

Every reader of The Commoner is urged to write his senators at once, urging immediate action on the pending currency bill.

tative of the bureau of animal industry, be rigidly maintained, and that the inspectors and other employees of the service detailed to inspect food be instructed to work in conjunction with such representatives of the bureau of animal industry as may be designated by the department of agriculture; that a counter be maintained for the sale of a greater variety of articles, so that people passing through the island who do not care to purchase boxes can purchase any quantity desired, at rates in keeping with the contract; the segregation of races, consistent with orderly dispatch in immigrant dining rooms, and insistence, so far as possible, on proper table decorum; that standing invitations be extended to consular representatives to personally inspect the food served and submit, in writing, to the commissioner, comments and suggestions relative thereto; that where it is shown that any employee has knowledge of any violation of the contract which provides for the feeding of immigrants and employees on Ellis Island and the sale of foodstuffs to the immigrants, and fails to make a written report thereof to the commissioner, such employee shall be subject to preferment of charges looking to his dismissal from the service.

The department continued its activities during the past month with relation to the trade dispute in the copper mining industry at Calumet, Mich. Representatives of the department are still engaged in an effort to bring about an amicable and satisfactory adjustment between the employers and employees.

In an effort to adjust the difficulties in the coal fields of southern Colorado, Secretary Wilson detailed Mr. Ethelbert Stewart, chief clerk of the bureau of labor statistics, to proceed to that field and utilize the good offices of the department, if possible, in bringing the contending parties together.

On August 25th, Secretary Wilson, on behalf of the federal government, opened the international congress of school hygiene at Buffalo, N. Y. On September 1st he was the Labor Day speaker at Syracuse, N. Y. On September 14th he officiated at the laying of the corner stone for the new Y. M. C. A. building at Hamilton, O., and on the 16th delivered an address at the twelfth annual convention of the railway carmen's convention at Milwaukee, Wis. On September 20th he spoke at Knoxville, Tenn., in connection with the conservation exposition, the occasion being the field day for the bureau of mines and a demonstration in mine relief and safety work.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT

The work at the state department does not decrease in volume, nor is its importance lessened. Negotiations with Japan are progressing satisfactorily, but the Mexican situation continues somewhat complicated.

The correspondence between the United States and Columbia gives promise of effecting an adjustment of the differences which have existed since the secession of Panama. Nicaragua has been assisted in securing a loan. Since the last issue of The Commoner, Governor Folk of Missouri has become solicitor of the state department.

Since the last Commoner was issued two more peace treaties have been signed. On September 20th Senor Don Joaquin Mendez, minister of Guatemala, Senor Dr. Don Eusebio A. Morales, minister of Panama, and Secretary of State William J. Bryan, gathered in the large diplomatic reception room and simultaneously signed pacts which will prevent war between those two countries and the United States until a period of investigation has passed. Each of the two countries was anxious to have the honor of being the second to accept the president's peace plan by treaty, so it was arranged that the treaties should be signed at the same time. The two treaties were exactly like the one previously signed between the United States and Salvador.

The rapidity with which the countries are accepting the president's peace plan in fact is most gratifying, and treaties with other nations will probably be signed before the present administration has been in power a year. The foreign offices of several other countries now have the details under advisement. Twenty-

nine governments have now accepted in principle.

The department has also been endeavoring so far as it properly could to assist Nicaragua to obtain a loan, in order to place the finances of that country in a better situation. Much care and thought has been given by the department to the end that the loan agreement should be both business-like and fair to all parties concerned.

The president, having decided to keep consular appointments in the civil service, appointments to consular positions necessarily are made from an eligible list, obtained by examination. Since March 4th twenty-nine promotions have been made—that is, consuls who by reason of length of service and efficiency deserve promotion received places of higher grade and higher pay. Three appointments have been made from the eligible list to consulships of the lowest grade.

The department has announced a new consular examination for January 14, 1914. As a result of this examination a new eligible list will be created. At present the list is small and those eligible are from states which have received all appointments to which they are entitled under the apportionment plan of the civil service.

Many diplomatic appointments to heads of embassies and missions have been made. To date seven ambassadors and nineteen ministers have been appointed by the president. All of these have been confirmed by the senate, and nearly all have left for their posts. Spain has been raised from the rank of a legation to that of an embassy, and Francis E. Willard of Virginia enjoys the distinction of being the first ambassador to Spain. The raising of Spain to the rank of an embassy was particularly opportune because of the increased interest and attention which is now being given to Central and South American countries, the language of all of which, with the exception of Brazil, is Spanish.

