Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

That Populist Influence.

The reorganizers are always complaining of the influence which the populists have exerted upon the democratic party in recent years. Whenever a reorganizer wants to find fault with the democratic platform or any part of it, he denounces it as populistic. The fact is most of the things which are complained of as populistic were advocated by the democrats before the which the democrats did borrow from the populist party was indorsed by prior to the Chicago convention. Take for instance the question of free silver. for years been contending for the very thing which the Chicago platform indorsed. Time and again before there was a populist party nearly all of the democrats in both the house and senindorsed by the platform. They had voted for free coinage and for unlimitopening the mints at the ratio of 15 to I without waiting for the aid or contional democratic platform had ever

The Chicago platform indorsed the income tax. The principle of the inprev.ous populist platforms, but it had the house and senate voted against the income tax. Senator Hill of New York. being the most rabid of its opponents. While it was known to the democrats in congress that Mr. Cleveland did not favor an individual income tax, he allowed the bill containing this tax to The opposition to the income tax to the principle involved as to the wording of the platform, and the wordby anything the populist party had ever said or done.

Government by injunction was also denounced in the Chicago platform, but it will be remembered that the United States senate had already passed, practically without opposition, the bitl which the democratic platform

agree on these propositions, they are ed under the banner of Washington. the day. thoroughly democratic, and no demoerat can consistently object to them merely because the populist party fa-

were more anxious than they to secure the reforms for which the democratic to be judged by their actions rather the populists.

Something More Than Independence.

The imperialists' claim that the American colonists simply struggled for independence from Great Britain and did not lay down a rule for the government of future generations, is well met by an extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Lincoln February 21, 1861. On that occasion the great republican said: "Away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen-'Weem's Life of Washington.' I remember all the accounts there given of the battle fields and struggles for the liberty of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, N. J. The crossing of the river and the contest with the Hessians, the great hardships endured at that time, all fixed themselves on my memory more than how these early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinkthere must have been something more that thing which they struggled for, that something even more than nathat held out a great promise to all the people of the world in all time to come-I am exceedingly anxious that this union, the constitution and the liberties of the people, shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea for which that struggle was shall be a humble instrument in the His almost chosen people. for perpetuating the object of that great struggle."

The Lincoln (Neb.) State Journal. republican, asserts that the "steel corporation, usually called 'trust,' has earned during the first nine months of navy department, but the literary fel- you shave yourself and that you are its existence \$85,000,000." Does the lows are still represented in the gov- a right-handed person. I know that highwayman "earn" the money he ernment employ by John Hay. taks from his victim?

Dr. Loeb claims to have discovered the death microbe and a means of rendering it harmless. This is encouraging. Perhaps the good doctor will in time discover the trust microbe and a means of rendering it harmless.

Talk about amending the constitution should be postponed until a commission has time to investigate and report whether there is enough left of the document to sew a patch to.

Administration organs have not yet ceased berating Webster Davis for hav- permanent census bureau. ing the courage of his convictions. Mr. Davis has been guilty of the heinous crime of doing his own thinking.

Mr. Hanna will not work indus trionsly at the labor-capital harmony job until after he gets that Ohio legislature off his hands.

A Change of Base.

Although we may deplore the lowerthe Outlook, we must give its editor credit for recognizing the inconsistency between the Declaration of Indepenthat "all governments exist for the ton is called. This tree received its populist party was organized, and that not have to be learned in the science of made great strides in recent years, practically all of the democratic party | the wide difference between the prin- | the capitol grounds and provided for a The democratic party in congress had just powers from the consent of the elm that was so greatly admired by A man would be a monster who would ate had voted for the financial system defend a government upon any other theory, but while this is the theory usually put forward in defense of moned coinage; they had voted for a bill arenies and aristocracies, the all important question is, who shall decide what is for the "benefit of the govsent of any other nation, and no na- erned?" Shall this question be decided by a king, or by a few, or shall it be announced a different doctrine. The decided by the people themselves? Chicago convention opposed the na- The trouble with one who rules by tional bank of issue, but in so doing it (bitrary power is that he insists upon was entirely consistent with the party | deciding what government is best for his subjects, and then he insists upon shooting them if they do not agree with him in regard to the merits of come tax had been indorsed in the the government which he proposes, and under which they must live. The also been embodied in the revenue whole difference between a governmeasure passed by congress in 1831. | ment resting upon force and a govern-Comparatively few of the democrats in | ment resting upon the consent of the governed is involved in the difference between the Outlook's idea of government and the theory of government set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson defended the view embodied in the Declaration of Indepence. become a law without his signature. In his first inaugral message he said: "Sometimes it said that man cannot be plank has not been directed so much trusted with the government of himself. Can be then be trusted with the government of others, or have we ing of the platform was not suggested found angels in the form of kings to govern him?" Lincoln announced the a newly patented contrivance, same doctrine when he said that God

