

The Commoner. ISSUED WEEKLY.

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Editor and Proprietor
CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher
RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor
Editorial Rooms and Business Office 324-330 South 12th Street

One Year.....\$1.00
Six Months......50
In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75
Three Months..... .25
Single Copy..... .05
Sample Copies Free.
Foreign Post. 5c Extra.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent direct to The Commoner. They can also be sent through newspapers which have advertised a clubbing rate, or through local agents, where sub-agents have been appointed. All remittances should be sent by postoffice money order, express order, or by bank draft on New York or Chicago. Do not send individual checks, stamps or money.

DISCONTINUANCES—It is found that a large majority of our subscribers prefer not to have their subscriptions interrupted and their files broken in case they fail to remit before expiration. It is therefore assumed that continuance is desired unless subscribers order discontinuance, either when subscribing or at any time during the year.

PRESENTATION COPIES—Many persons subscribe for friends, intending that the paper shall stop at the end of the year. If instructions are given to that effect they will receive attention at the proper time.

RENEWALS—The date on your wrapper shows the time to which your subscription is paid. Thus January 21, '09, means that payment has been received to and including the last issue of January, 1909. Two weeks are required after money has been received before the date on wrapper can be changed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—Subscribers requesting a change of address must give old as well as new address.

ADVERTISING—Rates will be furnished upon application.

Address all communications to

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

ALDRICH CROWNED AS REPUBLICAN LEADER
"Mr. Aldrich is the leader of the senate and certainly one of the ablest statesmen in financial matters in either house. I believe it to be his earnest desire to aid the people."—President Taft in his speech to Boston business men Tuesday, September 14.

to which we can all subscribe. It is quite possible that the report of the commission of a definite plan may be delayed beyond the next session of congress. Meantime the members of the commission intend to institute a campaign of education in order to arouse public opinion to the necessity of a change in our monetary and banking systems, and to the advantages that will arise from placing some form of control over the money market and the reserve in the hands of an intelligent body of financiers responsible to the government.

"I am told that Mr. Aldrich will 'swing around the circle' in the present fall, and will lecture in many of the cities of the middle west on the defects and needs of our monetary system. I can not too strongly approve of this proposal. Mr. Aldrich, who is the leader of the senate and certainly one of the ablest statesmen in financial matters in either house, has been regarded with deep suspicion by many people, especially in the west. If, with his clear cut ideas and simple, but effective style of speaking, he makes apparent to the western people what I believe to be his earnest desire to aid the people and to crown his political career by the preparation and passage of a bill which shall give us a sound and safe monetary and banking system, it would be a long step toward removing the political obstacles to a proper solution of the question."

The president was given a great reception at Chicago. He was a guest at the ball given by the American Bankers' Association. In his speech to the bankers the president declared that he was a friend of organized labor and said that although many labor leaders were against him in the last campaign he did not suffer materially in the loss of labor votes. He said at the next session of congress he would recommend legislation on the subject of injunctions. In the same speech he declared that the administration of criminal law in this country "is a disgrace to our civilization and the

prevalence of crime and fraud, which here is greatly in excess of that in the European countries, is due largely to the failure of the law and its administrators to bring criminals to justice." On this point he said:

"One of the methods by which it could be remedied in some degree is to give judges more power in the trial of criminal cases and enable them to aid the jury in its consideration of facts and to exercise more control over the arguments that counsel see fit to advance, and especially judges who are elected ought not to be mistrusted by the people."

At Winona, Minn., President Taft made what the Associated Press says is "the most important utterance he has made since his occupancy of the White House." Winona is the home town of Representative Tawney, one of the stand-patters.

"Was it the duty of the members of congress who believed that the bill did not accomplish everything that it ought to accomplish, to vote against it?" asked the president.

"I am here to justify those who answer this question in the negative. I am not here to defend those who voted for the Payne law, but to support them."

Neither Senator Nelson nor Senator Clapp, both insurgents, were on hand to greet the president on his first appearance in Minnesota. At Milwaukee Senators LaFollette and Stephenson joined the presidential party.

Confidence in Both

The New York American prints this editorial: The New York American, in the forward spirit of the time and in the loyal spirit of our country, expresses hearty confidence in the achievement of Commander Peary. It has already expressed an equal confidence in the prior achievement of Dr. Cook.

This newspaper has no patience or sympathy with that captious spirit of criticism which, in advance of formal proof, goes greedily to cast discredit upon the discovery of Dr. Cook. Two of the foremost of these doubting Thomases, we blush to say, are exploiting their daily skepticism in this city, which is the home of the first great explorer and the temporary residence of the other.

Of course, until the formal proofs and records are presented and considered, no one in the civilized world, save Dr. Cook himself, can actually know that he was the first man in all the world to reach the pole. In the meantime it is neither logical, progressive nor patriotic to cast aspersion upon the achievement of a great American, whose character and repute contain nothing to justify the unworthy doubts and imputations.

