

## BITS OF INTEREST

Germany has 90,000 more women than men.  
The United States now has 3,546 millionaires.  
A single plant of red poppy produces 50,000 seeds.  
The world now sends 1,250,000 telegrams every day.  
There are in London 52,000 people over 75 years old.  
Turkey now exports £600,000 worth of opium a year.  
Italy makes eight millions a year out of foreign visitors.  
The eleven million inhabitants of Siam use only American flour.  
The demand for American goods is increasing throughout Canada.  
All the Mormons do not live in Utah. There are 2,000 in Germany.  
Every one of the large automobile factories is far behind its orders.  
There are about 114,500 telegraph offices now open in the whole world.  
Methodism has gained in New York city nearly 47 per cent since 1875.  
The youngest bride in Berlin last year was sixteen, the oldest seventy-five.  
Since 1872 4,000 miles of railroads have been laid in the Japanese empire.  
Berlin uses every year nearly half a million tons of English and Welsh coal.  
An acre of sugo-palm will yield as much nourishment as 163 acres of wheat.  
One of the burroughs of London, England, has a motor street-cleaning machine.  
From a 20-year-old mulberry tree 218 pounds of leaves have been picked in a year.  
France has four classes of roads. They are respectively 50, 40, 33, and 25 feet wide.  
The crusade against the billboard nuisance is making headway in Buffalo, N. Y.  
Tea-pills are now sold. They run 14 to the ounce, and each makes a large cup of tea.  
Rosewood is so called because it exhales the fragrance of roses when freshly cut.  
New England makes nearly 60 per cent of the boots and shoes made in this country.  
Springfield, Mass., has just celebrated her fiftieth anniversary as a municipality.  
Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Walsh of Brooklyn has given nearly \$800,000 to Catholic charities.  
New Britain, Conn., was the first city in the Nutmeg state to put wires under ground.  
The New York Board of Health has established a department for Pasteur treatment free.  
A new railway is to be built from Southern to Western Australia. It will cost £4,400,000.  
The newest schooner is 480 feet long and has seven masts. She is being built in Boston.  
The Brazilian coast city of Bahia has about 200,000 inhabitants, who live in 17,000 houses.  
The golden tiara presented to the Pope from English Roman Catholics will cost £40,000.  
Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Walsh, of Brooklyn, has given nearly \$800,000 to Catholic charities.  
Baltimore holds the world's record for negro population. It has 80,000 black inhabitants.  
Of the 21,273 people who ascended Mount Pilatus by rail last summer 6,200 were British.  
Over 1,000 bunches of grapes have appeared on a vine now growing near Boren in the Tyrol.  
The United States received from Germany during the nineteenth century 5,079,362 immigrants.  
Not a pound of all the coal burned in Switzerland is dug within the borders of that country.  
No interviews with Count Leo Tolstoy or Maxim Gorki may now appear in the Russian press.  
Two hundred and forty-nine European missionary societies keep 13,607 missionaries at work.  
A two-thirds majority of the cardinals' conclave is necessary for the election of a new Pope.  
Prismatic Lake, in the Yellowstone National park, is the largest body of hot water in the world.  
Horses, giraffes, and ostriches have the largest eyes of land animals; cuttle-fish of sea creatures.  
What was probably the first public library in the United States was started in Charleston, S. C., in 1749.  
The French government has asked two officials to investigate the benefits and detriments of the trusts.  
The father of M. Santos Dumont has an estate on which 9,000 laborers cultivate 40,000,000 coffee plants.  
The Juneau-Skagway cable has not been used for two months owing to a break which cannot be located.  
Eight million bottles of absinthe are yearly consumed in Paris. This is double the consumption of 1895.  
For breadmaking purposes seven pounds of American flour are said to be equal to eight pounds of English.  
The biggest average farm in the world is in South Australia, where the average squatter holds 78,000 acres.  