The Chicago Record-Herald, a reput foreign country, though they are denied the right of a foreign county to party had been working? If men are retaliate." This republican paper concludes that "the stronger reasoning is than by their words, the populists are with the justices who believe that unimuch more in sympathy with demo- form federal laws should apply to all cratic principles than those who spend | American territory and the subject their time criticising and carping at still remains to be discussed as a question of policy before congress. That body will find itself in a very peculiar and embarrassing position if it takes to making discriminating tariff legislation for the Philippines." But why more "embarrassing" than when it undertook to enact discriminating tariff legislation for Porto Rico? The Record-Herald says, "If for the Philippines, why not for any other territory territory, why not for any separate state in the union?" To be sure, why not? But did not the Record-Herald make itself in part responsible for this very policy, when it enthusiastically which it now vigorously condemns?

Justice, Bateman & Co., wool merchants, have issued a bulletin in which they say that the danger of reciprocity is past, but that the wool industry is now menaced by Babcock's threat of tariff tinkering. The spirit of the reany single revolutionary event; and cent reciprocity convention (composed you all know, for you have been boys, of manufacturers who do not want reciprocity), was expressed by one of the speakers who denounced reciprocity by ing then, boy even though I was, that saying that we would simply ask foreign nations to permit us to assassithan common that those men struggled | nate some of their industries in return for. I am exceedingly anxious that for our letting them knife some of ours." As long as the manufacturers control the administration it is easy to tional independence, that something guess the fate of the "handmaiden of protection," as the president has de-

made, and I shall be happy, indeed, if I prices than is charged home consum- to visit Louis Philippe and Marie poldly obnoxious features of the formhands of the Almighty, and of this, subsidize the foreigners into buying still much worn by the children of the s harmless. But for the purpose of the subsidized steel carried in subsidized ships.

Charles Emory Smith has left the postoffice department and "Historian" MacClay has been pried loose from the

Mr. Fry says he has eliminated the objectionable features from the ship subsidy bill. If he has the bill will carry no subsidy provision.

The people who pay the freight fore your left ear than before your might solve the merger proposition by right one. These inaccuracies show organizing a merger at the polls.

It takes an unusually acute hearing from the wool growing regions.

The country needs a servicable census bureau much more than it needs a cause you unconsciously to begin high-

John Bull and Uncle Sam came together on two former occasions.

It appears that the Boers do not need a strenuous poet to urge them to renewed activity

PROGRESS IN TREE SURGERY.

Lives of Many Are Now Saved by Timely Operations.

there has also been very great progress in tree surgery or the methods of treating trees and shrubbery when it becames necessary to apply the knife or pruning shears. Many a tree is living today that would have died a few years ago from causes that would ing of ideals that has taken place in then have brought on death, but which today are successfully treated.

An instance of this progress can be seen in the Simon Cameron tree, as dence and the Philippine policy of the the spreading elm near the footpath republican administration. In a recent leading from New Jersey avenue to the editorial he speaks of the principle south wing of the capital in Washing-

benefit of the governed." One does | While surgery as applied to man has government nor far advanced in the name by which it is universally known knowledge of language to recognize now when the elder Olmstead laid out ciple above stated and the self-evident footpath which would have made nectruth that "governments derive their essary the removal of the stately old governed." The principle stated in Senator Simon Cameron. Mr. Camthe Outlook is one that has been as- eron interested himself in saving the serted by every king and potentate tree with the result that it was alwho claimed to rule by right divine. lowed to stand in the center of a space that would otherwise have been covered with a granolithic walk.

