

A reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch is entitled to the honor of persuading J. K. Murrell, the "business agent" of the St. Louis municipal assembly combine, to return and make the confession that has so startled the country. The name of this reporter is Frank R. O'Neil and he is entitled to the thanks of all good citizens.

**A Reporter's Good Work.**

An interesting suggestion concerning the best way to strike is given to the workmen by the Philadelphia Record. The Record says: "When the striking miners look over the list of things they must have to clothe, feed and shelter themselves they will find they have as many causes for strike on hand as there are spokes in a wheel. Their next best plan of remedy is to strike with their ballots. This can be done by taking one day off instead of months."

**Strike with the Ballot.**

"I cannot acquiesce in administering free trade poison to cure the trust evil," said David B. Henderson in his telegram to Lafe Young at Des Moines. Of course Mr. Henderson and other republican leaders cannot acquiesce in administering any kind of poison to the trust evil. Poison might destroy the trusts and republican leaders like Mr. Henderson are not inclined to kill the goose that lays the golden egg or to destroy the conspiracies whose ill gotten gains are shared with the republican party in the way of generous campaign funds.

**Afraid of Poison.**

Congressman Cannon of Illinois, commenting upon the suggestion that he would be the proper man to succeed Mr. Henderson as speaker, said that it would be time to consider that suggestion after the election. Mr. Cannon said that the first thing to be considered was republican victory, of which he is by no means certain. That is an eminently wise suggestion. Mr. Cannon and other shrewd republican leaders are not likely to waste any time in a chase for the speakership at the hands of the republican party in the presence of the many indications that the republicans will not have the power to elect the speaker in the next house.

**Uncle Joe Will Wait.**

It is significant that at the moment when Mr. Roosevelt received the news that Speaker Henderson had retired from the congressional race because of the popular sentiment in the republican party in favor of tariff revision, that Mr. Roosevelt was engaged in a conference with a number of republican leaders, at which conference it was decided that no attempt would be made to revise the tariff. The president and his guests were at a loss to understand why Mr. Henderson retired. By their agreement that no attempt will be made to revise the tariff they show that they are not nearly so well informed as to the temper of the people as Mr. Henderson is.

**A Significant Result.**

The Chicago Tribune, reviewing the report of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics, says: "The bureau finds that the cost of living in 1902 has increased noticeably as compared with 1897. There has been an increase of 11.16 per cent in the price of food, of 16.07 per cent in the prices of dry goods and boots, of 52.43 per cent in rents, and of 9.78 per cent in the price of fuel. As a consequence, absolutely necessary items of food, clothing, rent, and fuel which cost now \$683.84 would have been purchasable in 1897 for \$586.90." In the light of this statement the Tribune admits "the Massachusetts workingman is not so well off from the point of view of the cost of living as he was in 1897."

**That Full Dinner Pail.**

The New York Evening Post says: "President Baer and his associates cannot afford to maintain their present attitude. Public opinion is overwhelmingly against them, and no little group of capitalists can defy the nation." To be sure, public opinion is overwhelmingly against Baer and his associates, but when the New York Evening Post says that "no little group of capitalists can defy the nation" it flies in the face of facts as they are being presented to the American people every day in the week and every hour of the day. A "little group of capitalists" are defying the nation in the very affairs that effect the necessities and lives of

**"A Little Group of Capitalists."**

the people and there are newspapers in this country that insist that it is the people's duty to tamely submit to the impositions.

Secretary Shaw and other representatives of the administration insist that "patriotism" and "business interests" require that the advantages of the monopolists be not disturbed. But Mr. Cummins, the republican governor of Iowa, who evidently has his hand upon the public pulse, insists that it is necessary that the monopolies be destroyed, and Mr. Cummins says: "The truth is that those who are enjoying monopolies are every day laughing at the inertness of the people, and wondering how long the reign of inactivity will continue." This statement made by the republican governor of Iowa cannot be too often reproduced by newspapers whose editors are anxious to bring about reform in public policies.

**Cummins Reverses Shaw.**

The Kansas City Journal is at a loss to understand why Mr. Henderson retired simply because the Iowa republicans declared in favor of reducing the tariff on trust-made articles. The Journal says: "There is nothing sacred about the tariff schedules. They might safely be altered in regard to reciprocity or for other wholesome purposes as occasion demands. Mr. Henderson seems to think otherwise." Yes, and nearly all the other national leaders of the republican party "seem to think otherwise." The "no shelter to monopoly" plank in the Iowa republican platform has been very generally repudiated by national leaders and any opponent of the trust system who depends for relief upon the republican party will discover in time, if he does not already realize it, that he is leaning on a broken reed.

