

manufactured products, and from this I presume the plank was adopted on this initiative.

While, therefore, I would as a rule levy revenue duties and no more on practically all imports, whether of so-called raw material or finished product, yet, as recognized by the Walker report and in the very nature of the subject, sound exceptions to the rule as to both classes of imports for the betterment of the public will suggest themselves from time to time with changed conditions, and such articles should go on the free list. For instance, it would be almost inhuman to tax quinine and increase its price to the sick. Tea or coffee is on every breakfast table, and both should be free. Binding twine is free and so should cotton ties and bagging be, for otherwise a sectional and discriminating injustice is done southern farmers, and that, too, for the benefit of the steel trust and the monopoly of a few bagging companies. The prime necessities of life should be the last to be taxed, and, when taxed at all, should be taxed the least, and, whenever practicable, should be put on the free list, because a tax on consumption is at best unjust to the masses, for it ignores equality of taxation and the benefits of government.

Relief From Trusts

I believe that not only the criminal law but the tariff law and any other method of constitutional legislation should be used to relieve the people of the trusts. They are the greatest menace of our time to the happiness and prosperity of the people. To accomplish this purpose they corrupt the elective franchise; they debauch public officials, and with remorseless hands they levy tribute and extortion upon the masses. Their officers should not only be convicted and imprisoned, but the tariff bars which aid them to form and organize and to rob and plunder should be removed as declared in our state and national platforms. The broad purpose involved in such action is to bring about competition and reduce extravagant prices.

When trusts have monopolized the market of the United States the only effective economic remedy is the free list and foreign competition. They have merited outlawry and even to obtain revenue the incidental protection of a revenue tariff should not be given them, especially in aggravated cases. It was upon this principle not only because it is in our platform, but also because it meets my approval that I voted for free oil and free iron ore. Take the case of iron ore as an example with which I am more familiar, having served last winter on a committee which exhaustively considered the subject. The United States Steel corporation, organized in 1901, properly called the steel trust, is the greatest and most powerful combination of capital ever organized in America. Its political power is such that in 1907 it obtained from the White House, in violation of law, a license to take over its leading competitor in the south, the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, with 700,000,000 tons of iron ore, and strengthen its monopoly; and it was natural that in 1908 its chief beneficiary should appear among the largest contributors to the republican campaign fund. Naturally, too, the present administration has taken no action against the steel trust for this merger and infraction of law, though I have invited it to do so and intend soon to repeat the invitation.

Gray's Admission Under Oath

In December, 1908, the democrats, of the ways and means committee of the house, presumably with the view to tariff legislation, sought to show

in the "hearing" before the committee that the steel trust dominated the iron and steel trade of the United States and fixed prices on articles which enter into every American household, and as one of the means by which this was accomplished, it had secured a practical monopoly of the high grade iron ore of the country. When pressed Judge Gray, chairman of the steel trust, admitted under oath that it controlled the ultimate supply of iron ore, and the house placed it on the free list. This was not speculative, but a sworn admission against interest. In the senate I spoke and voted for free ore as against a duty of 25 cents per ton, which was proposed by a senate amendment and on the ground that the American supply had been monopolized by the trust; that following the democratic convention on the tariff, the value of the annual output of ore to the trust would be enhanced to the extent of the tax; and that the imposition of the tax would tend to cripple any independent companies then in existence or which might be organized in their competition with the trust. It is true the trust dominates the iron and steel market, but it does so partly through its monopoly of the high grade ore. Notwithstanding this domination of the market by the trust, there are some companies which are not owned by it, and free ore would relieve them to that extent of dependence upon their powerful rival for ore and tend to bring about competition.

Platform Demands Binding

The national democratic platform of 1908 declared for free lumber and free paper, and, regarding this declaration of the party policy on those subjects as binding upon me, I voted to place the two commodities on the free list. My views of the binding force of party platforms on matters of policy were formed early in my official career. In my two inaugural addresses as governor and in several messages the subject was emphasized, and so obligatory did I regard the platform pledges that extra sessions of the legislature were called to meet and redeem them. I have followed this course in the senate and am therefore thoroughly committed to it.

THE EXCEPTION

In a home where the mother is somewhat aggressive and the father good-natured and peace-loving, a child's estimate of home conditions was tersely expressed the other day. While dressing, the mother paused in the act of putting on her shoes and said, "I certainly am easy on shoes. I have worn these for four months. I don't know what you would do, John, if I were not. I am easy on everything." The little girl looked up from her dolls and remarked: "Except father."—Success.

COULDN'T REACH HIGH NOTES

"I understand that the manager is paying fabulous salaries to his leading singers," said the inquisitive reporter.

"Not fabulous," rejoined the cynical press agent—"fictitious."—Washington Star.

IN 1950

"She belongs to one of our best families."

"Did her ancestors come over in the Mayflower?"

"Oh, no. She's much more exclusive than that. She's a 'Daughter of Discoverers of the North Pole.'"—Life.

