

The Commoner.

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WHY NOT PUBLICITY?

The Lincoln (Neb.) Star says: "If the common people were better boosters they would get better recognition in the appointment of federal judges. The corporation lawyer always has plenty of boosters behind him. That's why it is that as soon as there is likely to be a vacancy, at once is instituted an imposing parade of names of corporation lawyers."

The Star is right. A well-meaning president is apt to be imposed upon by corporation attorneys unless he is on his guard. Why not have a little publicity as to recommendations? The law should compel the president to keep a record of all verbal and written endorsements and lay them before the senate, so that senators could judge of the influences which are active in soliciting judges. There ought to be no secrecy about the appointment of men to such important life positions. Turn on the light.

WHAT THE TARIFF HAS DONE FOR ME

S. T. Pidgeon, Jamestown, Ohio.—What has the tariff done for me? Well, it has done a plenty. I have had a busy life. For more than thirty years of it, averaging sixteen hours a day to provide for a family of seven, on a small farm. My state and county taxes average about \$80 a year and the federal government, I find, taxed me not less than \$20 per capita per annum (a strange way to encourage the raising of large families) but statesmen (?) and politicians come around at different times, to tell me how blessed and happy such as I was to have the foreigner pay my tax, and being a faithful republican I believed everything until at last somebody blundered and the true inwardness of the matter was revealed. The best way to pluck a goose is when the goose don't know it; for there will be less squawks and more feathers. Such was the commendation I received for standpattery. I am now seventy years old; my children are all doing for themselves, and some of them may be deluded with the notion that all a common citizen has to do is to follow the lead, but I know that the leaders of tariff robbery were to keep us in darkness. Horace Greeley says: "Slavery is older than history, and was ever conceived in darkness and cradled in obscurity." But even editors of pretentious newspapers today will promulgate the abominable heresy that it is not the province of the common citizen or layman to know how

The Commoner.

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 52

legislation is accomplished. Pirates used to sail the high seas and attack their prey in the open, but now, like the vampire, they fan him to sleep while they suck his blood. A study of the tariff and its guilty advocates has taught me that it is one of the most cunningly devised systems of robbery that was ever perpetrated on any people. Long live Mr. Bryan and The Commoner.

LIQUOR LEGISLATION NEEDED

The Miller Curtis bill now before congress reads as follows:

"A bill to constitute intoxicating liquors as a special class of commodities and to regulate the interstate commerce shipments of such liquors.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that all fermented, distilled, or other intoxicating liquor shall constitute a special class of commodities, and, as a special class, shall be admitted to and carried in interstate commerce, subject to the limitations and restrictions hereinafter imposed upon interstate commerce in articles of such special class.

"Sec. 2. That the interstate commerce character of all fermented, distilled, or other intoxicating liquors admitted to interstate commerce in accordance with the provisions of this act, and transported from one state, territory, or district of the United States, or from any foreign country into any state, territory or district of the United States shall terminate upon their arrival immediately within the boundary of the state, territory, or district of the United States, in which the place of destination is situated, and before the delivery of said liquors to the consignee; Provided, That shipments of such liquors entirely through a state, territory, or district of the United States, shall not be subject to the provisions of this section while in transit through such state, territory, or district of the United States."

Why should this bill not pass. By what logic will a democrat oppose it? If the state can be safely entrusted with legislation regulating marriage and divorce, prescribing rules for the descent of property and even authorizing the execution of one convicted of crime, why deny to it the right to regulate the transportation of liquor within its borders? Or is the liquor business too sacred to be controlled by the state? But watch and see how quickly some of the ardent advocates of states rights will become nationalists when the liquor trust issues its commands.

BOOKS WORTH READING

Replying to a recent inquiry Mr. Bryan said: The Bible, both the old testament and the new is the first book. The book of Proverbs is especially useful to the young man; its wisdom has not been surpassed. The sermon on the mount should be known by heart. No young man is prepared to consider present day problems unless he understands the teachings of Christ. Christ is not only a saviour but an example and a teacher, and His words are being applied to practical life more than ever before.