The tree flourished until a vear ago, when an amputation became necessary. One of its big limbs, showing signs of decay, was cut off. The operation was successful enough, but the wound being left open, in the course of time decay set in. The decay was working into the very vitals of the elm and would have killed it in a few years, but recourse was taken to an operation that is now very frequently applied in tree surgery. The decayed portion was scraped off and a covering of asphaltum was placed over it to arrest further decay. The tree is now as well off, says the Washington Star. as would be a man with a limb amputated and properly dressed with antiseptics. In the course of time the wound will probably be healed and the tree will be perfectly healthy again.

COOKING BY THE SUN'S RAYS.

Novel Plan Invented by Man from San

Cooking by the heat of the sun is a novel idea, but suggests economy, and is certainly practicable if there is no a shipping subsidy; the repeal of miexaggeration in the claims made by for war taxes; a central bank; the crea San Francisco inventor in behalf of tion of a national clearing house of

never made a man good enough to gov. oven made in the shape of a rectangu- 120,000,000, and the asset currency ern another man without the other lar box, open on one of its four sides dan. (through glass) to the direct rays of It behooves us to analyze the princi- the sun, and similarly exposed on anples which underlie imperialistic pol- other side to solar rays reflected icies, and when those principles are from a series of prismlike mirrors. understood they will be found to be Inasmuch as the box and mirrors are These are the propositions usually not ones just discovered, but the old adjustable at various angles, the rays o be fully convinced as to the proreferred to as populistic, and yet, while and blood-stained ones. trampled un- of the sun may be concentrated upon the populist and democratic party der the feet of the soldiers who enlist- the inside of the crem as may hour of

lican newspaper, commenting upon the glass, the lower two sides are of wood, he general market. The impounding Whereas the upper two sides are of recent decisions in the Philippine case, and the whole box, save for the two of the greenbacks as security for the But why should men who voted the refers to "the acrobatic Justice Brown." glass sides, is double-wailed and lined sank notes would, he thinks, relieve republican ticket find fault with the The Record-Herald says that Justice with felt and sawdust. Thus, glass he government from all the burdens populists who supported the demo- Brown's distinction "seems to be that being also a nonconductor, the heat cratic ticket? Should men who sup- while they (the Philippines) are part that enters the box does not visily get ported the Palmer and Buckner ticket of the United States, they may be leg- out again. In fact, it come were water leel aggrieved because the populists islated against as though they were a inside, it is claimed that it would quickly boil on a sunshiny day.

The internal arrangement of the oven consists of three shelves which remain horizontal no matter at what angle the box is placed. On these shelves baking is done. Along the top edge of the box extends a flat piece of metal, hollow inside, into which hot air is admitted from the oven beneath. This is a broiler, and the inventor says that one may cook a

One advantage of the solar method of cooking it that it is clean. No fuel kas to be supplied, and there are no shes to remove. It is a process that recommends itself most strongly, of the United States? If for any other therefore, to the neat and thrifty housewife.

History of Irish Poplin.

Lady Carew, who died the other day, was a benefactress of Ireland in this supported for office men who were way: She was the first person to wear strongly committed to the very policy in Paris an Irish poplin dress. It was in primrose yellow with a design in gold thread, and so much admired that the foremost ladies at the court of the Tuilleries asked her where she bought the poplin, and, upon learning the address, wrote for patterns. Marie Antoinette ordered one in lavender, enriched with a gold pattern; the Princess Marie one in blue and silver, and Princess Clementine one in pink .nd silver. Irish poplin was first manufactured in Dublin by Popeline, a Huguenot refugee. It became the rage and was greatly worn on occanot spoil it. Poplin became a favorite inxious to get some measure recogniztations, the wool being less carefully cause they must, to wait for what they Having subsidized the steel trust dresses some of his grand ladies in stand by the policy it has inaugurated

with Irish guipure.-London News. Barber's Cunning Bid for Trade.

"I perceive," said the barber, "that you shave yourself and that you are right-handed because your hair, where it ends in front of your ears, is blocked out by the razor at unequal lengths. It is much longer, a full quarter of an inch longer, beme that you shave yourself, and the longer hair on the left side shows you to be right-handed. For you have, to recognize any prosperity shouts you see, a better, freer reach with the right hand, and in the first stroke of shaving that you make on the right side the trained muscles of your arm er up. If you were left-handed the Philadelphia Record.

> Consumptives in Australia According to Dr. Sidney Jones, 16. 000 consumptives are moving about Australia annually.

