

danger and organized a force of beaters, who searched every cranny of the building, and spent hours in the game of hide and seek before the promoters of the meeting were satisfied that the intruders had been cleared out.

HERE IS A GOOD story from life as told in an editorial printed in the Chicago Record-Herald: "Several weeks ago we called attention to the 'remarkable' action of a New York judge in asking a number of eminent corporation lawyers to agree to act occasionally as counsel for poor, friendless and bewildered prisoners in criminal cases. The decline of criminal law, frequent failures of justice, the greed and incompetence of inferior attorneys who are 'assigned' to defend poor prisoners had combined to prompt the court's appeal to the leaders of the bar. The appeal elicited sneering comment in certain quarters, but public-spirited lawyers and editors hastened to commend it. The first fruit of the experiment would seem to justify it abundantly. Samuel Untermyer was assigned, for the statutory \$500 fee, to defend an Italian woman who had been indicted for the murder of her husband. His handling of the case was so able, efficient and masterly that, instead of the conviction expected by Jerome, the jury in ten minutes returned a verdict of acquittal. The foreman of the jury cordially thanked the attorney and told him that if more men of his caliber were induced to defend poor, alien and helpless prisoners fewer innocent persons would suffer cruel injustice. There was nothing technical or sophistical about the Untermyer defense. He made no attempt to defeat the law. He simply endeavored to bring out the facts, to prevent browbeating and juggling. The testimony established a plea of self-defense beyond all reasonable doubt. It may be added that Mr. Untermyer turned over his fee to the acquitted woman, after spending about \$1,000 of his own money on the case. The practice of the criminal law used to be deemed worthy of the greatest lawyers, and it is worthy of them today. There is more money in corporation business, in civil and commercial law, but what sort of a civilization is that which holds life and liberty cheap, which is not interested in justice and right? The New York judge has done well to appeal to the traditions of happier legal days, and his example should be followed in other cities. It should also stimulate the demand for radical legal reform in the interest of the individual as well as of the body politic."

TO THE HUMBLE "heroes" the Omaha World-Herald pays this fine tribute: "The ranks of the poor and lowly furnish many heroes. The selfishness that creeps into men's souls when they spend their lives in the pursuit of money and power, prevent them from responding as quickly when there is a life to save, and a life to lose, possibly, in the saving of it, as the poor devil who has nothing else but his life to lose. An outcast lived in an Iowa town who had a bad name because he was shiftless, and was generally thought to be worthless, though no one knew anything really bad about him. One day a fire started up in the belfry of the town church. No one among the village firemen ventured to go aloft and battle the flames. Out from the crowd came a man who climbed into the steeple and fought the fire successfully, but he breathed so much smoke and flame up there near the bell, that he fell to the ground a blackened corpse. It was the village 'good for nothing.' It took a crisis to show the fibre of his soul and reveal his character as it was, and everybody turned out to do him honor when they laid him in his grave. In Omaha two men who were prisoners because of minor offenses, and who were allowed to do the work of 'trusties,' risked their lives in pulling an officer from a fierce gasoline fire. They were at once set free. The terrible mine disaster at Cherry, Ill., brought out its heroes, and they were of the lowly, who digged in the bowels of the earth and for a pittance. Among the few who were brought up alive from that furnace of fire and smoke and black damp and death, was a miner who had to be restrained by force from going back into the mine, nearly dead as he was, to help rescue his comrades who were thought to be still living. And what a story is told in the diary found on the body of young Samuel Howard down in the drifts with the other dead. His chief regret was that his little brother could not escape from the mine so as 'to help mother when I am dead and gone.' He scribbled on pieces of paper with a lead pencil a heart-rending record of days of horror

in that awful tomb. He tells of seeing his dead comrades lying about him, and of his futile efforts to help himself and others. In a few simple words he reveals a love romance that wrings the human heart. It is one of the last requests he makes of the living and is a voice from the tomb: 'If I am dead give my diamond ring to Mamie Robinson; it is coming at the postoffice.' Soon after he ceases to write and is dead. Another hero is added to the long list of heroes that have come from the ranks of the humble and the poor."

Practical Tariff Talks

One of the important tariff schedules over which there was much debate and upon which a great deal of evidence was taken by the house committee that made the tariff related to pottery. In the end, as is usually the case, the potters won, and no reductions were made. There are two distinct classes of ordinary table pottery. One is that known as china, the translucent kind, where the finger marks can be seen through; the other is earthenware, the thick, opaque goods. There are many classes of goods bearing different names, but table pottery falls into one or the other of these general classifications. More than half of the pottery made and sold in this country has been so highly protected for years by cheaper cost of production in addition to the tariff that the American potter practically has the earthenware field to himself. Take the cheaper ware, the commoner grades of all kinds of pottery goods, toilet, table and the like, and the foreigner could not compete if it were on the free list. As a matter of fact it carries a 25 per cent tariff, and that tax is paid by those who can least afford it, the masses.