**Tariff Schedules are Sacred.**

Since Mr. Henderson's retirement republican papers have discovered that after all the speaker is a very inferior man. While heretofore we have been given to understand that he was one of the strongest statesmen this country has ever produced, readers of republican papers are now being regaled with interesting stories tending to show that Mr. Henderson is a man of moods and that his popularity was really confined to a limited circle, upon whose members he bestowed all his favors. These republican papers are also going so far as to intimate that the speaker withdrew because he was afraid of an investigation into his private life. These things are necessary, in the estimation of republican leaders, in order to discount the emphasis which Mr. Henderson's withdrawal gave to the fact that the people are determined to obtain relief from trust impositions.

**The Henderson Bombshell.**

Russell Sage is pretty well informed as to the power and influence of Wall street men. In a recent interview Mr. Sage declared: "Mr. Morgan is the greatest man in the financial world of this country. No one can deny this, and it is through this fact alone that he can bring an end to the coal strike. His influence is so great that all that is necessary for him to do is to speak, declare his mind on the subject and if it favors a termination of the strike it would not be long before the miners would resume work." The man whose influence is so great that all that is necessary for him to do is to speak in order to settle the coal strike and give relief to the millions of coal consumers certainly wields enormous power; but if Mr. Morgan will do the speaking and bring this strike to a termination the people will perhaps in this instance be willing to overlook the undue power wielded by a single individual in the much needed relief that would be obtained.

**Enormous Power for One Man.**

Some republican organs and republican orators are seeking to convey the impression that the so-called Fowler currency and banking bill has been disposed of. It is true that the measure originally introduced by Mr. Fowler together with other similar measures were not reported by the committee, but out of the several bills presented the republican members of the house banking and currency committee framed a bill which embraced, in the main, the features provided by Mr. Fowler's bill. Mr. Fowler is also chairman of that committee and when the committee bill was reported favorably by the republican members it came to be popularly known as the Fowler bill. That bill is now on the calendar in the house and may be taken up at the December session pro-

**The Fowler Bill a Live Issue.**

vided a sufficient number of republican votes can be obtained to insure its passage. Otherwise it will be reintroduced at the next session of congress in the event that the republicans are successful in the congressional elections of next November. The Fowler bill, therefore, is a thoroughly live issue and one on which every candidate for congress should be required to take his stand.

Commenting on the retirement of Speaker Henderson, Secretary of the Treasury Shaw intimated that he could not see that the speaker's withdrawal was justified simply because he happened to differ with the language employed in the political platform. Mr. Shaw said: "Republicans generally stood on the platform last year. The tariff should occasion no dispute and each puts construction on the shelter for monopoly utterance as he pleases. The language does not say that the tariff does afford shelter, but demands any modification that may be required to prevent their affording a shelter. I think most speakers took the old time republican view, that the tariff is not responsible for trusts. If sentiment has changed I am not advised." In other words, and in the opinion of Mr. Shaw, republican platforms are not made to stand on; they are made to get in on. Although the tariff plank in the Iowa republican platform was very clear and explicit, according to Mr. Shaw, "each puts construction on the shelter for monopoly utterance as he pleases." Mr. Shaw thinks that "most speakers took the old time republican view that the tariff is not responsible for trusts." That is true, but the republican state platform for Iowa took the democratic view that the tariff is responsible for some trusts.

**Platform to get in on.**

**Forewarned is Forearmed.**

Democrats who believe in standing by the principles of the democratic party should study the adage, "Forewarned is forearmed." Those who, from expediency or otherwise, would turn the party's back upon party principles are ever alert. Those who believe in standing firm should be likewise. The democracy of Iowa would have taken no backward step if supporters of the Kansas City platform had aroused themselves in time. Not until the last week or ten days before the convention did they discover that the "reorganizers" had been at work for months. And in that one week staunch democrats worked hard and came near overturning the plans of those who preferred stumbling into the republican ditch to standing on the firm ground of democracy. Had the staunch democrats been aroused in time Iowa democracy would not now be in the hands of the reorganizers. It is The Commoner's purpose to keep the warning sign before the rank and file of the democracy and thus prevent the republicanization of the democratic party. This must be done by discussing democratic principles and applying them to governmental problems. In this work you can be of great assistance to The Commoner by assisting in enlarging its circulation and thus widening the sphere of its influence. To make this work easy for its friends The Commoner has evolved the "Lots of Five" plan, which is very simple. Already upwards of 5,000 enthusiastic democrats have given The Commoner the benefit of their support. The plan is as follows: Subscription cards in "Lots of Five," each card good for one year's subscription when properly filled out and returned to this office, are sold at the price of \$3 per lot. This is at the rate of 60 cents per year for single subscription. Will you undertake to sell a "Lot of Five?" If so, fill out the coupon below and mail to this office. You may remit when you order, or you may remit after you have disposed of the cards. The Commoner asks your assistance in the work it has undertaken.

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