

Commoner Comment.

JAS. MARSHALL HEAD.

The Commoner has received the following in regard to James Marshall Head of Nashville, Tenn., whose name has been mentioned in connection with the presidential nomination:

James Marshall Head was born in Sumner county, Tennessee, July 25, 1865. His father was a prominent physician whose practice in that county extended over a period of fifty years. The son, James M., attended school at Gallatin, the county seat, and then read law for two years in the office of Hon. James J. Vettese. He also attended Harvard university, completing the course and receiving his degree in 1876. From that date until his removal to Nashville in 1883, Mr. Head practiced his profession at Gallatin. At Nashville he became a member of the firm of Champion & Head, and later of the firm of Champion, Head & Brown, and enjoyed a large and lucrative practice, especially in the chancery court.

In 1884 Mr. Head became editor-in-chief of the Nashville American, at that time one of the leading democratic papers in Tennessee. While the American was under his editorial control it was a staunch supporter of democratic ideas and policies.

Mr. Head was prominently identified with the Centennial exposition held at Nashville in 1897. In 1896 he became the Tennessee member of the democratic national committee, and was thoroughly identified with the work of the party in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900.

He is a man of conviction, discretion and determination, and he has been one of the most useful members of the national committee.

He was nominated and elected mayor of Nashville in 1899 and since that time has devoted himself to the working out of municipal problems. Being a firm believer in the municipal ownership of city franchises, he has gradually, but constantly, enlarged the city's control over its own work and has made an enviable record in this direction. The city of Nashville for years owned waterworks, and they have been so well conducted that they realize a net balance to the city over and above all expenses. During his administration he has established an electric light plant, the first effect of which was to reduce by one-third the charges of the private company, and the city plant promises to give the city twice the light for a little more than half of what was formerly paid to the private plant. He has also secured a contract for the gas plant, and the street car company that gives the city a chance to buy the gas plant at the end of ten years and the street car company at the end of twenty years. At the present time the gas is sold at not more than a dollar per thousand, and the city receives 5 per cent of the gross income from the gas plant, and a privilege tax of 2 per cent of the gross income from the street car company.

Mr. Head has proven his ability as an executive; he is diligent in business, affable in his manner, and yet firm in dealing with public affairs. As a speaker he is ready and clear, and his character gives authority to his discourse. His sympathies are with the common people, and he deserves a foremost place among the earnest and conscientious students of the problems of the present day. In his first fight for the nomination for mayor he had the opposition of the local corporations, but his administration has been so universally popular that he was re-elected practically without opposition.

A VOICE FROM EUROPE.
The Financial Chronicle of London, in its issue of February 3 last, contains the report of a meeting of the shareholders of the London Trading Bank (Limited). Mr. Wightman Cooper, president of the bank, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, made some remarks in regard to the situation. The following is a quotation from his speech as it appears in the Financial Chronicle:

"Continuing, he said that he desired to make a few special observations in regard to silver. There seemed to be a need of more metallic money. Banking had to some degree saved the circulation of metal, but its usefulness in that direction had now almost reached its limit. Although the world is steadily adding to the supply of gold and silver, still its production was out of proportion to the world's demand, hence the greed of nations to possess more gold fields. (Hear, hear.) The millions of people in the East who relied upon America and Australia for their supply of silver might, at no distant date, be cut short of metal by the closing of the mines, due to displacing the silver industry for gold. The falling price of silver was causing serious damage to commerce in many parts of the world, especially so in China, where the injustice was felt of having to pay for indemnity on a gold basis with silver currency, and some claim for exemption in this connection was, he believed, being made. It was a well-known fact that the great deposits of silver in the world were worked out, and as the silver area was small as compared with the gold area it would appear safe and wise to open the Indian and American mines to the free sale of silver on the terms that prevailed previous to the movement against silver, which had resulted in cheapening the bullion value and upsetting our business relations with silver-using countries and so disturbing the power of exchange."