The most expensive and roomiest railway station in the world is that of the Peninsular Railroad at Bombay.  
The number of ants in a nest varies from 12,293 to 93,694. These figures are from a recent count of five nests.  
There is a mountain of salt near Carona, in Spain, which contains 500 million tons of almost pure rock-salt.  
Modern inks only date from 1798, at which date the researches of Dr. Lewis in the chemistry of ink began.  
Modern inks only date from 1708, at which date the researches of Dr. Lewis in the chemistry of ink began.  
The entire population of Malaga Island, off the mouth of the New Meadow river, Maine, is suffering from measles.  
Wakes time is a fair which occurs every year in each of the groups of English towns which form the Potteries.  
Mme. Isescu, the Viennese lady swimmer, is training for another attempt to swim the English channel this summer.  
A banker, who is a grand-nephew of Mendelssohn, has just paid the record price of £4,000 for a Stradivarius violoncello.  
There are no less than 3,262 different species of fish inhabiting the waters of America north of the Isthmus of Panama.  
The United States now own nineteen battleships, and comes next to England in this respect. Russia has sixteen.  
Denmark's agricultural capital is now £140 for each inhabitant. This is more than double that in the United Kingdom.  
An Eastern city boasts of a man who spent \$186.65 for cigars, and by saving the wrappers secured a \$15 suit of clothes.  
Sweden and Denmark have no soldiers who cannot read and write. In Russia's army 70 per cent of the men are illiterate.  
Seventy thousand cochineal insects go to a single pound of dried cochineal. The world's crop of cochineal is from 300 to 500 tons.  
There are now only about 87,000,000 sheep in Australia. Drought has reduced the number by a quarter in the past few years.  
New York has 250 hotels, London over 500. But New York's hotels will hold nearly as many people as London's greater number.  
The amount of merchandise transported by rail in the United States is double that of all the other nations of the earth together.  
In 1889 an Australian stockman, kangaroo-hunting, picked up an opal. Since then Australia has exported £420,000 worth of opals.  
It is proposed at Duluth, Minn., that the local branch of the Salvation army shall add street cleaning to its many other activities.  
Indianapolis now holds the record in rapid hog killing; 3,298 hogs were recently turned into pork, sausages, etc., within five hours.  
Connecticut pays a bounty of \$1 for each fox killed within its borders. Last year the payments on this account amounted to \$1,272.  
Salmon-traps are forbidden by law in Canada. Therefore, salmon costs 15 cents apiece in Canada, but only one cent over the border.  
The oldest known petroleum-well is that at Zante, one of the Ionian Islands. Oil has been obtained from it for nearly 3,000 years.  
While a square dance represents only half a mile of walking or moving, an average waltz takes dancers over three-quarters of a mile.  
A white badger, which is almost as great a rarity as a white blackbird, was killed recently by the Axe Vale (England) badger hounds.  
In the palm of the hand there are 2,500 pores to the square inch. If these pores were united end to end they would measure about five miles.  
Greenland glaciers average 1,000 feet in thickness, move 50 feet a day, and discharge into the sea four square miles of ice yearly 1,900 feet thick.  
Four thousand foreigners were expelled by the police from France last year; 1,500 of these were Spaniards, 1,300 Belgians, and 500 Germans.  
It will probably be a surprise to learn that Mary is the most popular name among actresses. Next in number are contractions of Eleanor.  
The total number of farms in Alabama is given at 223,220, of which 129,137 are operated by white farmers and 94,083 by colored farmers.  
The biggest casting ever ordered was recently made at Chester, Pennsylvania. It was for the propeller-shaft of a steamer, and weighed over 60 tons.  
Four railway lines now connect Mexico with the United States. In 1886 there was only one railroad in Mexico, leading from the capital to Vera Cruz