There have been some unfavorable times for the potters, but the experts say that it is due to the fact that certain potters have developed what is known as the "scheme" or premium trade and also make a lot of articles to sell at 5 and 10 cents. From the nature of things these are made in a slipshod manner and the decorations are daubed on. Yet these grades constitute 60 per cent of the domestic production of decorated ware. Big fortunes have been made in the business, which long ago ceased to be an infant industry in America. Yet the tariff protection has been rising as the industry grew greater. The tariff law of 1784-1794 carried 10 per cent, that of 1816-1842, 20 per cent; that of 1857-1861, 24 per cent; that of 1864-1883, 40 per cent, and now for eleven years it has been 55-60 per cent. These figures refer to the chinaware not the earthen ware.

The fact that this is a prosperous industry, a great industry, is shown by the figures. In 1890 there were 239 pottery ovens. Today there are 747, while the output has risen from \$9,000,000 to \$16,000,000. Efforts have been made to form a combination in this manufacture, but as a general proposition these have been unsuccessful with earthenware concerns, because of the fact that in the natural gas district the proposition has been an attractive one for capital. Competition has been fairly brisk, but not fierce enough to force prices down below the tariff barrier so as to let in foreign goods, in the cheaper grades. In fact, they have such a cinch on the cheaper grade market that they export a lot of this white and yellow ware and sell it in Canada in competition and to do this they must sell for less than they do at home. In effect, this 25 per cent tariff tax enables them to get such a price out of the masses here who must have the ware that they can afford to sell cheaper to the Canadian. To get their goods into Canada they must pay 10 per cent more duty than the English manufacturer with whom they compete, and they inevitably must be satisfied with a lower profit than at home. The high-grade potters, having a higher tariff protection, have been able to make a fairly effective combination that in effect fixes prices through discounts.

What ill success has come to the china manufacturing business in the country has been despite the 60 per cent protection given. Jerome Jones, head of the wholesalers' association, told the ways and means committee that "the reason why earthenware has succeeded and the production of china has failed is not due to

the provisions of any particular tariff, to any difference of market value or undervaluation, but simply to the physical conditions of the country. Earthenware requires a common clay, less skill is expended in its manufacture and a very much lower degree of heat is employed to fire it than is the fact with china. That domestic clay can not be used for china is demonstrated by the fact that wherever the manufacture of china has been attempted the clay has been imported—imported from countries where the physical conditions are such that this class of merchandise can be manufactured to advantage. These reasons, however, are only partly responsible for the failure of the American china producer. The other and by far the most important reason is that the American manufacturer has not sought to produce that quality of china which is demanded by the American public, for the reason that internal competition has depressed prices and he has found it more profitable to engage in the production of earthenware alone." It was admitted by the representatives of the potters that the china men did have to import part of their clay.

C. Q. D.

EDITORIALS BY COMMONER READERS

J. F. Fassett, San Francisco, Cal.—I believe heartily in your method of disseminating democratic doctrines, and that *The Commoner* is among the very best of literature for that purpose, and I promise you my earnest co-operation in this endeavor. Personally, in common with all honest democrats and good citizens generally, I accept Mr. Bryan's proposition that platforms are and must be binding upon all candidates. It seems to me that the platform of the party being the only contract that the people have with their candidates, it should be as binding as any other contract and even much more so, because of the moral obligation therein involved. The tariff views announced by Mr. Bryan are a long way on the right road and meet, in my opinion, with the approval of most democrats, but in my humble judgment, the great democratic party should do as it has done in the last twelve years, assume a position upon this great question that can not be confounded or confused, and do you not think that there is opportunity for confusion when you say "that tariff laws should be levied for the purpose of raising revenue and not for the purpose of distributing protection among special interests?" As a rule the moment an orator or newspaper man who has not spent his life in the study of economic questions begins the discussion of "tariff for revenue only" he confuses the people in his awful endeavors to prove that a tax is not a burden, and to prove that a tax for revenue is not an unjust burden, and wherever there is confusion there is doubt. Why not hit this monstrosity squarely between the eyes and stand out boldly and squarely for freedom and absolute freedom in trade. That is clean, clear and undeniable democratic doctrine and it leaves no room for befogging issues and misleading the voters. Let the democratic party stand and stand boldly for something definite on this subject and something that can not be misconstrued. My feeling is that tariff for revenue only is a compromise with those who seek special privileges and seek to use the government and its machinery to accomplish their own selfish ends. Combinations and compromises ought to be avoided and especially by the progressive democracy, as it has thrice gone down to defeat through the union of selfish interests. Let there be no compromise and no confusion. Give us clear cut issues together with the intrepid leadership of Bryan, then there is hope that this government will be restored to the people and then and only then, shall we have a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, and then unjust and burdensome taxation levied upon the production of labor will have ceased and the burden of its support will come from the soil, the source of all values.

THE GIFTS

With pomp and show the Wise Men brought to her
Their little gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh;
And laid them grandly down amid the hay
Before the manger where her First Born lay.

She must have thought how God's own modest grace,
Was far unlike those little lords of time and place;
His Gift, more rare than India's gold most fine,
Lay lowly sleeping there among the kine!

—R. Warner Borst, in Co-Operation.