

# The Commoner

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## ENCOURAGING OUR FOREIGN TRADE

A Speech Delivered by Mr. Bryan at a Banquet Given in Washington, D. C.,  
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Gentlemen, a few months ago I visited New York to attend a banquet given by those interested in Oriental trade, and I was very much interested to meet those there assembled and to hear what they had to say. I think you must have here tonight even more, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Straight, than we had then. It is a larger gathering than I had expected and I am therefore delighted in proportion. You have several speakers here tonight, some of whom can deal with the subject from the standpoint of a merchant's or trader's experience. I can not—and yet it is not at all inappropriate that the department of state should be represented. Secretary Redfield's department and mine are the two departments that are most intimately connected with the work that our people do outside of the country and for the department with which I have the honor to be connected I desire to say a few words. I have given to the newspapers a part of what I am going to say, and I think I had better read it to you, so that I shall be sure to say to you what I told them I would say—and then I can add whatever I wish after that.

I shall not say anything afterwards to contradict this, but in order that it may be in the paper—I have found that unless you give it in advance you are not sure of getting it into the paper—in order that it may be in the paper I am going to read it as it is written.

"It is the earnest purpose of the department of state to promote commerce and close industrial relations with other countries. So far as it

is possible to do so, it is our desire to obtain for Americans equality of opportunity in the development of the resources of foreign countries and in the markets of the world. It is our intention to employ every agency of the department of state to extend and safeguard American commerce and legitimate American enterprises in foreign lands so far as it can be done consistently with the sovereign rights of other governments. It should be distinctly understood, however, that this government in its efforts to advance the interests of its citizens abroad will know no favorites. Honesty of purpose and endeavor, and ability to perform obligations assumed will command at all times its hearty support.

While this government wishes to expand its foreign trade and to encourage those who seek in foreign lands a field for American labor and capital, it cannot in any way assume responsibility for or guarantee the financial standing of Americans, who engage in commercial or industrial enterprises beyond the boundaries of the United States.

As occasion has arisen during the past year, American diplomatic and consular officers have been instructed to employ all proper methods for the extension of American business interests abroad, but at the same time they have been directed to refrain from advocating the projects of one concern to the exclusion of other Americans who are its competitors in the same field of enterprise.

If a wrong be done an American citizen in his

legitimate business relations with a foreign government, American diplomatic officers will be instructed to use their good offices to secure just treatment for such citizen. This rule applies to financial as well as industrial engagements, but as to the nature and degree of the support which may be given to any particular enterprise, the department must, in accordance with its uniform practice, exercise its right to decide each case independently as it arises according to its merits and always with the understanding that the support promised by this government does not imply any obligation to interfere by force or by the menace of force in the financial or political affairs of other countries.

This administration, earnestly desirous of increasing American foreign commerce and of widening the field of American enterprise, seeks to cooperate with the thousands of business men in the United States, who with honesty of purpose and commendable ambition strive after new opportunities where they may employ that ability and energy, which have already made the United States pre-eminent among the nations in the industrial development and commercial progress of the world."

I do not know how sanguine you gentlemen may be—a man's success depends to a large extent upon the fact that he is sanguine; a man without hope undertakes nothing. Yet, however sanguine you gentlemen may be, I believe that none of you surpass me in great expectations, so far as this nation's development is concerned.

(Continued on page 7.)

## The Anti-Trust Bills

On another page will be found the three anti-trust bills which represent the president's interpretation of the anti-trust plank of the Baltimore platform. The Clayton bill went through the house by a vote of 275 to 54, the interstate commerce committee's bill providing for supervision of the issue of railway stocks and bonds was passed by a vote of 325 to 12, and the Covington trade commission bill did not require a roll call. Forty-one regular republicans and fifteen progressive republicans voted for the Clayton bill and only one democrat voted against it. Of the twelve voting against the committee's bill, eight were republicans and four democrats. Surely this is vindication enough. It will be difficult for either the regular republicans or the progressive republicans to attack these measures, prepared as they have been by democratic committees, with the advice of a democratic president and passed by the house of representatives

practically without opposition. The administration moves on, recording one success after another and winning approval all the time.

W. J. BRYAN.

## Another Victory

The president has won his fight for the repeal of the free tolls law.

It was a protracted struggle and has been hotly contested. Three-fourths of the democrats of the senate supported the president and about one-third of the republicans. The Commoner's position on the subject has been stated and its congratulations are now extended to the president and to the country.

The senate is now ready to take up the anti-trust bills and they are certain to be passed. The only question is when. The rule entailing unlimited debate in the senate so seriously restricts the enactment of remedial legislation that the majority finds it slow work to give expression to the verdict of the people pronounced at the polls in 1912.

W. J. BRYAN.

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