## IN THE LAST DITCH

### REPUBLICAN PLATFORM AND ITS PHILIPPINE PLANKS.

Certain "Members of American Families" But Not the Army, Endorsed—The Cry of the Craven—Confession That Laws of War Have Been Violated.

The Republicans, in their state and congressional conventions, are executing wonderful feats of rhetoric on the subject of the atrocities committed by American and Macabeb troops under orders from army officers like Smith, Hughes, and Bell. One of the finest of these efforts, and one that may be taken as a type of the whole, is the following ambiguous plank in the platform adopted at Des Moines, Iowa, July 30.

"We are proud of the high standard of good conduct maintained by MEMBERS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES doing duty in the Philippines, WHILE THEY ARE EXECUTING OUR LAWS AND CARRYING CIVILIZATION TO PEOPLES IN THE FAR EAST under exacting conditions, and give them assurance of our sympathy and confidence."

Notice how adroitly this sentence is worded. It confines its praise to "members of American families" exclusively, and even limits it exclusively to those members of such families who are actually "executing our laws, and carrying civilization to peoples in the far East." Is the army of the United States in the Philippines composed of such men? The statements of Major Gardner, Private Weir, Capt. Flint, Sergt. Riley, and many others, show that it is not. The records of the court-martials in the cases of Gen. Smith, Major Waller, Maj. Glenn and Lieutenants Gault and Cook, demonstrate that it is not. Nor is the army there composed chiefly of Americans of any sort.

According to a statement given out by Representative Hay of Virginia, the ranking Democratic member of the House Committee on Military Affairs, printed in the Washington Evening Star of July 30, 1902, a large majority of our troops in the Philippines are natives. Mr. Hay says:

"There is no doubt that the American people are being deceived as to the number of troops in the islands. The statement has been made that there are now but 15,000 troops in the islands, when as a matter of fact there are besides this number 12,000 native troops, or scouts, as they are called. These scouts are authorized and paid by an appropriation in the army appropriation bill and are a part of the United States forces just as much as are any other troops. Their pay is somewhat less than that of the American soldier, but only slightly, and they are furnished rations and equipment. These scouts should not be confused with the constabulary, a civil force of between 7,000 and 8,000 natives, who are employed and paid out of the island revenues."

There are 27,000 regular troops and 8,000 constabulary troops, making in all 35,000, only 15,000 of which are Americans; but for the conduct of every one of these 35,000 men the administration is responsible, and the Republican party is responsible. The plank of the Iowa Republican platform above quoted does not endorse our Macabeb and Visayan troops or our constabulary, though those troops constitute two-thirds of the American army, and act in entire obedience to American officers. That platform is, moreover, a confession that there have been violations of the laws of war by American troops, for it distinguishes between the army as a whole and "members of American families" who are executing our laws, etc. It does not pretend to defend "the army." It does not even assert that any member of an American family there is actually executing our laws as a rule, but only expresses approval of the "high standard of good conduct" of those, if any, who are so doing, provided and only so long as they are so doing. This is the position of Senator Hoar, Carl Schurz, Geo. S. Boutwell and the Democrats and Anti-Imperialists generally.

The Republicans of the Senate and House of Representatives at first defended the Smith-Hughes-Bell-Funston cabal; and the President and secretary of war did the same. When public opinion reproved them for this shocking defense of high crimes and misdemeanors, they next attempted to excuse those outrages on the ground of revenge and necessary retaliation. When they were driven from this untenable position, they went into the conventions of their party, and endorsed those "members of American families" who are doing their duty and actually executing our laws. And they prudently "urge that the contention over our policy in the Philippines should now cease." Such is the cry of the craven. But that contention will not cease. Nothing is settled finally until it is settled right. Republicans may discriminate in favor of certain members of American families, and may give them assurance of sympathy and confidence, but the American people, while doing the same, will go further, and will condemn, even as Senator Hoar has already condemned, the brutal, barbarous and imperialistic Philippine policy of the administration, backed by the Republican party.

### THE EXPENSIVE TARIFF TAX

Figures Which Shed a Great Light on the Situation.  
In the last report of the secretary of the treasury there is a statement on page 144 of customs receipts and