Of all the triumphs in the recent municipal contests none was so purely a personal triumph as that achieved by "Golden Rule" Jones of Toledo. Nominated a fourth time by petition, with no party organization back of him and with both a republican and a democratic candidate against him, with nearly all the papers ignoring him and booming his opponents, he won an easy victory and has the satisfaction of proving again that a man in politics can get along without about everything else if he can only keep the people with him. Jones is a lovable man.

The German ambassador has hastened to sugar-coat the Dewey incident past all recognition.

Jones of Toledo is quite confident that it is a poor rule that will not stand several times in succession.

The reports of conflicts between "Ironhorse" and "Cotton" in the suburbs of Manila bear a decidedly imperialistic flavor.

The Milwaukee speech seemed to be the last flickering ray of light on the trust question. The president does not make it the theme of all his speeches, as he did last summer.

The Sultan of Sulu continues to have the courage of his salary and perquisites.

The coal trust made us all so hot that the Joe trust will have a cinch this summer.

Tom Lofin Johnson has added a menagerie of wild republican animals to his circus.

It seems that the only method left whereby the Chicago Chronicle can defeat Carter H. Harrison is to support him.

RIOT CARTRIDGES.

It is a little singular that the national administration should announce its readiness to furnish riot cartridges to the various state administrations just at the time when republican leaders are boasting of universal prosperity, universal contentment and universal approval of republican principles. The very discussion of a riot cartridge is suggestive of conditions that need remedying. Victor Hugo has described the mob as "the human race in misery," and it is as important that mobs should be prevented as that they should be dispersed. Is it not an indication of the application of the imperialistic idea to domestic conditions, that the administration should spend more time devising means to put down a mob than in devising remedies for the evils that lead to the formation of mobs? Imperialism rests on force rather than justice; imperialism coerces rather than persuades; imperialism, instead of curing evils, compels submission to those evils. The republican party today is leading the masses with taxation while it permits great aggregations of wealth to plunder with impunity. When remedied, there may be clashes between labor and capital, instead of providing boards of arbitration for the settlement of conditions. It prepares riot cartridges for distribution; instead of destroying government by injunction, it proposes to back up the judge with the army, while he uses the courts to enforce the demands of the employer as against the claims of the employee.

Any yet a sleeping people must be awakened and it may be that the riot cartridge will do what reason and logic have failed to accomplish. If the rank and file of the republican party are not ready to administer a rebuke to the imperialist by injunction, it may be hastened when they are brought face to face with the horrid realities for which the administration seems to be preparing.

The democratic party is sometimes accused of being radical. As a matter of fact, it is the conservative element in the country today. It seeks to apply well settled principles to gross evils; it seeks to preserve law and order by the most effective means, namely, the establishment of justice. The republican party, on the other hand, boasts of its love of law and order, and yet it fosters and promotes injustice and favoritism.

The democratic party has been accused of being hostile to the well-to-do. This indictment is as absurd as it is false. The democratic party is the best friend of honestly acquired wealth, and by attempting to protect each person in the enjoyment of that which he earns it offers the greatest stimulus both to industry and thrift. The republican party, on the other hand, by confusing wealth acquired by spoliation with wealth acquired by brain and muscle, is liable to bring upon honest accumulations an odium that ought to be reserved for predatory wealth.

It is to be hoped that the riot cartridges will never be needed, but the mere issuing of them ought to educate the people to the gloomy and melancholy end of republican theories and republican policies.

HARRISON RE-ELECTED.
Carter Harrison's majority was not as large as was expected by his friends, but it was enough to enable him to protect the city from the schemes of the street car magnates. The result, while a great compliment to Harrison, is also a signal victory for municipal ownership. The second city in the United States has thus recorded itself on the side of a great and growing reform.

Mr. Darrow shares with Major Harrison the honors of the victory. As the leader of the Altgeld element of the Chicago democracy and as the special champion of municipal ownership his active support was probably sufficient to secure enough votes from the labor candidate to Harrison to win the day. The fact that Harrison and Darrow were together and were opposed by Hopkins is a hopeful sign to those who are anxious to take the party in Illinois out of the hands of the reorganizers. Kansas City platform democrats are both pleased and encouraged by Carter Harrison's success.