PARIFF AN OUTRAGE. measures which closes our ports to ar-

V. J. BRYAN DENOUNCES LEGISLA-TION FOR PHILIPPINES.

bys > Eclipses the Oppression Practiced by England Upon Her American Colonies - Secretary Gage's Report Rereals Republican Financial Views.

The Philippine tariff measure passed by the house of representatives, pracically by a party vote, is one of the nost shameless pieces of legislation yrannical, and even Spain, whose desacked the refined cruelty which Resublican leaders practice with seeming has never performed a greater serhey enjoyed free trade with the mothr country, and had representation in he imperial parliament, but the Fillinos, after co-operating with us gainst Spain, were bought like chatels from a vanquished foe, and placed ense of the rest of the people and dehe house of representatives have treatly strengthened their party by heir vigorous opposition to the measire. The short time given for debate n the house makes it imperative that he Democrats of the senate shall preent to the public through the Conressional Record the facts relative to olonialism as thus far developed .the Commoner.

SECRETARY GAGE'S REPORT.

What the Acceptance of His Recom mendations Would Mean.

In his annual report Secretary of Globe. he Treasury Gage has recommended ational banks; the enlargement of the The apparatus consists of a sort of imit of subsidiary silver coinage to

odies practically the provisions of the)verstreet bill or the McCleary bill. riety of this plan. He thinks that at east two beneficial results would folow. He thinks that \$60,000,000 in The oven is set upon one edge. Inited States bonds, now in security. low incident to their redemption to an xtent of \$200,000,000. For the balance of \$146,000,000 in legal tender notes which would then be outstanding, the 150,060,000 in gold now held as a speial redemption fund would soon be excessive. If this were reduced to 146,000,000 the greenbacks would be lome virtually what Secretary Gage hinks they ought to be in reality, gold ertificates, says the Commoner. In 'eality, Secretary Gage's plan contemplates the actual retirement of the reenbacks and the substitution of a national banking currency for the government currency, giving to the naional banks, in addition to the enornous power they already possess, the privilege of doing an immense amount of business on wind. This is "sound inance;" this would be the realization if "a wise and business-like financial solicy," according to the Republican heory. This represents, in the most presentable form, the purpose of Republican financiers. The American beople have not yet begun to realize he responsibilities they were assumng when they elected and re-elected eaders are being unfolded; and "little by little, but steadily, as man's march o the grave," the Republican leaders tre transforming liberty into license. and no one need be surprised if "asset 'urrency" and branch banks, in a short ime, become realities.

Merely an Entering Wedge. The new subsidy bill is by no means satisfactory measure to the men sions of high ceremony, as rain did who have fathered it, but they are dress for the public promenades at | ng the principle of ship subsidies fashionable hours. All its French imi- hrough congress and are willing, betreated, cockle and lose luster when most desire until they can ask for it exposed to the least shower. Balzac on the ground that congress must into making steel we are asked to sub- poplin. The Princess Clementine wore | and perfect it. The aim of this bill is sidize the shipping trust that carries a plaid poplin gown the day the late to capture the support of western the steel abroad and sells it at lower Queen Victoria first landed at Treport | nembers who revolted against the ers. In due time we will be asked to Amelie at Eu. Irish poplin is r bill, on the ground that the new bill wealthy, and is thought to go well setting some kind of a subsidy measire through as a starter Senator Frye and the rest would not consider this bill worth fighting for.-Boston Her-

> An Issue for All Democrats. We have free traders and tariff evisionists and some protectionists n the party. We have silver men and inti-silver men, as well as gold men; hose who believe in taking the power o issue currency away from the banks and those who believe we should teep the Philippines and who favor the most rigid control of public and quasipublic corporations and those who believe in state ownership of public utilities. We have men who selleve we should keep the Philippines and those who think we should let :hem go. But there is not a man in the entire country who calls himself a Democrat that believes in the political absolutism which prevails to-day unhair on the left side would be the der the control of the Republican Globe.

> > Congress he king of Mississip be sugar industry.—Detroit Free then, and has paid over 12 per cent If a bee stings, kill him and the i, refforado. They lepublican tariff Press. Sturm is justly p

ticles imported from the Philippines. said that the Filipinos would refer to us as the stepmother country rather than as the mother country. It is a point well made, but it might be stated

even more strongly. A stepmother often shows great devotion to and makes great sacrifices for the children of her husband, but no nation has ever administered a carpet bag government with benevolence or even justice.