AD VALOREM DUTIES

One of the best achievements of the democratic party in connection with its recently-completed efforts at tariff-making was the substitution of the ad valorem principle for the specific duty system which has masked much of the injustice of republican tariffs. Many of the duties levied by the Payne-Aldrich law were for a specific sum, so much per yard or pound or ton, often used in combination with an ad valorem rate so as to form what is technically known as a composite rate. This method failed to take into account the very vital fact that it meant a low rate of duty when prices were highest and a high rate when prices were lowest. It also opened the way to all sorts of frauds because it was necessary to make so many classifications and apply so many descriptions that were difficult to make practical use of. It was also very convenient in keeping from the consumer a knowledge of just how heavy a tax he was paying when he bought any article. Wherever it was possible the ad valorem rate now applies, and being assessed on a system of percentages based upon value, the duty rises or falls with the market price. This means a great simplification of the tariff, and makes it easier for the customs service to perform the duties assigned to it. Care was taken in the provisions relating to the administration of the customs service to guard against undervaluation. The only exceptions to the ad valorem principle are to be found in those cases where value is not an important or fundamental factor, and where the commodity was of such a nature that value would be a matter of difficult analysis.

THE NEW TARIFF BILL

Beginning with the November issue, The Commoner will commence the publication of the new tariff act, taking the bill up by schedules until completed. The congressional elections come next fall, and every reader should begin the study of this bill and become thoroughly acquainted with its provisions.

On another page of this paper will be found an article by Mr. Bryan entitled, "The Man in the White House," that was written for the October Pulitzer's Magazine.

THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED

The secret is out. The readers of the New York World have wondered at the virulence of its attacks on the chautauqua. Venom has oozed out of its pages; its hostility has been most vehement. The cause of its antipathy is no longer a mystery—it simply mistook the chautauqua for an innovation from the west. IT THOUGHT THAT IT ORIGINATED IN KANSAS. Here is the explanation taken from one of its reports:

"In the middle west—say in Kansas—WHERE CHAUTAUQUAS ORIGINATED, they don't call the parks "parks." They call them the sha-tawk-wee grounds—pronunciation not Indian but Kansas. Sha-tawk-wee grounds always lie on the banks of some river and are inhabited chiefly by mosquitoes and peanut shells. In Kansas the sha-tawk-wee is not an experiment but an institution. People with good homes and porcelain bathtubs abandon them once a year to go live in a tent in the sha-tawk-wee grounds and be eaten up by the mosquitoes and rained on and inoculated with devilled ham sandwiches and rheumatism. It amounts to a religion."—New York World.

Won't the proprietor of the World feel cheap when, a few years hence, the news has had time to reach him and he learns that nearly four decades ago this great educational movement began on the classic shores of Lake Chautauqua in the Empire state? And "it amounts to a religion," too.

"DISCOURAGING THRIFT"

The stock argument used against the income tax is that it will "discourage thrift," but this argument, like others employed against it, will not stand investigation. It is estimated that between four and five hundred thousand persons have taxable incomes. As we have, in the United States, more than thirty million adults and over fifteen million adult men, it will be seen that less than one adult in sixty and less than one adult man in thirty will have to pay the tax. The thrift of this country is not confined to so small a percentage of the people, and even among those with taxable incomes the great majority will be taxed so little that it can have no perceptible influence upon their desire to earn an income. The tax on a ten thousand dollar income is sixty dollars if a man is married and seventy if he is single—who will say that this moderate exaction will "discourage thrift?" A man's spirit must be easily broken if he can be discouraged by so small a tax. If this argument has any weight those with small incomes ought to be made more thrifty by the fact that a part of the burden will be lifted from their shoulders. As for those with very large incomes it may be well to discourage them a little if they have been employing monopolistic methods.

GOOD WORDS

Editor The Commoner: To say that I am pleased with the new monthly Commoner is putting it very mildly. I have been a subscriber to The Commoner ever since I knew of its print. I believe I have sent in no less than four hundred subscriptions in all, and it would have been a pleasure to me to have sent in double that amount if I had have been able. The present administration is giving us just what we have been waiting for. Here's strength to your arm, Mr. Bryan.—George I. Gargett, Alma, Mich.

Editor The Commoner: I was disappointed when you first announced that you were going to change from a weekly to a monthly, but on receipt of the first monthly issue I am more than pleased with the change, for the first issue alone is worth the price of one year. Success to The Commoner and long life to its editor.—W. L. Taylor, LaGrange, Tex.

Editor The Commoner: On my return here I found the first issue of The Commoner as a monthly magazine on my desk. Permit me to say that I am much pleased with it, and you can depend upon me as a regular subscriber to that common sense paper.—Andre Boutin,