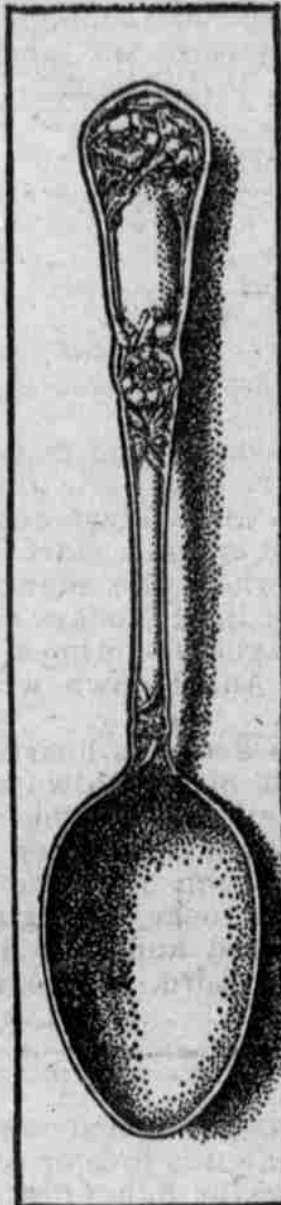
REVELATION

"Ah, sir, we do enjoy your sermons," remarked an old lady to a new curate. "They are so instructive. We never knew what sin was until you came to the parish."—The Sacred Heart Review.

How to Secure the Oneida Community Company Beautiful Silverware Without Cost, for a Little of Your Spare Time

We have made special arrangements whereby we are offering an unprecedented opportunity for any one to secure any piece or set of the famous Oneida Community Company's Reliance Plate Silverware in the Beautiful Wildwood Pattern, in exchange for a little work among your friends. All that is necessary is for you to induce a few of your friends to subscribe for **The American Homestead**, which is one of the brightest and most attractive farm and household papers published. Secure for us the number of subscribers listed under each offer that you decide to work for, and in return for your work we will send FREE and PREPAID to your address this handsome and beautiful silverware. The regular price of the paper is 50 cents per year.

To make these offers worth while, and to give every woman an opportunity to earn for herself a full supply of the very best silverware—something that she would be proud to own and that would be admired by all her friends—we selected the Reliance Plate, in the dainty and exquisite Wildwood Pattern. Every piece of this silverware is extremely beautiful, and is absolutely guaranteed by the makers, the Oneida Community Company of Oneida, New York, for ten years, and also guaranteed by us to satisfy in every way. The Reliance Plate is guaranteed to be made of superior 18 per cent nickel silver—the best for plating upon—that it has a heavy plate of pure silver—25 per cent heavier than regular standard A1 plate; it is made throughout by skilled workmen in accordance with the best and most modern methods of silverware manufacture, and any piece that does not conform to this guarantee will be replaced free of charge. Don't confuse this guaranteed silverware with the cheap nickel-plated ware usually offered for premium purposes. This is the most liberal opportunity ever offered by a publisher.



EIGHT BIG OFFERS

No. 1.—One Beautiful Sugar Shell for only one new subscriber, or with each new subscription at 50 cents.

No. 2.—One Beautiful Butter Knife for only one new subscriber, or with each new subscription at 50 cents.

No. 3.—One Butter Knife and One Sugar Shell for only two subscribers, at 50 cents each.

No. 4.—One Set of Six Teaspoons for only three new subscribers, at 50 cents each.

No. 5.—One Set of Six Tablespoons for only six new subscribers, at 50 cents each.

No. 6.—One Set of Six Knives for only eight new subscribers, at 50 cents each.

No. 7.—One Set of Six Forks for only eight new subscribers at 50 cents each.

No. 8.—One Twenty-Six Piece Set for only 25 new subscribers, at 50 cents each. There are 6 knives, 6 forks, 6 teaspoons, 6 table spoons, 1 sugar shell and 1 butter knife in this handsome set. Packed in oak finish, fancy cloth lined case. Any one will be proud to own this beautiful and handsome set.

Don't Miss This Opportunity

You will make no mistake if you start to work for this guaranteed silverware. A large number have already taken advantage of these offers, and all are more than delighted with our premiums. A great many are working for all they can possibly get after having secured one offer. Many are taking advantage of the opportunity of obtaining a full chest of the best standard silverware, and all in one dainty and exquisite pattern. Some are sending in for the butter knives and sugar shells to use as gifts. One woman sent us three names and had the paper and the Butter Knives sent as presents to friends. Another had sugar shells and the paper sent to six relatives.

Start to work at once. You will never regret the little time it takes, and you will be highly pleased with the silverware. It is very easy to secure subscribers to our paper, and the price is within the reach of every one. Mr. Charles W. Bryan's personal guarantee to refund the price paid for a yearly subscription, if subscriber is not satisfied after reading three issues, will make it very easy for you to secure new subscribers, and your friends will be only too glad to help you obtain this beautiful silverware. To any one desiring to see a sample of this silverware before starting a club we will send one teaspoon upon receipt of 10 cents to cover cost of packing and postage. Sample copies of paper furnished on request. Send all orders and remittances to

THE AMERICAN HOMESTEAD, Lincoln, Nebraska.

TO OUR READERS

Through a special arrangement just effected with the publishers, The Commoner is enabled to make its readers the following unprecedented yearly subscription offer, which is good only until Feb. 1st.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| COMMONER | \$1.00 | } Our Price Only |
| McClure's Magazine | 1.50 | |
| American | 1.50 | |
| Success Magazine | 1.00 | |
| Total Value | 5.00 | } For All FOUR |

Many of the popular magazines are raising their prices this year, but we have secured the co-operation of these well-known publications on such advantageous terms as to permit of this great clubbing offer. No such bargain in a similar group has been offered for years, and it is an opportunity that will not come soon again. If your subscription to The Commoner has not yet expired, you may still take advantage of this offer by merely having it extended now for a year from the date of its expiration.

Send your subscription today to The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.