No Great Armament Needed. It is time that all who believe in keeping the United States free from. ever proposed by any party, and it the heavy military burdens which now jught to seal the political fate of any handicap the great nations of Europe, nan who supports it. England, in her morally as well as financially and inoppression of the American colonies, dustrially, should make themselves vas never guilty of anything more heard. There is no evidence that the American people as a whole desire ootism aroused our country to armed anything more than a strictly defenprotest in behalf of Cuba-even Spain sive navy, and the existing fleet has gone beyond this limit. This country injoyment. While the West Indies vice to the world than by demonstratvere under the rule of the Castillian ing its ability to get on without great armaments.-New York Evening Post.

Tariff the Paramount Issue.

While all Democrats do not agree on the tariff, they are more nearly harmonious on that than any other subinder the control of high-priced carpet | ject. It is not a new question and sag officials. Now they are to be shut the long-maintained Democratic posisut from commercial intercourse with tion on the question appeals more and he United States by a high tariff wall | more to the sense of right and justice constructed to enable a few American of intelligent voters. It should be a nanufacturers to grow rich at the ex- leading issue in the next campaign if the party is to make a campaign along nied representation in the legislature defensible Democratic lines. If not, which taxes them. The Democrats in | it doesn't matter whom it declares for or against.-Nashville American.

> Make a Clean Job of It. The Republican majority in the American house of lords ought not to confine themselves to reducing the minority representation on the several committees. Why not cut off that representation entirely? It would make but a minor difference, anyway, and it would be entirely consonant with the idea of absolutism which has found so much favor in doing the national business within the past three years or so.-St. Paul

The President's Advisors. The American Anti-Trust League filed a protest against the confirmation of Attorney General Knox. The opposition was based upon the ground that he had not prosecuted offenses against the anti-trust law even when those of-Concerning the latter proposition, fenses had been brought to his notice. ecretary Gage's recommendation em-The senate committee, however, reported in favor of the attorney general's confirmation, taking the position the secretary of the treasury appears that the president has a right to choose

Gage's Scheme Not in Favor. It is to be regretted that the secretary's last report should not have been more practically suggestive. It was almost entirely barren of sensible advice. Not for a long time, if ever in its history. will the country come to the idea of a centralized banking system.-Philadelphia Times.

The Most Amazing Injustice. Schley, the man who fought and won the battle, is allotted less than one-seventh as much prize money as has been paid to Sampson, and less than one-fifth as much as the sum allotted to Chadwick. If these figures were not official they would seem impossible. Comment is superfluous, They constitute the most amazing injustice in the records of this government.-Philadelphia Times.

Peril of the Trust System.

The peril of the present system of trust capitalization is plain. The general public is in profound ignorance of trust conditions. Investors necessarily take undue chances when they buy trust securities. There should be at least a reasonable guarantee of safety to investors as well as to consumers. lay by day the plans of Republican licity as one measure of regulation.-St. Louis Republic.

Their Co-Operation Not Wanted. The Washington Post says: "There are a great many people who would be glad to co-operate with the Democratic party as it formerly existed." Undoubtedly, and Messrs, Hanna, Frye, Gage, Foraker, Quay, Addicks, Platt, and others might be named as a few of the many. Democracy, however, has ceased to hunt for that kind of co-

The Systems Are Irreconcilable. When oil and water mix harmoniously with the utmost ease and celerity the Chaffee idea of rule in the Philippines and the Taft idea of governing their people may work together with good effect. Until such a phenomenon occurs, however, civil rule and military sway in those island are altogether likely to "clash" and disagree at a hundred points.-Boston Globe.

Gen. Chaffee's Dilemma. In forming an opinion as to the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government, General Chaffee, the military governor, is somewhat embarrassed by the fact that he cannot decide for the Filipinos without deciding against the interests of the carpet bag officials and exploiters who find good picking in "our new possessions."

Prospect of a Disagreemert. Mr. Hanna and Mr. Cleveland will be on the committee to devise ways and means by which capital and labor may be brought into harmony. It is highly probable that the committee will disagree. Mr. Cleveland is out of politics and Mr. Hanna is in politics. That will make the difference.-Dallas

The Farmer Wants His Whack. for the other fellow's infant ind all these years, it is not strange that ago, but instead of doing so invested thoughts of the voters who think withthe farmer has come to believe that in farm land. The bank stock is now out the aid of a machine. somebody ought to hire a nurse for his worth three times what it was worth

AS TO BRANCH BANKS

SECRETARY GAGE RECOMMENDS A GREAT CENTRAL TRUST.

