

instance, the Washington correspondent for the New York Tribune points out that the auditor's report makes the following disclosures:

"At Albermarle, N. C., the average receipts for the last five years have been \$1.80, while the annual expense for collecting this amount has been \$1,691.98. At Annapolis, Md., it has cost \$1,155 a year to collect \$6.20 in revenue. At Beaufort, N. C., \$46.30 has been collected annually at an expense of \$1,655.61. At Bridgeton, N. J., \$1,572.69 has been the expense of collecting \$173.88. At Burlington, Ia., \$50.21 has been the annual receipts for five years at an annual expense to the government of \$391.85. At Burlington, N. J., the collector has taken in \$24.49 a year, for the doing of which he was paid \$162. Chattanooga, Tenn., does a business of \$55.22 a year at an annual expense of \$412.15. Cherry-stone, Va., has a collector who has taken in 40 cents a year for five years and received for this service \$971.14 a year. A port designated as Eastern Maryland collects \$31.56 a year at an expense to the government of \$3,323.82. Edgertown, Mass., collects \$616.67 at an expense of \$2,420.67. At Galena, Ill., the surveyor of the port receives \$301.65 and collects \$2.40. At Georgetown, S. C., the government pays \$408.40 to collect \$5.94. Humboldt, Cal., is a tax to the government of \$3,070.02 a year, and yields a revenue of \$911.32. Kennebunk, Me., takes in \$12.22 a year at an expense of \$131.90. La Crosse, Wis., receives \$35.29 at an expense of \$363.12. Little Egg Harbor, N. J., does a customs business of \$59.21 at an expense of \$338.15. Just \$9.16 is the annual receipts of the collector at Nantucket, Mass., for collecting which he receives \$362.25. It costs \$500 to collect \$1 a year at Natchez, Miss. At Teche, La., the collector of the port receives from the government \$3,046.96 a year for collecting \$40.47. Forty cents a year is collected in customs at Yaquina, Ore., at an expense of \$1,034.70; while York, Me., collects 60 cents a year at an expense of \$256."

A little computation will show that in the instances cited the government yearly expends the sum of \$23,620.06 in order to collect the sum of \$2,044.31.

The utter absurdity of the system in vogue is well emphasized by the Washington correspondent for the New York Journal when he points out that the annual collections for the ports of Albermarle, N. C., Annapolis, Md., Cherrystone, Va., Galena, Ill., and Yaquina, Ore., amount to \$11.30, while the yearly salaries paid to the officials of these five ports amount to \$4,740. In other words, the government pays each year the sum of \$4,740 for the privilege of collecting \$11.30 and this, therefore, at a loss to the government of \$4,728.70.

In his report the auditor of the treasury department recommends a revision of the system of paying collectors and surveyors and it would seem that there should be no hesitancy on the part of congress in adopting the very evidently sound suggestion.

Is This a "Good Trust."

The Wall Street Journal says:

"It is seldom that a populous community, the center of a great industry, doubles its business and more than doubles its profits in a single year, but that is what the anthracite coal region is doing this year.

"Last year but 31,000,000 tons of coal was marketed, while this year it is agreed that 60,000,000 tons will be mined and sold. In addition to this the coal will be sold at a higher price than the production of last year. The coal operator, transporter, miner—all classes of labor—the storekeeper and the citizens generally of the coal regions, will all be partakers of the sudden and remarkable increase of profits.

"The difference between the profits on 31,000,000 tons of coal and 60,000,000 tons of coal, at 50 cents per ton advance is enough to make any community rich in a single year."

The difference is considerable, and yet it will require more information than the public is now in possession of to establish the claim that even in the coal regions "all classes of labor" are partakers of this sudden and remarkable increase of profits.

We know, to be sure, that the coal consumers

of the country are the victims, and in this instance they are victims of pure and unadulterated greed.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the production has nearly doubled and yet the coal barons require a higher price than they did last year. Accepting the Journal's statement as correct, will any one maintain that the coal trust is one of those "good trusts" with which the people should not interfere?

When we are told that while last year 31,000,000 tons of coal were mined and sold, this year 60,000,000 tons of coal will be mined and sold at an advance of 50 cents per ton, does it not occur to reasonable men that it is high time the national administration undertook the enforcement of the criminal clause of the Sherman law, which was designed to protect the people from impositions?

That very effective weapon, the criminal indictment, has not been resorted to. Indeed, although the evidence showing the existence of a coal trust is indisputable, the administration has made no serious effort to call to account that aggregation of public plunderers.

John E. Osborne.

