

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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

WILLIAM J. BRYAN Ed tor and Proprietor CHARLES W. BRYAN Publisher RICHARD L. METCALFE Associate Editor Editorial Rooms and Business Office 224-226 South 12th Street

One Year...\$1.00 Three Months... .25 Six Months... .50 Single Copy... .05 In Clubs of Five or more, per year... .75 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.

The American Homestead, a monthly farm journal of national scope, will be sent to all Commoner subscribers, without additional cost, who renew their subscriptions during the month of June. Take advantage of this offer at once and send in your renewal.

Practical Tariff Talks

The fakery which attends upon so much of tariff-making by the high protectionists is illustrated in the efforts being made by the republican majority in congress to secure a large appropriation for the purpose of paying the expenses of a commission to find out what there is wrong about the Payne-Aldrich tariff law. A great many republicans who believe in the theory of protection and who criticize that law are earnest advocates of the idea of creating a commission to ascertain facts regarding production costs here and abroad that will enable one to intelligently make up his mind whether the party promise has been redeemed. A trick is being attempted on these republicans. They have been told that the money covered by the proposed appropriation is to be used in acquiring information for the future use of congress in revising, in whole or in part, the present tariff. In truth it is not to be used for any such purpose.

Here is the language of the provision: "To enable the president of the United States to have such information classified, tabulated and arranged for his use in recommending to congress such changes or modifications in any existing tariff duty as he may deem necessary." Under that provision the president is under no obligation to give congress the information gathered by the commission. He may keep it all a secret, or he may decide that certain sections need revision and in communicating this recommendation to congress send along the information that he believes sustains his conclusions and withhold facts as to other items—in short, permits him to revise or rewrite the tariff himself. There is no provision that he shall transmit the information gathered to congress in his annual or in a special message, but that

he may communicate it to congress when he desires the old law amended or a new one passed.

Presumptively and necessarily, whenever a new tariff bill is to be drawn or the old one amended, facts must be gathered. This was done before the Payne bill was introduced. The house ways and means committee was in session daily for long hours for over two months, and the facts it gathered are printed in ten or twelve bulky volumes totaling over 10,000 pages. The summer before the tariff bill was drawn the government, at the request of the ways and means committee, sent several experts to Europe ostensibly to get the facts as to production costs. Among these was the distinguished journalist, Charles M. Pepper, and the facts he ascertained were printed in what members of congress declare to be one of the most complete reports of its kind ever made. Mr. Pepper found out all of the facts required as to costs in the German and English steel and iron industries. There are also printed pamphlets showing the facts ascertained as to the machine tool trade, the textile industry and several others. They gave the information asked for and the information necessary. In addition there were the complete and accurate reports of the census bureau and labor and commerce department on costs.

All of these facts were before the committees of both house and senate that had to do with the tariff bill; all of these facts were pointed out and their application made plain by insurgent republicans and by democrats of both houses in the discussion of the various schedules. They will not differ in character or scope from those proposed to be gathered by the commission. They had no influence upon Payne or Aldrich or upon the judgment or intent of the other republican leaders. They adopted schedule after schedule where plain testimony was at hand to prove the protection carried exceeded the difference in cost of production at home and abroad, and almost as many times agreed upon a tariff percentage that was largely in excess of

the total labor cost here in America. If these facts had no influence then, what influence will the newly-gathered ones have? The value of these new facts may be judged from the fact that the expert in the employ of the temporary board says he proposes to select certain plants in each industry, ascertain from their books the figures desired and report them to the commission. Wouldn't it be proper to have some good friend of the tariff suggest the right plants to be examined? C. Q. D.

MY SHIPS

If all the ships I have at sea Should come a-sailing home to me, Weighed down with gems and silk and gold— Ah, well, the harbor could not hold So many sails as there would be, If all my ships came in from sea.

If half my ships came home from sea, And brought their precious freight to me, Ah, well! I would have wealth as great As any king who sits in state, So rich the treasures that would be In half my ships now out at sea.

If just one ship I have at sea Should come a-sailing home to me, Ah, well! the storm clouds then might frown, For, if the others all went down, Still, rich and proud and glad I'd be If that one ship came home to me.

If that one ship went down at sea, And all the others came to me, Weighed down with gems and wealth untold, With glory, honor, riches, gold, The poorest soul on earth I'd be If that one ship came not to me.

Oh, skies, be calm! Oh, wind, blow free, Blow all my ships safe home to me! But if thou sendest some a-wreck, To never more come back, Send any, all, that skim the sea, But bring my love ship home to me! —Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The Commoner's Million Army

The Commoner begins, this week, the organization of a "Million Army" plan. The battle for popular government has just begun although many men have grown gray in the service and many have suffered disappointments and many have been discouraged even to the point of being ready to abandon all effort. Today, as never before, the prospects for a real fight are bright. Today men who in years gone by have scoffed at the warnings of democrats, are now giving to their neighbors the very warnings at which they were wont to laugh. Many who in the past have been "too eminently practical" to find warnings to patriots in the signs of the times now read those warnings aright and now call upon their fellow citizens to act in defense of the American republic before it is too late to save the form of our government as our fathers laid it. In the campaign of 1908 The Commoner's Million Army rendered distinguished service to the cause of democracy and it may well be believed that a similar organization will even be able to do better work in the year of 1910 now that

men who were heretofore indifferent are aroused to the importance of action. If half of the readers of The Commoner would take active interest in the organization of this Million Army plan, the results would be immediately noticeable and the contribution to the welfare of popular government would be enormous. Many individuals are willing to help in a patriotic movement but find it difficult to know just what to do to make their efforts count. In a struggle such as the one we are now engaging in, the efforts of every man, woman and child on the side of popular government will count and in The Commoner's Million Army a practical plan is presented whereby the efforts of many individuals may be aggregated and used with telling effect. Let every Commoner reader ask his neighbor, "Have you joined The Commoner's Million Army?" Let every Commoner reader lend a hand to this particular effort at democratic organization. A long pull, a short pull, and a pull all together, will bring great results.

APPLICATION BLANK The Commoner's Million Army I hereby enlist in The Commoner's Million Army, and pledge my assistance to secure the nomination of only worthy and incorruptible men as democratic candidates; that I will attend democratic primaries and nominating conventions, and assist in promoting the great democratic campaign of education by devoting a reasonable share of my time to the distribution of literature. I will recommend worthy persons for membership in The Commoner's Million Army, and in any way I can assist to increase the usefulness of this organization. Signed Address With the understanding that Mr. Bryan agrees to accept annual subscriptions to The Commoner from members of this Army at a net rate of 65 cents each, and that each subscription to The Commoner shall include a subscription to The American Homestead (a strong home and farm paper)—thus leaving The Commoner free to devote its undivided efforts to political matters and current events—I enclose herewith 65 cents for one annual subscription to The Commoner (including The American Homestead). If you are already a subscriber to The Commoner and do not care to extend your expiration date at this time, the last paragraph above may be disregarded.