Euormous Power of Such a Financial Institution Would Be a Constant Danger-Object of the Promoters of Such & Scheme Shown by The Commoner.

a hint of the enormous power a centhe promoters of the proposed system believe that between the banks as orcohesion," and no "power of co-operaof branches "offends the common instincts of our people," and "may be looked upon at present as impossible of realization." We may accept this language, then, while giving no encouragement for the immediate present, as holding out the hope that after a while, when the people shall have become quite accustomed to Republican impositions of all kinds the "common instincts of our people" may be violated with impunity and even a central bank may be established.

If this proposition does now offend the "common instincts of our people" what manner of official is this who in the meaning of the constitution." holds out even the smallest hope that | seems to be a very convenient one, the offense may yet be given?

The "common instincts of our people" have provided the safeguard of our liberty and have insured the perpetuation of free government. If Mr. ing this "offense" to the "common instincts of our people," he must railroads which this company owns either effect a complete change in have found it necessary to resign from those "instincts" or he must place the one or the other it is to be inferred people in such a state of servitude that the "eminent legal authorities" that they will not be able to give ex- who undertook to steer the big com-

pression to their "common instincts." The central bank is not the only Republican proposition that offends the "common instincts of our people," and | be found that they overlooked some yet in many other instances the Republican party has ignored these "instincts" and established un-American | thorities retained in its behalf may be. policies without the slightest regard for public criticism. May it not be possible that Mr. Gage has some warrant in believing that the time will The reception which the financial come when even on the question of the abstract, is not the issue. The great central bank, the "common inproposition for a central bank should stinets of our people" may be defied finally dispose of that abstract scheme. | with impunity by the Republican | party?-The Commoner.

> Facts of Living Interest. "Out of the statistical and technical aridness of the secretary of the treasurv's report" the New York World terest: The government taxed the people last year \$699,316,530-which is \$351,694,625 more than its receipts for the last fiscal year before the Spanish war, 1897. It spent \$621,598,546which is \$255,824,387 more than it and the expenditures had increased to ing a surplus of \$77,000,000 the secretary of the treasury would have to report a deficit of \$273,876,641. If expenditures were the same as before were up to its present height, the reno less than \$333,522,371. No wonder President Roosevelt speaks of the Philippines as "a great burden."

The Deminant Middle West.

The middle west-the region between the Alleghanies and the Rockies and stretching from the Ohio river he Republican party to power; but This guarantee must be found in pub- and the southern boundaries of Mis- attorney general will be confirmed souri, Kansas and Colorado to the Canadian line-has become in recent senate. This is probably a correct years the dominant section of the country and its ascendency is further emphasized by the advance of Governor Shaw to the control of the finanown state has now the speaker of the laws. house, the head of the senate's committee on appropriations, the heads of other important committees in the other branch of congress and the heads of two departments in the cabinet-the treasury and agriculture. Illinois has Cullom at the head of the senate's foreign relations committee and Cannon is chairman of the appropriation committee of the house. Other western states are also well

> The Chinese Danger. The Chinese exclusion law expires in six months. Unless renewed this winter this country will be flooded with Chinese who will come in swarms and take the places of Americans at wages that Americans cannot live on. The corporations are all fighting to prevent this law being renewed that fense, but a navy for imperialistic they may have cheap labor that has no votes. If this is done, there will be lector's passion of those high in narace riots in this country the like of | tional authority is a useless burden on which has never been witnessed on the people. We do not need a navy earth. The working people of this country have shown in the past that the rhetorical words of the president they are unwilling to have the Chinese in his message to congress, "beat out displace them in their native land. Great events will occur out of this purposes of defense only. subject. The congressmen and senators the working people have elected will serve the wishes of the corpora-

tions. Mind the prediction. Beware

the result.

provided in this respect.