The Commoner has suggested a number of persons who are worthy to be considered in connection with the democratic presidential nomination. It was announced months ago that every state could furnish men who were competent to discharge the duties of the office if elected, and who could upon their official records appeal to the democratic element of the country.

The persons mentioned thus far have come from the eastern and southern states, but there is no reason why the western states should not be considered. Wyoming contains a democrat of intelligence and fidelity, namely, Hon. John E. Osborne, of Rawlins. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont, having received his diploma in 1880. He went to Wyoming the following year, and in 1884 was elected a member of the territorial legislature. He was an alternate to the democratic national convention in 1888 and a delegate to the democratic national convention in 1892. He was elected governor of Wyoming in 1892 and was renominated in 1894, but declined to be a candidate again.

In 1896 he was the chairman of the Wyoming delegation at the Chicago convention, and was prominently identified with the dominant element of the convention. He was elected to congress in 1896, and in 1898 became vice chairman of the democratic national committee. He has twice received the unanimous vote of the democratic members of the Wyoming legislature for the United States senate. He was made a member of the national committee in 1900.

By profession he is a physician, but he is largely interested in the raising of live stock and in other business.

The Commoner takes pleasure in suggesting his name among those to be considered, and in doing so ventures the opinion that he would receive several million more votes than any candidate whose sympathies are with Wall street and whose administration would be controlled by the financiers.

Worth Remembering.

Dr. Howard S. Taylor, city attorney of Chicago, when he was in Nebraska on the occasion of the Fourth of July celebration at Fairview, quoted in private conversation some lines, the authorship of which he did not know. But the lines are so excellent and the sentiment so patriotic that they were written down for the benefit of the readers of The Commoner. They are worth remembering. Sentiments like these, so beautifully expressed, are good to carry in one's mind. There is frequent occasion to use them, for they

ornament and strengthen a speech. Those who are preparing themselves for the discussion of public questions are especially interested in gathering together everything that can illustrate or enforce an argument. The words are as follows:

"O, 'tis a goodly heritage, this noble land of ours!
It boasts, indeed, not Gothic fame nor ivy mantled towers;
But, then, its interlinking lakes, its forests wild and wide,
Its streams, the sinews of its strength, which feed it as they glide,
Its rich primeval pasture lands, fenced by the sloping sky,
Its mines of wealth, as yet undeveloped, which 'neath its surface lie,
Surely a great destiny which we alone can mar
Is writ upon the horoscope where shines our risen star!"

"The Contract Idea."

The American Economist recently asked if the revision of the tariff would not involve "the violation by the government of the contract of agreement with certain producing interests—namely, the Dingley tariff law."

The New York Tribune, a republican paper, replied:

"We have heard a great many unpleasant things said about the Dingley tariff law and its workings which we did not believe. We never expected to see its professed friends suggest what its enemies have sometimes charged, that it was not, indeed, a piece of national legislation, but an instrument in a commercial bargain; that it was not a revenue law passed for public purposes, but a stipulated price paid to certain business interests for value received."

Commenting upon this, the Chicago Record-Herald, another republican paper, recalls the warning given by William C. Lovering, a republican congressman from Massachusetts. Appearing before the convention of the Furniture Association of America, and speaking in favor of tariff revision, Congressman Lovering declared that some of the glaring irregularities of the Dingley law must be done away with, and predicted that "nothing less than a liberal drawback law enacted at the next session of congress will save the protective tariff from a fearful onslaught if not utter demolition."

The Record-Herald adds: "The truth is that such excesses as those of the American Economist amount to a justification of the warning of Congressman Lovering. Their inevitable effect is to arraign the masses against the classes. All things considered it would seem advisable for the republicans to compromise on the Iowa idea and to drop the contract idea at the earliest possible moment."

Glorifying Brute Force.

It seems that Rear Admiral Taylor has been expressing himself on the subject of fighting, and is quoted as saying that "an element of pugnacity appears to be implanted in us by Providence which does not permit nations to be satisfied without an occasional appeal to arms."

The Yahoo, published at St. Louis, takes up the admiral's remarks and thus castigates him:

"The remainder of Rear Admiral Taylor's article is but a revolting resume of all the fiendish, blood-thirsty and diabolical instincts of primeval savagery, arrayed in all their hideous nakedness, to prove, by their presence, that their existence is justifiable; nay, laudable. Because some men are brutes, he concludes that all men are and ought to be brutes. Such is the sole justification of war—because it is and has been, therefore it ought to be; the doctrine ever preached by the bloody lips of cannon since first it leaped in tongue of forked flame from the roaring mouth of hell. The same argument would justify the supremacy of satan, and glorify all his works."