

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

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CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher
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.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

Where Congressmen Stand

The Commoner will be pleased to publish brief letters from congressmen and democratic candidates for congress, giving their opinion of the tariff platform suggested by Mr. Bryan.

Boston, Mass., October 22, 1909.—Mr. Charles W. Bryan, The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Mr. Bryan: I have yours of October 19 asking me, as a democratic member of congress, to express my opinion in reference to the tariff platform. Permit me to say that it fell to my lot recently to write the platform for the democratic party of Massachusetts, which was adopted at their state convention. My idea of what the democratic platform in reference to the tariff should be, is contained in that platform, which reads: "We demand an immediate reduction of the tariff duties on the necessities of life."

Very respectfully yours,
JOSEPH F. O'CONNELL.

Helena, Ark., October 23, 1909.—Mr. Charles W. Bryan, Publisher of The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—Esteemed Sir: Replying to your favor of the 20th instant requesting a letter from me giving my opinion of the tariff platform recently suggested by Mr. Bryan and read by him in his Dallas, Texas, speech September 14th, I will say that I cordially endorse the propositions set forth by him to the effect that a platform is a pledge by the candidate to the voters and when ratified at the polls becomes a contract between the official and his constituents and should be as sacredly observed as any contract that could possibly be made between man and man. I do not deem it necessary for me to take up the other suggestions made by Mr. Bryan as my speeches in congress upon the tariff question clearly disclose that I am an anti-protectionist from head to heels. The very thought of protecting one class of individuals or business as against another class of individuals or business, except as against criminals, such as highway robbers and sneak thieves, is so repugnant to my sense of right and justice that it is hard for me to express myself upon the subject without losing my patience. I believe that when the great Creator of all things made man and placed him upon the earth he intended that he should have a free race to the goal unhindered by his fellows and that for any one of them to obstruct his course by digging pitfalls or erecting barriers to interfere with his progress would be unbrotherly, unmanly and contrary to every

Who Fooled President Taft?

Following is an Associated Press dispatch: Chicago, October 19.—President Taft apparently was led into a serious blunder in the closing days of the recent session of congress when he changed his attitude on the print paper schedule, according to an open letter addressed to the chief executive and signed by Herman Ridder of New York, president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Mr. Ridder's letter was written some time ago and was made public today following its endorsement by the Inland Daily Press Association. Mr. Ridder's letter is as follows:

"To the President: The full text of your address at Winona, Minn., on the tariff bill has just come to hand. With the utmost respect, we submit that your statement respecting the paper schedule shows that you could not have correctly read or understood what the print paper paragraph contained as it passed the house of representatives.

"You were apparently misled by designing men into a serious blunder when, in the closing days of the tariff conference, they induced you to reverse your previous attitude upon print paper, and changed your notions of what the Mann committee recommended, and of what the house of representatives had approved.

"The Mann committee, after a ten months' investigation, marked by unusual thoroughness, reported that a rate of \$2 would cover the difference in cost of production at home and abroad. The draft proposed absolutely safeguarded American paper mills against the serious Canadian tangle which your advice to the tariff conference has since precipitated.

"The fixing of the rate on print paper at \$3.75 per ton, which you advised, has decided the province of Quebec to prohibit the exportation of its pulp wood, and many American paper mills must close or give to Canada, to obtain their supplies of raw material.

"The country is now in a fair way for a trade war with Canada, because of your apparent failure to correctly read the Mann committee's recommendations. We are threatened with an industrial disturbance which will involve business interchanges with Canada, amounting to \$285,000,000 per annum.

"We sincerely trust that you can find some method of rectifying the mistake into which you were led. We fully appreciate the difficulties and responsibilities of your exalted office, and we believe you are trying to do the best you can. We know you must rely upon others for your information. We feel that every citizen is under obligation to help you. Therefore, we write this letter to help you.