Pilgrim's Progress is one of the most useful books a young man can read. It is an application of Christianity to life, and the story will make its impress upon the mind.

Plutarch's Lives should be in a young man's library. There is in this book a wealth of information and a richness of illustration which the student will find valuable.

The Jeffersonian Encyclopedia is the next book which I would suggest. No other statesman living or dead has ever discussed so large a variety of subjects connected with the government or dealt so fundamentally with the government as it touches the individual, and with the individual as a factor in the government.

If the young man desires a sample of fiction he cannot find better books of the kind than "David Copperfield" by Dickens, and "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo.

He should add a book of poems, a collection of poems if possible, or the poems of William Cullen Bryant, if he prefers the poems of but one. Poetry is valuable in proportion as it clothes truth in attractive garb, and I know of no poem which more beautifully presents a sublime truth than Bryant's "Ode to the Water-fowl."

Tolstoy's Essays is another volume. They are thought-provoking, and the same may be said of the essays of Emerson and Carlyle.

A collection of orations ought to be included in the list, for the great orations, delivered at crises in the world's affairs, are really an epitome

of the history of their time. They contain more of important information than can be found in the same space elsewhere.

In mentioning the above books I have not included school books, for these, I take it for granted, the reader has already studied. The books which I have enumerated are of permanent value. They deal with the most important of sciences, the science of life.

CAUTION

Under the headline "Caution" the New York World prints the following: "Unquestionably the democrats have a good chance for the presidency in 1912. But the best chance is far from a certainty. The only certainty is that it will mean a very hard, hot fight. Missouri for the third time has gone republican. A change of thirty-five thousand votes in New York would have defeated Mr. Dix. A change of six thousand votes would have defeated the democratic ticket in Indiana. In New York and Indiana the democratic state tickets have only a plurality, not a majority. A democratic president cannot be elected without the electoral vote of New York, and probably that of Indiana. A change of forty-two thousand votes in the pivotal states of Indiana and New York in a total vote of about two million would have defeated the democratic tickets this year in both states, and even this year over one hundred thousand disgusted republicans in New York alone stayed away from the polls. The democratic party cannot afford to make mistakes. Overconfidence in 1912 is a great mistake. Caution is wisdom!"

"The democratic party cannot afford to make mistakes."

This is particularly good. It cannot, for instance, afford to make the mistake it made in 1904, when it swapped the confidence of the people for the campaign funds of the special interests.

The Commoner invites the World to make these amendments to its "caution" platform:

The democratic party must be progressive. No Wall Street candidate can hope to hold the democratic vote.

Democracy must go forward and meet present day problems boldly in the spirit of Jefferson and Jackson.

The democratic victory of 1910 is the result of fourteen years of democratic fight for reforms. The party cannot retire now.

It must go forward.

JUST LIKE 1904

The New York World has taken the ears of the reviving democracy in both hands and is all alone dragging that patient animal along the only true way to victory in 1912.—Portland Oregonian.

Somebody has to do it.—New York World. But the World is trying to do it for 1912 just as it tried to do it in 1904.

CHAMP CLARK

Champ Clark of Brave Kentucky
With his gay Missouri mules
Will soon be making chairmen
And strict congressional rules
That statesmen in a twinkle
May change from day to day
To give the law a wrinkle
And unite the Blue and Gray!

Champ Clark is daily rising
Like the splendid morning sun
To paralyze the tariff
And the trusts from Washington,
But when it comes to practice
He'll find that brain and gold
Still run this rushing world
As they ever did of old!

Republicans and democrats
In the house and church and state
Are all acting for self interest
Quickly, early, long and late
And though we cut up parties
At the polls with nerve and dash
Each one is working daily
To accumulate cold cash!

Champ Clark may take example
From Carlisle, Reed and Clay—
The greatest congress speakers
We have had unto this day,
But more than all this child of fate
May think himself quits lucky
That he was born with heart and brain
In glorious old Kentucky!

JOHN A. JOYCE
Washington, D. C., December 12, 1910.