expenditures that shows the amount received at each port of entry and the number of persons employed to collect it and the salary they received. The receipts at some of the ports are so absurdly small that it is a wonder that Mr. Shaw, our new reformer in charge of the treasury, does not turn his attention to a reformation of this abuse instead of his present principal occupation of perambulating about on pleasure excursions at government expense. The first place on the list that strikes attention is Beaufort, N. C., where the expenses of the two employees of the government were \$1,494.54, while they collected only the paltry sum of \$4.12. This shows that every dollar collected cost the taxpayers \$362.75. Bridgeton, N. J., did not make quite as bad a showing; there the six employees of the government collected \$90.17 and their expense account was \$1,489.65 or \$18.58 expended for each dollar collected. At Natchez, Miss., the amount collected was \$5 and the collector received \$500. This lone-some colored gentleman doubtless amused himself by sitting on the landing and watching the majestic Mississippi roll by with an occasional spell at fishing to relieve the monotony. The New Hampshire Republican politicians evidently were more powerful with the administration, for they succeeded in embalmng six of their clansmen in office at Portsmouth, who collected \$278.36, receiving \$3,645.81 for their laborious duties. There are a number of other ports that make returns of similar magnitude, which shows that our high protective tariff is an expensive luxury to the taxpayers, requiring expensive machinery at every spot a vessel can land. Why are these so-called ports not closed and the waste and expense of keeping collectors of customs and other officials saved?

These expensive ports are among the beauties of the protective system that has gradually grown up and expanded. The politicians who control the appointment of the collector of customs and other officers fill these places with their political strikers and use them to control caucuses and conventions and assess them for contributions to campaign funds.

Hence they are all ardent protectionists, not only for the reason that the system protects their friends who control the trusts and combines, but also because it gives them an opportunity to enconce some of their political strikers in snug berths with little or no work and good pay.

### THE EVERLASTING FIGHT.

For "Equal Rights to All and Special Privileges to None."

In nearly every state in the union where the Republican party is in power there is a fight in progress for equal taxation. The taxpayers are demanding that trusts and railroad corporations pay taxes on their property at the same rate as the individual taxpayer does. In some states, notably in Wisconsin, the Republican machine has been overthrown and a reform element of the party given a chance to bring about reforms. Nominating candidates for state officers and adopting a platform pledged to reform tax and other abuses is a good step in the right direction but will be worthless unless followed up by the nomination and election of members of the legislature that are also of the same mind.

There is where the Democratic voters in Republican states can make their power felt, by nominating their men who are known to stand for equal rights to all and who have no complicating alliance with the railroads and who are not under obligations to them for favors received. It is rare to find a Republican politician of any note who is not tied to the railroads or other corporations and if elected would legislate in their interest instead of that of the people.

It is encouraging to note that in nearly all the states controlled by the Democratic party a more equitable state of affairs exists. It only requires that eternal vigilance for which Democrats since the days of Jefferson and Jackson have been noted, to preserve the good reputation and protect their interests by enforcing that good old adage of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

### Attacking a Policy, Not the Army.

It is evident that the Republicans in the pending campaign intend to answer all references to atrocities in the Philippines by the counter charge that the Democrats are abusing the army. It is not the army as an organization that is attacked, but certain officers that have issued illegal orders and men who have committed crimes without orders. But in addition to this, and of more importance, is the general policy pursued by the administration in regard to the Philippines, which was felt to be so inexcusable that desperate efforts were made to keep the facts from the American people. The army is only an incident. It is the policy pursued at Washington that is really up for review by the American people.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Deserve No Sympathy.

Men who go to the polls and vote the Republican ticket in the face of the outrageous wrongs for which the Republican party is responsible deserve little sympathy. They will suffer, and they need to suffer, in order that their eyes may be thoroughly opened.—Omaha World-Herald.

### Biggest Joke of Them All.

President Roosevelt has been made the victim of several practical jokes, but they are all tame in comparison with the assurances he has received that Louisiana can be carried by the Republicans with proper "help" from Washington.—Atlanta Journal.

## Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

### OLD DOCTRINE STILL GOOD.

An Illinois democrat, who describes himself as a supporter of Mr. Hopkins, asks Mr. Bryan whether he still believes in free coinage at 16 to 1, and whether he would favor such a law if he were president. Yes, the doctrine of bimetalism is as sound today as it ever was. The reasons for it are not altered by a temporary improvement in industrial conditions. In fact, better times in the United States are due to an increased volume of money, and better times, therefore, vindicate the contention of bimetalists and establish the quantitative theory of money. Bimetalism is not a wild scheme suggested as a possible relief from a panic; it is a system of finance approved by centuries of experience and calculated to prevent such panics as are due to the scarcity of money. The increased production of gold has to some extent lessened the strain upon it, but this nation has been receiving more than its share and the recent exportations of the yellow metal indicate that the work of equalization has begun. Less than half the world uses gold as a standard today, and if India and China were driven to the gold standard the rise in the purchasing power of the dollar would again become marked. The man who becomes a convert to the gold standard because of the unexpected increase in the production of gold is as shortsighted as a man who would stop work because his neighbors got up a donation party and gave him a week's supply of food. Fluctuations in the production of the precious metals have occurred before, and they give support to the bimetallic theory.

Other questions are for the time being more important than the money question, but that fact does not justify an abandonment of the party's position on the subject. If one child is sick the parents can give it special attention without putting the other children out of the house. So a party meets new issues, but it cannot afford to abandon its position on any question if that position is right. It may be added that the enemies of bimetalism never fought an open fight and are as deceitful and treacherous today as they ever were. They are now scheming to secure, without the knowledge of the people, an asset currency, a branch bank and a redeemable silver dollar—each proposition being a part of the gold standard plan to turn the entire country over to the financiers; and those democrats who want to "drop the money question" are either intentionally or ignorantly aiding and abetting the Wall street crowd.

And the ratio? There is no practical ratio but 16 to 1. Those who oppose that ratio never have done anything to restore bimetalism and never will. It is the ratio at which gold and silver circulate in this country today and other countries have substantially the same ratio. The increased production of gold makes it easier to maintain the present ratio. The Republican party is in power and has within three years coined more silver than has ever before been coined in this country in the same length of time, and yet no republican has proposed to change the ratio. The Republicans should either change the ratio or cease to find fault with it. The man who opposes bimetalism usually favors the gold standard in its place, but the man who opposes 16 to 1 offers no other ratio as a substitute.

The Illinois democrat above referred to announces that he will in his county convention oppose a general endorsement of the Kansas City platform and insist upon specific declarations on each subject included in the platform. He ought to be accommodated, for the friends of the Kansas City platform are not dodgers.

A general endorsement of the national platform is usually sufficient in a county convention because it covers all national issues and a reiteration of each plank, added to the declarations on state and county matters, would make the platform unnecessarily long; but if any Hopkins man thinks he can prevent a reference to the money question by demanding a specific plank he should be answered by a demand for the specific indorsement of every plank in the platform. If he objects to the wording of any plank, let him present his substitute. If he opposes bimetalism, let him present the plank indorsing the gold standard. If he objects to 16 to 1, let him name some other ratio at which he favors free coinage. If he is opposed to the plank condemning banks of issue, let him prepare a substitute favoring banks of issue and stating whether notes should be issued on bonds or assets. If he wants specific declarations he should have his desire fully and completely satisfied and he should be compelled to meet honesty with honesty. If the democratic party is to indorse the gold standard for which republican leaders plotted secretly for twenty years and which they now defend by arguments which they disputed six years ago—if the democratic party is going to indorse this policy, it ought to buy a ticket and enter the republican tent in a dignified way and not crawl in under the canvas when Hanna and our strenuous president are not looking.

### A QUIET LITTLE MEETING.

The New York Commercial Advertiser, in its issue of August 6, prints what it calls a good story relating to an interview between ohn W. Gates and E. H. Harriman. Mr. Gates said

The Indianapolis Sentinel is reproducing the contents of the papers that commend its stand on the question of reorganization. About seven out of ten exchanges quoted are distinguished by the mark ("rep").

It must be confessed that Mr. Knox's attempt at exploiting the strenuous life suffer greatly from the effects of amateur press agent work.

Why is it that an injunction against a laboring man is so speedy, while the process is so slow when applied to the beef trust?

on Mr. Harriman who, by the way, is chairman of the board of directors of the Union Pacific Railroad company, and said that he and his friends thought of buying a majority of Union Pacific stock. Mr. Harriman, according to this "good story," took the information very coolly, whereupon Mr. Gates asked him what he would do about it. Would he give Gates and his friends representation on the board of directors? "I'll tell you what we will do," replied Mr. Harriman. "When we have got you and your friends loaded up with the stock we will have a quiet little meeting of the directors and issue \$100,000,000 more stock, and that, perhaps, will keep you and your friends busy."

