

The Central Federated Union of New York, representing 140,000 members of labor unions, recently adopted resolutions declaring that the trusts had "by advancing the price of meat and in defiance of laws governing trusts, squeezed from the public the enormous sum of \$100,000,000, the bulk of which has come from the earnings of the working masses." This is only one of the echoes of the republican slogan of 1900, "Four years more of the full dinner pail."

An Echo of the 1900 Campaign.

The Kansas City Journal complains that the beef trust has raised the price of meat four cents per pound since January last. It estimates that this means an increase of \$100,000 per month to the people of Kansas City, or an increase of \$124,000,000 per year for the people of the United States living in cities of 4,000 population and upward, and this is just one trust! The people will begin to realize after awhile that ALL trusts are bad and then they will be ready to abolish them. It is strange that it should take so long for the people to get their eyes open on this subject.

One More Object Lesson.

A number of the constituents of Congressman Babcock, the republican member from Wisconsin, who declared that he intended to lead a movement for the removal of the tariff on trust made articles, have indorsed the proposition. But Mr. Babcock

Strenuous Times Ahead for Babcock.

has been re-elected chairman of the republican campaign committee and he seems to have abandoned the plan. In the house on April 18 Mr. Richardson of Tennessee served notice on the gentleman from Wisconsin that the democrats intended to give Mr. Babcock a chance to vote against his own measure. Evidently there are strenuous times ahead for the gentleman from Wisconsin, and on this point the Albany Argus says: "Congressman Babcock of Wisconsin has been re-elected chairman of the republican campaign committee. Now the Dingleyites have Mr. Babcock where they want him. He must fish, cut bait or go ashore. His arguments in favor of electing a majority in the next congress which will perpetuate the injustices and absurdities of the existing tariff, will be waited with general, not to say feverish, impatience."

Because of the extraordinary burdens of its war in South Africa, England is now required to place a tax on the bread of her people. In presenting the budget statement, the chancellor of the exchequer made a very depressing statement from a financial standpoint. The chancellor shows that it has been found necessary to suspend the sinking fund. He estimated the total deficit for the present year as \$134,120,000. To this must be added from \$80,000,000 to \$90,000,000 additional war expenditures and other items bringing the grand total of the deficit to \$225,000,000. Revenue from the bread taxation, it is estimated, will be about \$75,000,000. The sum of \$160,000,000 must be borrowed and the deficit will be made up by drawing on the exchequer. The chancellor estimated that the revenue for this year on the basis of present taxation, will be \$738,925,000. The total ordinary expenditures for 1902-3 is estimated at \$645,795,000 with war charges amounting to \$227,250,000; this provides a grand total of \$873,045,000. These figures provide a hint of the enormous burden under which the English people are staggering.

England's Tax on Bread.

The Chicago Tribune in its issue of April 11, has an editorial entitled, "The Ship Subsidy Peril." The Tribune says that a "fear is felt and expressed by Illinois republicans that the democrats will carry the state in the fall elections, elect a majority of the congressional delegates, and of the legislature, and choose a democrat for United States senator." The Tribune admits that "the republican senate in the ship subsidy bill has furnished an excellent piece of campaign material to the democratic spell-binders. The fear of republicans that the democrats will prevail has a reasonable basis." But in an effort to defend the republican party, the Tribune says, "Fortunately six of the more prominent republican senators, including Allison and Spooner, voted against the bill. By referring to that fact the republicans of Illinois can immensely strengthen their position with the voters." It will be difficult for an intelligent Illinois voter to understand why the position of these "six of the more prominent repub-

Grasping at Straws in Illinois.

lican senators" should cut any figure in the Illinois election. It happens that the two Illinois senators, if we are correctly informed, voted for this infamous measure. The six republican senators who voted against the bill, however prominent they may have been, form an insignificant minority. If the republicans of Illinois expect to succeed by reason of the attitude of these six republican senators, they will be required to explain how it happens that the two Illinois senators were not among the number of those who opposed this outrageous steal.

The Philadelphia Ledger says: "Unfortunately for Senator Hanna's roseate view of the influence of trusts, there are pessimists who will persist in looking at it from another point. A trust could, no doubt, increase wages, lower working hours and charge the increased expense to the consumer, but would it do so? The pessimists think that a trust, finding itself in control of the market, might increase prices (as the beef trust has done) and then neglect to divide up with its working men. What could the latter do? If they should strike all the places in the country would be closed to them; they could have no hope of success, but must succumb and go back to work at rates offered them by monopolists." It seems fair to infer that the Ledger agrees with the "pessimist's view" on the trust question, and yet the Ledger continues to give its great influence to a party that depends upon the trusts for its campaign fund.

Yet the Ledger Supports the System.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald says that "members of the cabinet say that they have not for a long time seen the president so much stirred up. Both he and Secretary Root have been disgusted with the way in which ugly reports concerning the operations of the army in the Philippines have been piling up in the last two weeks." As a matter of fact, these "ugly reports" have not been "piling up in the last two weeks," they have been piling up during the last two years in the secret archives of the administration; they were known to members of the administration at the time the president and Secretary Root rebuked Gen. Miles for saying that the war in the Philippines was characterized by "marked severity." This correspondent would perhaps have been more accurate had he said that Mr. Roosevelt and Secretary Root have been much disgusted with the way in which the ugly reports concerning the operations in the Philippines have been revealed to the people in the last two weeks in spite of the administration's effort to suppress the facts.

