

# The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

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 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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## Practical Tariff Talks

There are very good reasons why in each of the three congressional districts in which elections have been held since the passage of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, the people have overwhelmingly repudiated that law. There are a great many schedules in the tariff law, and there is a general impression that it is a difficult proposition to understand. The truth is that an hour's study by any man of these schedules will convince him of the brazen disregard for the public interest as opposed to the private interest, of the fact that it taxes the rich lightest and the poor heaviest. In this column some comparisons were printed a few weeks ago. Here are a few more: Uncut diamonds are admitted free of duty, cut diamonds carry 10 per cent. A paste or imitation diamond, many of which are worn by lovers of ornaments like pins, hair-adornments, combs and buttons, cost twice as much to bring in, 20 per cent. Champagne carries a duty of 65 per cent, but wearing apparel averages above 86 per cent. Hats and bonnets costing not over \$5 a dozen are taxed at 62 per cent, while those costing more than \$20 a dozen are brought in at the low duty of 35 per cent.

Raw silk is imported free of duty, but to protect the manufacturer, whose total labor cost is about 30 per cent of the total, there is levied a tax of 50 per cent. A woman who buys ten yards of woolen or worsted cloth for a dress—the kind generally used—pays a tariff tax of \$5.40 on cloth that cost \$4 abroad, the tax being 135 per cent. If her richer sister desires to buy silk the tax she pays is 50 per cent only. The one consolation the former can have is that she can import rags free. The steel buttons that perform a useful service on the average man's trousers carry a duty of 126.88 per cent, while milady's ivory buttons come in under a tax of 57.40 per cent. The average three-ply ingrain carpet carries duties ranging from 66 per cent to 87 per cent, but if it is an oriental carpet that is imported the cost is 60 per cent. The cheapest blankets carry a tariff tax of 107 per cent, the highest priced 71 per cent.

High priced woolen carpet, used by the wealthier classes, carries a tariff of but 50 per cent, but carpet used for mats, rugs, bedsides and hassocks, carry 126.88 per cent. In the senate book of estimates, some kindly soul marked a tabulated summary of the bill so that the reader

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can distinguish between what he thinks are necessities and what are luxuries. In the glove schedule unlined women's gloves of sheep are marked as necessities. They carry a tax of 49 per cent. The lined glove, marked as a luxury, carries but 34 per cent. This has reference to the lengths under fourteen inches. On the longer gloves the unlined carries 42 per cent and the costlier lined gloves drops as low as 29.11 per cent. On men's gloves, the cheaper ones carry the highest tariff. Those of sheep costing less than \$3 a dozen from the manufacturer, unlined, carry a tariff of 66.28 per cent, while the costlier lined ones are taxed at from 14.19 per cent up to 45 per cent. On men's leather gloves the unlined ones carry a tariff of 44.58, and the lined ones 29.54.

The same state of facts can be found in almost every schedule. Take such an item as buckles. These range from the iron and steel ones of simple design, stamped out by machinery, and utilized on trousers and waistcoats, to the highly-decorated and burnished ones that adorn the belt of the well-dressed ladies. The cheaper the buckle the higher the tariff. The real cheap ones carry a tariff of 77.48 per cent, the next cheapest 57.73, and the dearest 26.63. The lad who celebrated the Fourth of July by investing in the more utilitarian and cheap fire-crackers must pay a duty of 97.02 per cent, while the householder who desires to preside over a brilliant display to emphasize his social position and freehandedness need pay but 20 per cent duty on his fireworks, under the Dingley bill. The new law sternly steps in to rectify this discrimination, and places a 75 per cent duty on them.

C. Q. D.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT HIGH PRICES

While the New York World is engaged in advising its contemporary, the Tribune, not to indulge in foolish and unnecessary worry about the democratic party it might profit by taking its own advice to heart. The advice might also be profitably considered by a number of democratic newspapers and statesmen that are ostentatiously worrying themselves and trying to worry others because Mr. Bryan called attention to the fact that Mr. Taft, by attributing high prices to the increased production of gold, has vindicated the position taken by the democratic party in 1896.

The World pretends to believe that Mr. Bryan is seeking to revive the silver issue. It pretends to believe that Mr. Bryan is throwing away the democratic advantage which results from the popular belief that the tariff and trusts are largely responsible for high prices. And it pretends to be very much distressed, and very, very much put out with Mr. Bryan for his stupidity.

The World, and those who are harping in the same key, are only making themselves ridiculous. They seem to assert that the one hope of the democratic party lies in deceiving the people, and that if Mr. Bryan or anybody else tells the people the truth democratic prospects are ruined.

