugh is not more musical because it is a sort of chestnut horse-laugh.

Practical Tariff Talks

Senator Cummins of Iowa says that if there were complete freedom of domestic trade he would not care so much about the height to which the tariff wall might be raised, relying upon competition to eventually bring down prices. The original theory of protection was that it shut out the foreign manufacturer, and by stimulating the investment of capital in American industries prices were eventually brought to a point where nobody was wronged. Since the trusts have come into being and prices are arbitrarily fixed, this justification for a high tariff wall is removed. Yet because the trusts have more influence at Washington than have the common people, the same number of brick go into that wall, and in addition barbs are put on top. The iron ore schedule affords an excellent example.

The steel trust dominates the market largely because of its control of the supply of iron ore. Eighty-five per cent of the mineral deposits necessary to the steel trade are owned by the steel trust. All steel comes from iron ore. It necessarily follows that whoever owns the ore occupies a commanding position in the manufacture of steel. The house saw the point and put iron ore on the free list. The senate put it back at 25 cents a ton. The effect of this is to make the United States steel corporation a bigger trust than ever, and gives into its hand a weapon by which it can fix prices at whatever figure it pleases. It effectually stifles competition in the matter of prices. Along the Atlantic coast are located a number of plants independent of the trust. Naturally they desire to secure ore from outside. Down in the West Indies are rich deposits of iron ore. These can be laid down east of the Alleghanies at about the same cost as lake transportation enables the trust to place Lake Superior and Mesaba range ore at its furnaces west of the Alleghanies. In the Mediterranean is another large source of supply. Ships that took American grain to seaports in that section could bring back iron ore as ballast if there were no tariff. The grain rate was 3 cents per hundred less from Baltimore when this was done; but the ore tariff of 40 cents a ton was prohibitive. That source of supply is closed, and ocean grain rates have gone up. If there was no custom house barrier not only would the steel trust, operating west of the mountains, be deprived of its control of the chief sources of supply and its independent rivals able to get their ore where they could buy cheapest and thus in a measure be independent in price-making, but the farmer would benefit by reason of cheaper ocean transportation made possible by the carrying of ore as a return cargo. All of these benefits are set aside, and for what? That the steel trust may continue to dominate.

The lead schedule in the Aldrich bill excited a very long debate in the senate. Several very interesting facts were developed. One of these was that the finance committee refused to let representatives of the lead manufacturers appear before them to give their views. Mr. Aldrich said that he was convinced these men, because they consume lead, aimed to tear down this schedule, and he did not wish to hear them. The consumer is a man whose case does not appeal to the senator from Rhode Island. Lead is one of the most useful of metals. Every man who builds a house or a business block must use it, when he paints his house he is paying his tribute to the lead industry. If he buys wire or ammunition he also pays. There are rich deposits of it in the United States, many thousands of men are engaged in it. To protect them a duty on the ore is levied. Then to protect the market for the refined ore, a differential between the ore and the metal of five-eighths of a cent a pound is levied. This differential means \$12.50 a ton. Sworn testimony before the ways and means committee of the house was that the cost to smelt a ton is only \$8. One of the largest manufacturers in the country said that the paragraph was so drawn that only two smelters could comply with it. Several men swore that the interests of the trade would be well cared for if the differential were reduced to two-eighths of a cent a pound. Other testimony before that committee was to the effect that it cost to reduce ore into lead \$15.93 a ton, and the same ton was sold for \$19.38. The tariff is \$30 a ton. Where is the mathematician who can reconcile that amount of pro-

tection with the republican platform yardstick measure, that the tariff shall be the difference between wages here and abroad, with a reasonable profit to the manufacturer? Why is it placed so high? There is but one reason, to give the corporations that dominate that industry a protection from competition that enables them to fix prices. There is no other reasonable conclusion. C. Q. D.

THE TARIFF AND THE JEWELERS

Cedar Rapids, Ia., May 10, 1909.—Editor The Commoner: A large number of jewelers throughout the United States have for many years had watch movements made for them in Switzerland and on each movement has been engraved the name and place of business of the dealer and the number of jewels contained in the movement, namely seven jewels, eleven jewels, fifteen jewels and seventeen jewels. Now in addition to the fact that the Payne tariff raises the duty on these movements, the American watch manufacturers are trying to impress upon the members of the ways and means committee the importance of compelling Swiss manufacturers to engrave on these movements the name of the manufacturer, the city, the state and the country where such movements are made, and the number of jewels contained therein, and all this is to be done, mind you, in the interest of the dear American consumer. Now the fact is it is done so that the American retail jeweler can not have his own firm name placed on these movements, he can no longer say to his customer, here is a watch that is made for us, our own name is on the movement, we guarantee this watch to give you satisfactory service, and we are personally responsible to you, and will see that you get what you pay for. He can no longer sell these movements bearing his own name, for the only space where such name and place of business could be engraved has been utilized by the name and place of business of the Swiss manufacturer. It deprives the American retail jeweler of the right he has to profit by the good impression goods sold from his place of business may bring to his firm in the demand for other goods bearing his own firm name, and it has only been in recent years that the American watch manufacturer has been willing to sell his product to the retailer without his own factory name stamped on the movement, but he will do so now, very willingly, because the Swiss manufacturer has forced them to do so, and right now they reluctantly accept an order for "O" size movements for the reason (not stated by them, however) that if Swiss manufacturers can not supply them as heretofore, they will do so later on, at an advance in price. (See the "nigger in the wood pile?") And as is always the case the dear public will pay the advance.

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By J. G. McMasters.

IN VIRGINIA

Something more than a year ago The Commoner printed a poem entitled "In Virginia." The author of this poem is unknown to The Commoner. Mr. W. A. Sullenbarger of Belle Plaine, Ia., set the poem to music and sent the same to Mr. Eggleston, state superintendent of public instruction for Virginia, expressing his desire to present it to the schools of that state. The Virginia Journal of Education, published in Richmond prints, in its April number, Mr. Sullenbarger's song. The poem "In Virginia" follows:

The roses nowhere bloom so white, as in Virginia,
 The sunshine nowhere shines so bright, as in Virginia,
 The birds sing nowhere quite so sweet, and nowhere hearts so lightly beat,
 For heav'n and earth both seem to meet, Down in Virginia, Down in Virginia.

The days are never quite so long, as in Virginia
 Nor quite so filled with happy song, as in Virginia,
 And when my time has come to die, just take me back and let me lie,
 Close where the James goes rolling by, Down in Virginia, Down in Virginia.

There nowhere is a land so fair, as in Virginia,
 So full of song, so free of care, as in Virginia,
 And I believe that happy land, the Lord prepared for mortal man
 Is built exactly on the plan of Old Virginia,
 Of Old Virginia.