It is the Revelation That Hurts.

The working men of New York who were persuaded to vote the republican ticket in 1900 by the vision of the "full dinner pail" are doing considerable thinking these days. The New York World gives a small hint of the situation when it shows that in one year the price of butter per pound has increased 10 cents, porterhouse steak per pound has increased 6 cents, sirloin steak 6 cents, rib roast 6 cents, round steak 5 cents, chuck steak 6 cents, leg of lamb 5 cents, lamb chops 8 cents, poultry 5 cents, potatoes per barrel 75 cents, dried fruits per pound 4 1/2 cents. The World adds that "the price of nearly every other article needed for the table has gone up 15 to 25 per cent. Vegetables are much higher than they were last year. The only reason given for this is the prosperity of the country. The men who fix the prices have decided that the people have plenty of money and are willing to pay more to supply their tables." Doubtless the people would be willing to pay more if they had the money with which to do it, but wages have not increased, and every day the newspapers show that the consumers of the country are actually suffering because of the exactions of the men who control the necessities of life and fix the prices thereon according to their own pleasure.

That Full Dinner Pail

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald announces that in spite of the fact that every member of the cabinet and a majority of the republican senators are opposed to the retirement of General Miles, President Roosevelt is "showing a great deal of pluck in his determination to place General Miles on the retired list." The correspondent predicts that Mr. Roosevelt will in short order secure Miles' retirement. In the same dispatch this correspondent says, "No matter what

Will Roosevelt Retire Miles.

opinion people may have as to the merits of the controversy, there is general agreement that General Miles is by long odds the finest military figure seen in this country in many years"; and it is added that political and army circles are very much divided on the question. No one will doubt the willingness of Mr. Roosevelt to force General Miles' retirement. In fact it is generally believed that had Mr. Roosevelt dared to do so, he would long ago have retired the general. If he does finally muster sufficient courage to force the retirement the act will be in perfect keeping with Mr. Roosevelt's attitude toward a number of men who have the respect and confidence of the American people. Dewey and Schley came under Mr. Roosevelt's displeasure, and now it is Miles. The president of the United States, whatever his idiosyncrasies may be is a very large man because of the prestige of his office, and yet with all that prestige even the president of the United States is not large enough to persistently and deliberately seek to destroy without justification, men who have served their country as well as Dewey, Schley and Miles have served the American people.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald under date of April 8th, referring to Representative Payne's speech in defense of the Cuban reciprocity bill, says: "Mr. Payne created a flurry when in reply to a question he admitted that the consumer and not the foreigner paid the tariff. He expressed surprise that any one at this date should be so stupid as not to be aware of that fact. This heresy caused a shudder to run through the frames of the high protectionists." A great many democrats have expressed surprise that any one at any date should be so stupid as not to be aware that the consumer, and not the foreigner, pays the tariff tax; but Mr. Payne is a republican protectionist and when he admits a fact which democrats have always asserted and which republicans have always denied, we are not surprised to be told by this republican newspaper that "this heresy caused a shudder to run through the frames of the high protectionists."

The Protectionists Shuddered.

As an evidence of what faith can do, The Commoner calls attention to a charitable institution established at Council Bluffs, Ia., by Rev. J. G. Lemon in 1881. It is known as the Christian Home, and has for its object the care of destitute children and helpless old people. During the nineteen years of its existence it has found homes in comfortable and christian households for more than a thousand children, and now has nearly two hundred and fifty children and aged people under its care. It is non-sectarian, employs no agents or canvassers in its behalf, and is supported wholly by volunteer contributions. It receives children and aged persons from all parts of the earth, whether well or afflicted, without regard to faith or nationality, without money and without price. Where there are several children of one family they are kept together as much as possible so that the home ties may not be broken. Its gifts come from those who learn of its work and whose generous impulses are appealed to by its needs. That Mr. Lemon's trust has not been in vain is shown by the constant growth of the institution and the enlargement of its field of labor.

The Triumph of Great Faith.

A reader of The Commoner asks whether there is any probability of the reorganizers obtaining control of the democratic party. No, it is not probable, because there is no reason to believe that the voters who fought for democratic principles in 1896 and in 1900 are willing to surrender those principles in order to conciliate men who showed by their votes that they were nearer to the republican position than to the democratic position. There would be no danger whatever if the reorganizers would present their platform and ask for an endorsement of their position at the primaries, but as they are well provided with campaign funds and as many of them have pecuniary interest in bringing the party to the support of monopolies they will make an effort disproportionate to their numbers. They will also be assisted by those so-called democratic dailies which are owned by corporation magnates and used for the advancement of private enterprises. The reorganizers are also aided by those populists who, assuming that the corporation element will be successful in the democratic party, urge the populists to refuse to co-operate in advance, thus enabling the reorganizers to claim that the populists have deserted the democrats.

Danger From Assistant Republicans.