The truth is that the people are just about as well advised as to existing conditions and their causes as is the World, or Mr. Bryan, or most of the rest of their admonishers and advisers. Mr. Bryan has told them nothing they did not already know. And the World, with pitiful folly, seems eager to whisk away and hide from them the facts of which they have long been cognizant.

The best thing the democratic party can do under the circumstances, is to face the facts squarely and proclaim them promptly.

There has been a tremendous increase in the production of gold. Insofar as higher prices are world-wide the increased volume of gold in circulation doubtless goes far toward explaining them. This is a fact that very few people need to be told. And it is a fact that the World can not prevent the people from knowing by sticking its own head in the sand and urging everybody else to do likewise.

But the increased production of gold does not explain the fact that prices are higher in this country than in Europe.

The increased production of gold does not explain the fact that prices have risen more rapidly in this country than in Europe. The increased production of gold does not explain the fact that many articles of American manufacture and common necessity are sold, in Europe, considerably cheaper than they are sold at home.

The increased production of gold does not explain the fact that the consuming millions have

got none of the benefits of labor saving inventions and cheapened methods of production.

The increased production of gold does not explain away the fact that extravagance in government makes necessary higher taxes, and that when those taxes are levied exclusively on articles of consumption they necessarily mean higher prices for those articles.

The World knows, just as every fairly intelligent man knows, that a part of the increased prices against which the people are crying out is natural and unavoidable, being due to fortuitous inflation of the money supply, and that another part is due to high tariffs, and to trusts which stifle competition, and to extravagance which increases taxes. The World knows that it is not the mission of the democratic party or the wish of the people to beat down a price level which is evenly distributed, fairly shared, and due to natural causes. It knows that it is the mission of the democratic party, and the determination of the people, to smash tariff prices and trust prices and extravagant prices, which are entirely separate from the gold supply, and which are fast making this country the most expensive civilized country in which to live whereas not so long ago it was one of the cheapest.

The people understand these things. They are neither so ignorant nor so silly as the World seems to think they are. The democratic party would only be making itself ridiculous in their eyes, and proving itself insincere, if it showed an unwillingness to speak the truth frankly about self-evident facts.

The people are tired of insincerity and mental dishonesty in political parties and political leaders. They are tired of being flim-flammed, and entertain a very healthy suspicion of whosoever shows even a slight disposition to deceive them, whether by distracting their attention from certain facts or otherwise. A good rule for the democratic party to follow is to be frank and honest, both with itself and with those who have been its enemies. If nobody commits a greater crime against the prospects for democratic success than to mention that the quantitative theory of money has been established by recent experience, the New York World will have no occasion for alarm.—Omaha World-Herald.

## A-CRYIN' FOR HIS DADDY

Dess a-cryin' fer his daddy, till dey isn't any rest,  
 En I hush 'im en I soothe 'im, but he ack lak he possessed,  
 He's a-runnin' ter de winder en he's lookin' down de street,  
 En he lissen in de ebenin' fer de trompin' o' his feet—  
 En dey ain't no way ter stop 'im, fer he keep on night en day  
 Dess a-cryin' fer his daddy—en his daddy gone away.

W'en he sittin' at de table, den he see his daddy's place  
 En de heart-break come en quiver in de li'l feller's face,  
 En he 'low he won't eat nuffin', en he push away his plate,  
 Dess as ef his daddy comin' ef he on'y sit en wait.  
 En I try ter tell it ter 'im dess de bes' way dat I can,  
 But he such a li'l feller dat he dess cain' un-nahstan.

En sometimes he sit en study, des a-lookin' at de wall—  
 But he lookin' 'way beyon' it lak it isn't dah at all.  
 Den he look up at me, cu'lous, wid dem grea' big eyes o' his,  
 En I know he axin', axin', all de time whah daddy is.  
 So I hol' 'im close en closeh, en I ax 'im not ter cry,  
 But his daddy ain' a-comin' en I dess cain' tell 'im why.

Dess a-cryin' fer his daddy—en I ax you' suh, to 'splain  
 Why de heahs o' li'l chhllun has to hol' so much o' pain.  
 Ain't dey any way ter help 'em? Ain't dey any way ter show  
 Dat de daddy romps is ended en dey ain' gwine be no mor'?  
 W'en he wake me in de night time wid his sobs, whut can I say?  
 Dess a-cryin' fer his daddy—en his daddy gone away.

—Chicago Evening Post.