

Congressman Benton of Missouri has been investigating the appropriation figures and he discovers that while both sessions of the Fifty-third congress appropriated \$917,013,523, during the single session of the Fifty-seventh congress the appropriations amounted to \$1,059,577,052. Does it not seem reasonable that Mr. Benton has good grounds for the charge that the republican party "prefers to expend in needless and wasteful appropriations the taxes wrung from the people."

**Very Interesting Figures.**

Mrs. McKinley asked for the retention of a postmistress in Pennsylvania. This postmistress was appointed by Mr. McKinley. A Simple Request Denied. Senator Penrose, however, persuaded the Roosevelt administration to reject Mrs. McKinley's request and remove this official.

The republican party has repudiated Mr. McKinley's Buffalo speech. It refused to give recognition to a very simple request made by the late president's widow, and yet whenever a democrat criticises any of those policies to which Mr. McKinley was committed, the prestige of the McKinley memory is invoked and the critic is charged with faithlessness to that memory and disloyalty to the government.

In his Fourth of July address, Mr. Roosevelt said: "Words are good if they are backed up by deeds, and only so." This is eminently correct and Mr. Roosevelt cannot expect the American people to place reliance in his anti-trust "words"

unless these words are backed up by "deeds;" and the people will not be content with deeds that do not involve the use of every weapon within the president's grasp. Criminal prosecution is amply provided for in the federal anti-trust law. Criminal prosecution is the effective court proceeding and until the president proceeds against the trust magnates in criminal prosecution, the people will suspect that he is not disposed to "back up" his words by deeds.

In its report of the Missouri democratic judicial convention, referring to the fight on the platform, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat said: "The temper of the convention seemed strongly against the Ball resolution on Bryanism, but when the test of a roll call came timidity overcame the delegates and the majority of the resolutions committee was rebuked and the Kansas City platform was indorsed by a vote of 501 to 199."

It is not always safe to judge the temper of a convention by the noise. The Kansas City platform won a distinct triumph when the issue was set fairly before the delegates. The vote in the resolution committee stood 12 to 4 against the Kansas City platform, but the vote in the convention stood 501 to 199 in favor of that platform.

To every appeal for tariff revision republican leaders have insisted that the tariff must be revised by its friends. Those who thought that "its friends" would not touch the tariff owe an apology to the republican party. The tariff has, in a way, been "revised" by the executive department, to be sure, but "revised" nevertheless. A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Chronicle says: "Secretary Shaw has notified customs collectors that cats of the varieties known as Angora, Persian, Siamese, Manx, Russian and others imported into the United States for breeding purposes shall be admitted free of duty. Feline pets of common varieties shall be taxed 20 per cent ad valorem. The evident purpose of the order, for which it is alleged

**The Tariff Revised.**

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is responsible, is to do away with the thousands of common cats which belong to nobody and which occupy their time fighting on back fences to the destruction of sleep of many citizens. He believes that this can be accomplished by levying a prohibitive duty upon ordinary cats and admitting aristocratic felines with long pedigrees free, which will tend to elevate the standard of cat excellency in this country." The American people will be delighted to know of the vigorous way in which the republican administration has taken hold of a mighty problem.

A Michigan reader of The Commoner says that in re-reading the Declaration of Independence he was surprised to find so much in it that he had forgotten. It occurred to him to question some of his fellow townsmen and he found that none of them had read the Declaration of Independence within ten years. Possibly that accounts for the fact that so many republicans are indifferent to the doctrine that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. In order to encourage reading of the Declaration of Independence by republicans The Commoner hereby offers to accept a year's renewal from any republican subscriber for 75 cents, provided the subscriber states in sending in his renewal that he has read the Declaration of Independence complete within the year.

**The Important Privilege.**

A reader asks whether it is true that the republicans have proposed a constitutional amendment on the trust question? Yes. Just before the campaign of 1900 they proposed a constitutional amendment ostensibly for the purpose of destroying the trusts, but really for the purpose of taking from the states the power which they now have. The democrats opposed the amendment because it was in the interests of the trusts rather than against them. They joined, however, in an anti-trust bill proposed by the republicans immediately afterwards, but when the election was over the bill died in the senate. If the republicans in the senate would not pass an anti-trust bill which was supported almost unanimously in the house, what reason is there to believe that they would favor any amendment to the constitution that was really intended to hurt the trusts?

**That Anti-Trust Amendment.**

In a recent issue the Independent said: "It is a sight to cheer the hearts of angels to see Roosevelt and Hay and Root and Taft, backed by the American people, attempting such a sort of colonization as the world has never seen before. When before has a war been waged to liberate from oppression another people of an alien stock and then to set them up as an independent nation? What country has acquired colonies of another eastern race and then even begun to inaugurate liberty by establishing self-government?" There is something familiar about this. In his speech to parliament, October 31, 1776, George III. said: "One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood—we shall have unanimity at home, founded in the general conviction of the justice and necessity of our measures. In this arduous contest I can have no other object but to promote the true interests of all my subjects. No people ever enjoyed more happiness, or lived under a milder government than those now revolted provinces: the improvement in every art, of which they boast, declare it, their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother

country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore them to the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have fatally and desperately exchanged for the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs."

**Just Like George III**

country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore them to the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have fatally and desperately exchanged for the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs."

country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore them to the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have fatally and desperately exchanged for the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs."

**Always Making Promises.**

Immediately after a session of congress in which they do nothing in the interests of the people, the republicans begin to talk about what great things they intend doing for the people in the next congress. Only those who dearly love to be deceived will be deceived by that sort of thing.

**Alertness the Watchword**

That democrats who believe in democratic principles are becoming thoroughly aroused to the dangers confronting the party is evidenced by the interest they are taking in the work of thwarting the efforts of the so-called "reorganizers." The rank and file of the democratic party are not willing to compromise with evil merely to win a party victory. To them success means something more than holding the offices—it means the enforcement of democratic policies and the carrying into effect of democratic principles. They realize the futility of hoping for these things if party control is given into the hands of men ready to compromise with evil if thereby they may secure office, or securing relief from oppression through the efforts of leaders who would, for selfish ends, make the democratic party so near like the republican party that the trusts and combines and all special interests would be satisfied with either. For these reasons democrats who are actuated by principle and not by motives of expediency, are standing squarely upon the democratic platform. The Commoner appeals to all democrats who desire to preserve democratic principles. It seeks to arouse the rank and file of the party to the danger of the efforts now being made to republicanize the democracy. In this work it needs your assistance. In order to secure it the plan of "Lots of Five" subscriptions has been inaugurated. The plan is simple, and should appeal to every democrat. Subscription cards in lots of five—five cards in a lot—are sold at the rate of \$3 per lot, or 60 cents a card. Each card is good for one year's subscription to The Commoner when properly filled out and mailed to this office. The regular subscription price of The Commoner is \$1.00 per year, but by means of this "Lots of Five" plan a year's subscription may be secured for 60 cents.

Will you not undertake to dispose of one or more "Lots of Five" among your friends? You can sell the cards at \$1 each and retain the 40 cents profit, or you may sell them at 60 cents each and give your friends and neighbors the benefit of the discount. If you are doubtful of your ability to dispose of the cards, order them anyhow and remit after you have sold them. The Commoner will trust any of its readers. Fill out the coupon found below and mail to this office. The cards will be sent you at once, and you may remit after you have sold them.

APPLICATION FOR "Lots of Five Subscription Cards."

PUBLISHER COMMONER: Please send me five subscription cards. I promise to use my utmost endeavor to sell these cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each when sold.

Name .....

Postoffice .....

County .....

State .....