Dr. Cook's long and honorable career entitles him to credence. During fifteen stern, laborious years of patient suffering and heroic daring he has enjoyed the highest character for probity and sincerity. Every line of his record is in opposition to the suggestion of either pretender or charlatan. The charlatan and fakir does not persist in arduous and heroic ways. He seeks the easy line of least resistance and avoids the narrow path of danger and daring and suffering and self-denial. There are a thousand ways that a pretender would prefer to follow to fame and fortune other than the awful line that leads through Arctic snows to the frozen axis of the world.

If Dr. Cook is scoffed at for a time, and doubted and mocked by captious and the skeptic, he may comfort himself with the reflection that his fate is the fate of great pioneers from Galileo and Columbus all the way. He is built of the stuff of pioneers and martyrs, and we hope that his title to imperishable fame will be completely established.

It is no real disparagement of Dr. Cook that the first dispatches from Commander Peary were received with universal credence and applause. Peary is, first of all, an engineer by profession. He is also a naval officer and carries the splendid spirit and the magnificent prestige of the American navy. He has spent twenty-three dauntless and enduring years in Arctic exploration, and this is his seventh attempt to reach the pole. Every effort has carried him farther north and nearer to the way and the truth.

But there is glory enough for both Peary and Cook in the last great Arctic dash, and glory exceeding for our country that, in swift succession, two American citizens have achieved the hitherto impossible in science and geography.

Since the year 1800 there have been 578 expeditions sent to discover the north pole and sixty-one to the south pole. Of these Great Britain has sent 107 north and twenty-five

south; Russia has sent 105 to the north and one to the south, and the United States comes third with eighty-four to the north and twelve to the south.

And now that the hero blood and brain of our own great race have triumphed at last over the obstacles that have baffled the frozen years, it is little worthy of our country's spirit and traditions that voices here should raise the note of detraction and unbelief before either of its Arctic immortals has been allowed to speak.—New York American.

WHERE HE IS A BIT LAME

In his speech at Albany, N. Y., Mr. Taft said: "I want Governor Hughes to come out and back me up on this platform. When we are together there is plenty of strength and we work better than on separate platforms. In Massachusetts, from where I just came, I had a senator and a congressman or two to help me on the platform, and that's where I need assistance."

Many a truth has been uttered in jest. Mr. Taft was nominated as a Roosevelt reformer and elected as a tariff revisionist. He helped in the enactment of a tariff bill that increases the consumers' burdens, declared Aldrich to be the republican leader in the senate and a fit counsellor for the American people and gave to Secretary Ballinger a clean bill. With these facts in view one is impressed that the president was right when he said "that's where I need assistance."

Practical Tariff Talks

The Payne-Aldrich tariff law is honey-combed with favoritism, carrying lower rates for articles used by the well-to-do in many cases where the articles are in common use. The cheaper watch movements, for instance, are increased 25 per cent for the lowest grade and 15 per cent for the next highest. There is no increase at all on the fifteen to seventeen jeweled watches and the more than seventeen jeweled watches used by the rich. In the window glass schedule no reductions are made on the glass used by the poorer classes, while plate glass is reduced 31 per cent. All of these duties are prohibitory. On frosted glass the duty is just four times the value of the article, a rare exposition of the theory that rates should be adjusted on the basis of difference in labor cost.

The changes made in the metal schedule insure the railroads cheaper rails and the iron manufacturers cheaper iron ore. The people who use structural material, who buy razors or cutlery will pay more than they did before the bill was enacted. On the cheapest kind of pocket-knives, those with deerhorn handles, the tariff is now 80.45 per cent. On knives with handles of mother-of-pearl, ivory and silver, the finer grades, the duty is 47.46 per cent, a third less than that placed upon the knives of the masses.

Woolen blankets of the character used by the poorer people carry a tariff of 165.42 per cent. Those used by the better-to-do carry a duty of 104.55. The tax on the cheaper blankets is more than half again as much as upon the better quality. Cheaper woolen flannels, valued at not more than 40 cents a pound, are taxed at 143.67 per cent. Those used by the better class of people, worth over 70 cents a pound, are taxed at 76.37 per cent. The cheaper wool plushes are taxed at 141.78 per cent of their value, the dearer ones at 95.33 per cent. On wool knit fabrics (not wearing apparel) the cheaper grades carry 141 per cent tariff, the higher grades 95.67 per cent.

Think of putting a tariff of 141 per cent as on wool fabrics, 165 per cent as upon cheap blankets, 143 per cent on flannel underwear for the masses. A tariff of 141 per cent means that an article worth \$5 seeking entry into this market must pay a duty of \$7.05, making the total cost to the purchaser, the consumer, of \$12.05 not including transportation cost. As a matter of fact there was, under this rate in the Dingley law, just \$1 worth of importations. This proves the rate to be prohibitive, to bar out the foreign manufacturer, while it permitted the home manufacturer to charge the consumer approximately \$12.05, or just enough less than that to make it not worth his while to buy imported goods. It may be conceded, for the argument, that it costs more to produce woolen knit fabrics in this country than abroad, but does anybody contend that that difference would equal the total market value of the foreign product laid down at American ports?

C. Q. D.