JOHNSON'S VICTORY.
The democrats of the nation may be pardoned if they give audible expression to the satisfaction they feel over Tom Johnson's victory in Cleveland. When it is remembered that Cleveland is the home of Mark Hanna and that Johnson's election menaced the business as well as the political welfare of the city, and when it is further remembered that all the financial and corporate interests of the city were openly arrayed against him, Johnson's victory becomes the more remarkable. It proves both that Johnson is popular with the masses and that they are in favor of the reforms for which he stands and for which he has labored. Cleveland's mayor is a brave fighter, an honest man and a good democrat. It is fortunate for the party that it has such a leader in Ohio—strength to his arm! His sturdy blows are weakening the republican stronghold.

A whole lot of republican editors who are pointing with pride to the success of the rural free delivery system would quiet down if it happened to remember that rural free delivery is a "top" system and fathered by Hon. Tom Watson.

People may exist in a flat, but they cannot live without babies.

The Hannadication of Cleveland, O., has again been indefinitely postponed.

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TRUSTS IN CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOT A FREE AGENT.

Bureau of Corporations Already the Pliant Tool of Monopoly—W. M. Collier Prates of "Publicity" as Remedy for Present Evils.

Those who are looking to the new Department of Commerce with its bureau of corporations to relieve the people of the burdens of trusts and monopolies are almost certain to be victims of misplaced confidence. Evidence is accumulating to show that the bureau has already become the pliant tool of the trusts. Some, and perhaps all, of the important officials in this department are selected by the big corporations. It is said that a certain man who was once with the Interstate Commerce Commission and who is an editor of railroad literature and journals and who received \$5,500 from the railroads for testifying before the coal strike commission last winter, (and whose testimony, by the way, was sadly defective in many of its cross-questions) is now being pushed by "powerful people" for an important position in Cortelyou's department. This man tells his friends that he is practically certain to get the position because of his influential corporation backing.

Mr. W. M. Collier, recently appointed solicitor to the Department of Commerce, may or may not have been strongly backed by the trusts. If, however, they had not read his book "The Trusts—What Can We Do With Them? What Can They Do With Us?" and found it satisfactory, he would not now be in political clover.

His book is not the worst one written by lawyers who are bidding for corporation practice, but it is bad enough in that he talks about "the awful evils and dangers of monopoly" and gets ready to speak plainly and say things, but he always stops short. His greatest denunciation against a particular trust is directed to the ice trust. He mentions this to illustrate a combination with a monopoly when, in fact, his only monopoly was the control of some docking privileges in New York. He looked past scores of important trusts with far greater monopoly privileges than this one, probably because they were offered by Republicans, and because many of the officials of this one were Democrats. His book was written in 1900. Since then the ice trust has gone so nearly to pieces that it has had to be reorganized. This fact is a sad comment on his judgment of monopolies and trusts.

But it is in his remedy department that Mr. Collier displays his great skill in magnifying little things and minimizing big ones. He would not think of destroying trusts because "great business organizations have become a necessity" and because "consolidation and combination render possible cheaper production and infinitely cheaper distribution." As incidental to his great remedy, publicity, and as if they were of little consequence, he aptly enumerates the following remedies:

"Abolish special privileges, prevent unfair competition—cut-throat competition—compel corporations to sell to all upon equal terms, give us full publicity, prevent the evils of over-capitalization, make management honest—no competition, we believe, will do the rest."

Of the means to attain these desirable ends he tells us next to nothing. He ignores such minor details. Publicity receives great attention. He says it will "restrict the creation and establishment" of trusts; "it will counteract all the sinister and possible tendencies"; "it will be a protection to the shareholder and to the investor; it will be a 'body-blows,' even if it is a death-blow, to extortionate prices; it will be the stimulus to higher wages and to better prices for raw materials; it will be the certain preventive of railroad discrimination and of all special favoritism; and the effective curb upon every attempt by corporations to corrupt legislatures and public officials."