Prosperity Unequally Divided. A Delaware reader of The Commoner meets the Republican argument that prosperity is equally distributed, by calling attention to the experience of a friend of his who had an oppor-After paying the wages of a nurse tunity to invest ten thousand dollars in national bank stock twenty years interest all the time, while the farm wound will not swell.

can be bought for eight thousand and in the meantime has not yielded nearly so large a profit as the bank. This is not an uncommon fliustration, but many farmers who have had a similar experience are still willing to allow the bankers, the trust magnates and the protected manufacturers to make the laws.

Wasting Time in Congress. Sixteen closely printed pages of the

In his annual report Secretary Gage latest issue of the Congressional Recrecommends a great central bank. He ord are devoted to private bills presays that the existing system does not sented in the house and referred. afford "the highest assurance of pro- They number 1,338. The serious detection" and does not establish "a bate of the session occupies less than bond of cohesion, the power of co- three pages of the Record. All these operative action, the ability to co- bills are referred to congressional ordinate for the general good or for committees and most of them will in mutual defense," such as would be due time come back to the house for provided by a central institution with passage. It is a physical impossibility multiplied branches. Those who have for any committee to examine them carefully observed the part which the | carefully. They will generally be railbanking institutions have played in roaded through and passed by a systhe politics of the country will obtain | tem of trading favors. In many instances the country will thus be made tral bank with "multiplied branches" | to pay unjust claims. But the miswould wield when they observe that chief does not end here. Much of the energy of congressmen must be wasted in committee work that is of no naganized to-day, there is no "bond of | tional importance. It is absurd that the congress of the United States tive action." Mr. Gage says that the should devote a large share of its exproposition for a large central bank ertion to trivialities that might propwith broad powers for establishment erly occupy the attention of a council of a small town.

> Makes a Convenient Loophole. Some members of the house of representatives insist that the Philippine revenue law should originate in the house because the constitution provides that all bills for raising revenue shall have their origin in that body. Congressman Overstreet of Indiana. however, is reported as saying that the Philippines bill may originate in the senate, as it is "not a revenue measure within the meaning of the constitution." This expression, "withand has often been used for the purpose of covering a multitude of sins.

May Have Made Mistakes. From the fact that various directors Gage shall finally succeed in establish- of the new Northern Securities company who are directors also of the bine safely through the breakers of the law made at least one mistake, Probably in the course of time it will other points. Murder will out no

Silver Issue Not Dead.

matter how "eminent" the legal an-

But silver is not dead. Not only that, it cannot be killed. Silver, in Alabama do not care for your silver or its price. They are silver men solely because they will not tolerate the contraction schemes of the big leaders of the Republican party, and if all the silver on earth were annihilated now, the fight on that prinhas produced these facts of living in- ciple would be carried on as fast as conditions made the fight necessary or available.

The People or the Trusts. It will soon be, if it is not now, a question of whether this country is spent in 1897. If taxation were the to be ruled by the people or by the same now as it was four years ago, trusts and corporations. We hear much of "influence" in the present contheir present figures, instead of report- gress. The subsidy bill is said to be supported by powerful influence, the isthmian canal is threatened by other influences, fair treatment of Cuba depends on the result of the fight beour colonial experiments and taxation | tween the two great influences and the relation of our statesmen to them, port would have been of a surplus of and so on. One wonders where the people come in.

The Attorney General's Duty. Washington reports agree that there is little likelihood that the attacks on Attorney General Knox and the opposition to his confirmation will amount to anything, and that the when the question is reached in the forecast, but some of those opposing the attorney general are very much in earnest, and out of the debate may come a clearer perception of the duties cial arm of the government. Shaw's of that officer in the enforcement of

> A Hint from History. Sir Robert Peel and William E. Gladstone were the strenuous upholders of protection till everything was going to ruin. Then they became, as McKinley apparently purposed, the apostles of freer trade, and as such their names have gone into history. The protection theory is bound, sooner or later, to be overthrown. The history of protection in England will be repeated here. Protection is war; trade, commerce, is peace; there can be no lasting agreement between the

> > The Navy We Need.

No patriotic American grudges the money necessary for a navy for deconquest or simply to gratify the col-"whose hammering guns," to employ the mastery of the high seas," but for

Building a New Tariff Wall. The coal trust that haz acquired control of all the coal landings and harbors on the Ohio at Louisville and Jeffersonville has the cities about where it wants them. It has secured by its deal a new kind of tariff wail and can levy its tolls on all coal that

passes through its gates. The Voters Will Think. Sharp practice may prevent any agitation of the tariff question in con-