"Yours respectfully,

"(Signed) HERMAN RIDDER,

President American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Following are United Press dispatches:

Chicago, October 20.—The placing of wood pulp on the free list is the only solution to the impending trade war between the United States and Canada, caused by the new print paper and

wood pulp tariff incorporated in the recent tariff bill. This is the belief of John Norris, chairman of the standing committee on print paper of the American Publishers' Association, as expressed before the Inland Daily Press Association. Norris declared that only a free schedule for print paper and pulp would now be accepted by the Canadians.

"Had the \$2 duty been fixed at the time the tariff bill was in the making," he said, "Canada would have accepted it, but now the Canadians are aroused and they believe that, with the United States sticking for a duty, they will pull the \$500,000,000 invested in this country in paper manufacturing properties over into Canada.

"That is the talk of the pulp men, their paper manufacturers and their newspapers. And any change in the attitude of the Canadian government toward a compromise duty would mean the downfall of the men at the head of that government."

Resolutions urging upon congress such changes in the tariff provision on pulp and print paper as will insure a full supply of pulp wood for American paper mills were adopted by the convention, which also endorsed a letter of protest to President Taft prepared by the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

THREATS OF TARIFF WAR

Washington, October 20.—A tariff war of gigantic proportions threatening to demoralize trade between the United States and France, and eventually to lead to the prohibition of French imports to the United States, is looming up.

Although the French government has issued no proclamation imposing maximum rates on a number of American products now being admitted under the minimum rate, notice that such a proclamation would be issued has been published. It is assumed that this change will go into effect November 1.

In the opinion of officials in whose hands will lie the readjustment of the tariff under the maximum and minimum clause of the Payne-Aldrich bill, this action by France is unnecessarily vindictive and harsh. If these conditions are imposed upon American products, President Taft would have authority to retaliate by shutting French imports out altogether under section five of the act of August 30, 1890, which gives him authority to declare illegal import from countries which unduly discriminate against American products.

Under the proposed French schedule, the duty on mineral oils will be double the present rate and the duty on coffee will be 29 cents per pound. The raises on other American productions are as great and the effect will be practically to shut out American trade.

The apparent cause for this resentment on the part of the French legislators is the fact that Germany has been granted a period of grace three months longer than that allowed to France.

Christian spirit implanted in the breast of man by his Creator.

Very sincerely yours,
R. B. MACON.

Butler, Mo., October 21, 1909.—Mr. Charles W. Bryan, Publisher The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Sir: I concur in the suggestion recently made by the Hon. William J. Bryan as expressive of the proper democratic doctrine upon the tariff, and would like to see the democratic party everywhere make it, by platform declaration, a cardinal tenet of party faith. It is only by making the welfare of the masses of the people the chief concern of our party that we can hope, or should hope, for political victory through their support. A party to merit success should not only give due heed to the wise teachings of the great men of past generations, but should fearlessly oppose the wrongs of today and unequivocally champion the right.

Very respectfully,
DAVID A. DE ARMOND.

INCENSE

Whatever else may be said of it, the steel trust is properly appreciative and grateful. In London the other day its chairman, Judge Gary, remarked: "Mr. Roosevelt sounded a much-needed warning and did well in awakening the public conscience as he did. Now the spirit of

fair dealing and the far-seeing policy of doing the right thing which are animating our business men everywhere will be found ably developed by Mr. Taft."

The steel trust has been burning incense in honor of Mr. Roosevelt ever since he permitted the Tennessee Coal and Iron company merger. Mr. Roosevelt is the only president who has had an indorsement at a meeting of the directors of the steel trust. He is the only president who awakened public conscience to such an extent that even the chairman of the steel trust can not get over it but must refer to it at least once a week. Incidentally he is the only president who ever suspended a wise and just law for the sole benefit of the steel trust.

There are some Americans who would be glad to have the steel trust embody its obligations to Mr. Roosevelt in a series of whereas and resolutions, engross them handsomely on parchment and deliver them once and for all to the great awakener of public conscience who put the anti-trust law to sleep when one of the greatest of trusts was wide awake.—New York World.

With what a thunderous voice blood speaks! And yet foolish kings continue to swell the clamor for reform by those who ask for larger liberty. How long will it be before Power learns that arguments must be met not with axe but with arguments?