His last words are: "If asked what is the remedy for the great evils, industrial, social and political, which are inherent or incidental to the monopoly answer would be: 'First, publicity; second, publicity; third, publicity—the remedy which is most effective in itself and the remedy which alone can suggest the fourth and all others that may be needed.'"

Any conscientious trust-buster, after reading Mr. Collier's book, must reach the conclusion that he was just the man for Cortelyou's department with his bureau to bust the bad trusts wide open with publicity—if the president says "Turn on the light and smash them."

It is barely possible that the fact that Mr. Collier views publicity as the remedy for trusts coincided with those of Gov. Roosevelt in 1900, which were quoted in Mr. Collier's book, may have opened the door to his new berth and that no corporation backing was necessary. If so, Mr. Collier's hands are untied and we may expect to see the trusts wither away and die when he turns on the light of publicity.

Suggestions for Cortelyou.
Now that Secretary Cortelyou's bureau of corporations is getting ready to get busy, we would suggest that he can find material on trusts, or rather, traces of trusts, in the Iron Age of April 2. By turning to page 52, first column, he can get points on the—

Ice trust, which has just announced prices so high that the trade trusts are enjoying for several years. The workings, along with the rest of us, have been paying the high prices and rates which have made the trusts and railroads prosperous, and they are now asking for their share of prosperity.

As a matter of fact, it will take an increase of 40 per cent in money wages to put real wages as high as they were in 1897, for, according to Dun's tables of prices, the cost of living is 40 per cent higher now than in 1897. No labor organization has asked for or obtained a 40 per cent advance since 1897. Why should labor not be able to live as well and to save as much now as then?

Advoc of the Trust-Busters.
Since Congress has adjourned the debris of busted trusts scattered all over the country is terrible to behold.—Cleveland Press.

THE TRUSTS OBJECT

SENATOR ALLISON MAKES HUMILIATING ADMISSION.

Evidence That the Corporations Control the Senate and the Republican Party—Thus the Consumers Are Robbed.

Senator Allison says the principal issue in the next national campaign will be the tariff. The Senator has inadvertently, perhaps, supplied a very strong argument why the policy of reciprocity should be defeated. He said:

"Reciprocity is a beautiful theory, but I am convinced that it cannot be put into practice. The instant it is proposed to reduce the duty on any given dutiable product by means of a reciprocity treaty the industry affected immediately objects. Where a number of large industries are affected by the proposed reciprocity treaties they exert enough influence to defeat the treaties."

"It is impossible to secure the ratification of reciprocity treaties because of the tremendous pressure brought to bear by the interested industries. The same difficulty applies to the enactment of a maximum and as the tariff, because such a proposition surely would provoke strong opposition."

The Republican national platform of 1900 pledged the party to the "associated policy of reciprocity, so directed as to open our markets on favorable terms for what we do not ourselves produce in return for free foreign markets."

The Republican party, by its highest tribunal, according to Senator Allison, endorsed a policy that is impracticable and yet from Blaine to McKinley, it was declared to be a distinctly Republican policy. It is now discredited because the "industries affected"—the trusts—object to it and they exert enough influence to defeat the treaties. The will of the trusts and not the will of the people is the Senate's authority. The "pressure" of the trusts is so "tremendous" that Senators must, perforce, yield to their demand and submit to their dictation. It might be supposed that Senator Allison, after his long political experience and his brilliant career as a statesman, would not have made an admission so humiliating.

Why should the Senate be so considerate of the trusts? It is a branch of the American Congress, legislating in part for the American people and not for the industries affected. The Republican party may be relieved of this "tremendous pressure" in 1904.

"We renew our faith in the policy of protection to American labor," said the Republican party in 1900. The "tremendous pressure" for the retention of protective duties does not come from the workmen of the country. The "influence" to which the Senate yielded so gracefully and so readily came from the "affected industries"—that is the protected concerns. The Senator admits, what everybody knows, that the beneficiaries of protection and not the working people are the clamorers for a high tariff and also that the "industries affected" are trusts mainly. They control the Senate absolutely, and Senator Allison knows it.

A PLEA FOR PAUPERS.
Democratic Journal's Opinion of the Glass Trust.