This is indeed "a good story." It indicates the readiness with which these great financiers may create something out of nothing. These people told us in 1896 and in 1900 that value could not be created by law, but it seems very plain that they can create value by "a quiet little meeting."

Mr. Harriman undoubtedly understands the process thoroughly. These "quiet little meetings" have become quite common in this day. The managers of the Rock Island Railroad company recently had "a quiet little meeting." They decided that the present Rock Island Railroad company having \$75,000,000 stock, is to become the property of a new Rock Island company, capitalized for \$125,000,000 stock and having in addition \$75,000,000 in bonds. Then this new Rock Island company is to become the property of a New Jersey corporation capitalized for \$150,000,000 and to be known as the Rock Island company. Not a penny of additional capital has been put into the concern; and it will be seen that the old property which was capitalized for only \$75,000,000 has, through the mere process of "a quiet little meeting," been transformed in "value" so that after being bonded for \$75,000,000, the entire sum of its original capitalization, this property is represented by the capital stock of the twin corporations in the enormous sum of \$275,000,000.

Some time the American people will appreciate the evils of the trust system. They will learn that public interests are not served at these "quiet little meetings" of the republican party's fat-fryers. They will then have meetings of their own. It will not, however, be "a quiet little meeting." It will be in the form of great mass meetings held throughout this nation in the presence of the ballot box of every precinct in the United States, and in these assemblages the doom of the republican party will be sealed.

### MR. BRYAN'S AMBITION.

The following telegram and answer may be of interest to readers of The Commoner:

"Hon. W. J. Bryan: Will you be a candidate for president next campaign? If so, under what conditions? A reply would be much appreciated."

### "TIMES-DEMOCRAT."

"Editor Times-Democrat, New Orleans, La.—Dear Sir: Because of the friendly interest which the Times-Democrat has taken in my candidacy in two campaigns, I gladly answer your inquiry. I shall not be a candidate for the presidency in the next campaign and, I may add, I have no choice beyond the desire to see some one nominated who was loyal, not only to the ticket, but to the platform in 1896 and 1900, and who, if elected, could be trusted to stand by the people in their struggle against organized wealth."

"While no one can look very far ahead or foresee the contingencies that may arise, I have no plans looking to a re-nomination at any future time."  
"I am deeply interested in the reforms for which I have been contending and shall continue to advocate them. I am content to do my work as a private citizen and am sure that I find more pleasure in my present position than I would in the distribution of patronage."

"If I ever again become a candidate for the presidency it will be because I am convinced that I can in that way give more effective aid to the cause in which I am enlisted for life, and I am not anxious to be convinced."  
"I cannot say more with prejudging events. Yours truly,"

"W. J. BRYAN."

### VOICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The Philadelphia Times says: "The democratic party has twice listened to Mr. Bryan through its great disasters; it will be better for him now to listen to the voice of the democratic party and to put himself in harmony with its new life." How is one to recognize the voice of the democratic party? Is that voice to be judged by the omissions in a few state platforms in the face of the clear and explicit tones of the North Carolina platform, the Texas platform, the Arkansas platform, the Nebraska platform, and the platforms of the two Missouri conventions echoing as they do the voice of the national platform, are to be wholly ignored? The Times would do well to explain to its readers the method it adopts in ascertaining the "voice of the democratic party." How did it happen that the men for whom the Times speaks did not listen to the voice of the democratic party in 1896 or in 1900? Or will the Times deny that a national convention has any control over the voice of a party?

When the president addresses a law school will he tell the boys that a good criminal lawyer will not only be willing to try a case, but anxious to have crimes committed so that his business will increase?

Secretary Shaw has been doing a keynoting up in Vermont. Can it be possible that Vermont republicans need it?

Having enjoined the beef trust, Mr. Knox should not mandamus it and compel it to acknowledge the injunction.