

trust evil, brought injunction proceedings against the beef combine. Since those proceedings were commenced, that combine has come to be more audacious than ever. On the one hand, exercising the power within its grasp, it has reduced at a single stroke the price of cattle and hogs in the hands of the farmer, and on the other hand has raised the price of beef and pork to the consumer.

Many representatives of the coal trust have closed down their coal mines on the plea that there is overproduction and they have, therefore, thrown out of employment hundreds of miners. At the same time, the price of coal to the consumers has been advanced on the plea that there is an under-supply and therefore the consumer must pay a larger price for his coal.

The anti-trust law was enacted for the protection of the people. Criminal prosecution was provided in the very first section of that law because the law-makers understood that the rich rascal, just like the poor rascal, finds very much in awe of prison bars. Is it not reasonable, then, that the consumers insist upon a serious enforcement of the chief feature of the anti-trust law? What right have these men to conspire not only in restraint of trade, but against the very life of the people? Is it not the duty of the government to enforce this explicit statute and to call these men to account under the terms of the anti-trust law?

In the presence of the trust system of today and at a time when the representatives of our government show very clearly their disinclination to hold these rich conspirators strictly to account, may we not in the language of Henry Ward Beecher say: "Let all good men pray that God will give us a government."

Outside the Official Family.

Recently Charles J. Bonaparte and Holmes Conrad, the special attorneys employed to investigate and prosecute corruption in the federal service, made a report recommending the discharge of a number of influential republican politicians. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that in this report Messrs. Bonaparte and Conrad practically call for the resignation of Robert J. Tracewell, comptroller of the treasury, but Secretary Shaw is standing by him. It is also pointed out by this correspondent that the pushing out of Auditor Castle a few days ago, although it met with less resistance on Secretary Shaw's part, has provoked hostility to Bonaparte and Conrad.

The Record-Herald correspondent says that several cabinet meetings have been devoted to the Bonaparte-Conrad report without reaching a conclusion as to what shall be done with it. This correspondent explains that Secretary Shaw and Postmaster General Payne resent the reflections made on their departments by this report and that they are backed by a large contingent of influential republicans in and out of Washington. It is pointed out that neither Mr. Bonaparte nor Mr. Conrad is a "straight republican," and the Record-Herald correspondent says: "There is a good deal of talk concerning the bad policy of going outside of the official family and the republican party for investigators. The report, it is known, speaks out plainly and this is what causes the trouble."

It will be remembered that Mr. Roosevelt said that "words are good when backed by deeds, and only so." He has had much to say in favor of honesty in the public service. More than any other president Mr. Roosevelt has preached to the people. Now is a good opportunity for Mr. Roosevelt to back his words with deeds. Perhaps from a partisan standpoint, it is "bad policy" to go outside the "official family and the republican party for investigators," but every intelligent man knows that a serious investigation could not be had if the work were entrusted to republican poli-

ticians or to men whose efforts would be controlled by party interests and whose course would be dictated by party leaders.

It seems that when Messrs. Bonaparte and Conrad accepted the task assigned to them that they did so in a sincere spirit and now Mr. Roosevelt ought not to permit any of his "official family" to interfere with the good work which Messrs. Bonaparte and Conrad are very evidently bent upon accomplishing. To be sure, the results of their efforts may be disastrous to the republican party, but if these efforts are pursued with sincerity and vigor, they cannot but result in benefit to the country.

Shied at 16 to 1.

Mr. Bryan had an interesting experience recently. He was leaving New York and fell in with three residents of that city. Two were democrats and one a republican, but they agreed on one thing, namely, that Mr. Bryan would have been elected if he had given up free silver. After explaining to them how the silver question strengthened the party instead of weakening it, he told them that most of the opponents of bimetalism did not understand the subject. To prove it, he questioned the three men—men above the average in experience and business ability—and none of them knew what 16 to 1 meant. One of them—the republican—thought he knew and said it meant that the government would coin 16 silver dollars every time it coined 1 gold dollar. It almost surpasses belief that intelligent men should fear free silver and yet be ignorant of the meaning of the simplest terms employed in the discussion of the subject.

Sixteen to one, as readers of The Commoner know, describes the ratio existing between the silver and gold dollars when measured by weight—that is, the silver dollar weighs sixteen times as much as the gold dollar. The silver dollar contains 412½ grains of standard silver, while the gold dollar contains only 258-10 grains of standard gold. The exact ratio is not quite 16 to 1, but the difference is so small that it is always spoken of as 16 to 1. If, as the republican above referred to thought, the government would, under

free coinage, coin sixteen silver dollars every time it coined one gold dollar, we would have to coin sixteen billion silver dollars to offset the billion dollars in gold coin, but if we coined all the silver held by all the people in the world, we could not coin more than about four billions. As a matter of fact, free coinage would not so much increase the number of silver dollars as it would restore to the silver coin already in existence throughout the world full faith and credit and end the war which has been made against one of the money metals. The United States and Mexico produce the great bulk of the silver produced in the world and silver would be exported from the United States under free coinage, but England would have to pay \$1.29 per ounce for it instead of the present price and that would not only lessen the power of India to compete with us in wheat and cotton, but would broaden the base of the world's financial structure. In dealings with gold-using nations the balances would be paid in gold; in dealings with silver-using nations, the balances would be paid in silver, and our nation would maintain the parity between the two metals as the Latin union formerly did.

The Race Problem.

Various public spirited citizens are suggesting solutions of the race problem, and one of the solutions offered is that of migration to Africa or some other distant country. An Illinois reader of The Commoner suggests that Africa is the proper place, and insists that if the negroes go there they will trade with this country and be of great benefit to us. Senator Morgan of Alabama has been quoted as favoring the colonization of the negroes in the Philippines, but Governor Hogg of Texas calls this a dream and says that the negro race is increasing at the rate of 750,000 a year. He figures that if the government should undertake to send them to the Philippine islands it would take a tremendous fleet of transports. One transport carrying two thousand passengers and making six trips a year would only carry 12,000 persons during the year. Fifty transports would thus carry but 600,000. It would seem that fifty transports would not be able to quite keep up with the increase in the colored population.

PREPARING FOR THE CAMPAIGN OF 1904

Nearly 16,000 orders have been received for The Commoner's special subscription cards.

In order to enlarge The Commoner's circulation and therefore widen its sphere of influence, this special subscription offer has been arranged by the publisher. The plan is similar to the one submitted last year and known as the "Lots of Five" plan.

Cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner, will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot.

This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering the cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the effort to widen The Commoner's sphere of influence.

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A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to order these cards.

We are rapidly approaching the presidential campaign of 1904, and those who believe that the democratic party should remain true to its principles are urged to participate in the effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

Those who desire to republicanize the party

are not idle and it may be depended upon that they will redouble their energies from now on. The democratic party once under the influence of the trust magnates and controlled by the representatives of special interests cannot be depended upon to stand for the welfare of the people.

In every precinct, county and state democrats should at once begin the work of protecting the democratic temple from the assaults of those who would desecrate it and destroy its foundations.

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