Unless glass-making has changed materially within a few years the industry is carried on chiefly by children, and the only well-paid workers engaged are a few foreigners imported for the purpose of directing operations.

Glass is protected by the Dingley bill at tariff rates ranging all the way from 25 per cent to 100 per cent. It is strictly a pauper industry—one which is supported by public taxation as truly as any poorhouse or insane asylum. The men who have become wealthy by means of it owe all that they have to unjust laws and not a farthing to their own industry and sagacity.

Fifty years ago no self-respecting American would accept a fortune coming in this way. To-day there are plenty of men who not only are glad to become public charges but who are not ashamed to stand forth in opposition to a humane movement in favor of preserving to American childhood some of the blessings which belong to it.

Hardly a Sunday passes in this town that some eminent citizen does not guardedly inveigh against the greed of the age—a greed which stops at nothing. Where will these gentlemen find a finer example of the base passion which they thus characterize than in the contemptible little group of American glass manufacturers who, doubling their prices under the robber tariff, hypocritically pretend to dignify and ennoble American labor by employing little children for long hours at small wages?

To be effective preaching must be explicit. It must be illustrated. It must cite examples. The glass manufacturers of Illinois are the most impudent coterie of tariff plunderers, wage trimmers and child oppressors of whom the Chronicle has any knowledge. Every dollar that they have is tainted.

If the pending bill on becoming a law would, as these beggars and bullies declare, cause them to close their works it should be passed for that reason alone with the dogology as a companion.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Monroe Doctrine.
In his advocacy of a great navy as an indispensable means of maintaining the Monroe doctrine Mr. Roosevelt wholly ignored peace guarantees which require no warships.

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Fifty years ago no self-respecting American would accept a fortune coming in this way. To-day there are plenty of men who not only are glad to become public charges but who are not ashamed to stand forth in opposition to a humane movement in favor of preserving to American childhood some of the blessings which belong to it.

Hardly a Sunday passes in this town that some eminent citizen does not guardedly inveigh against the greed of the age—a greed which stops at nothing. Where will these gentlemen find a finer example of the base passion which they thus characterize than in the contemptible little group of American glass manufacturers who, doubling their prices under the robber tariff, hypocritically pretend to dignify and ennoble American labor by employing little children for long hours at small wages?

To be effective preaching must be explicit. It must be illustrated. It must cite examples. The glass manufacturers of Illinois are the most impudent coterie of tariff plunderers, wage trimmers and child oppressors of whom the Chronicle has any knowledge. Every dollar that they have is tainted.

If the pending bill on becoming a law would, as these beggars and bullies declare, cause them to close their works it should be passed for that reason alone with the dogology as a companion.—Chicago Chronicle.

The Monroe Doctrine.
In his advocacy of a great navy as an indispensable means of maintaining the Monroe doctrine Mr. Roosevelt wholly ignored peace guarantees which require no warships.

The country that controls the world's food supply controls the peace of the world if its own conduct be honest, upright and discreet.

Strange Test of Innocence.
"A strange way of testing the innocence of an accused person is employed in India," said a Philadelphia dealer in hides who lately returned from Madras. "They haul the man up and give him a mouthful of dry rice to chew. I don't suppose you've ever chewed dry rice? It is hard work. It takes a deal of chewing to get it masticated into a glutinous mass, like gum, and that is the condition that the accused is required to get it into within ten minutes. If you are calm and not afraid, you succeed, but if you are nervous and scared, you fail. For it seems that fear has a strong effect upon the salivary glands. It prevents them from secreting saliva. The mouth of a badly frightened person is almost as dry as a bone. It requires a tremendous flow of saliva to chew dry rice, and therefore the scared prisoner inevitably fails in this test. It isn't, of course, a test employed in the courts of the big towns. It belongs to the interior, less enlightened villages."

\$500 per M. Lewis' "Single Binder," straight be cigar, costs the dealer some more than other 50 cigars, but the higher price enables this factory to use higher grade tobacco.

Threw the Name In.
Among a late crop