

try to score a point in Mr. Roosevelt's favor in this matter forget that the republican national committee has not been entirely purged. Postmaster General Payne is acting chairman of that committee; and it will be remembered that when a newspaper reporter asked Mr. Payne what he had to say with respect to the charges made against Heath and others, Mr. Payne replied: "Say that the postmaster general just laughed."

Enforcing the Criminal Law

The conviction of Whittaker Wright, the English promoter, has attracted considerable attention in this country. The Chicago Tribune directs attention to the fact that Wright was convicted under what is known as the larceny act. The 1899 balance sheet of Wright's company showed an item of "\$2,500,000 cash at bankers." This sum was presumed to be available for dividends and was represented as being the result of a year's work by the directors to strengthen the company. A few days after this report had been made it developed that there was no cash in the hands of the bankers, and that Wright was required to lend the company \$1,500,000 to save it from insolvency. The \$2,500,000 item was a sham.

Commenting upon this showing, the Tribune says:

"There have been instances in this country where false reports of the condition of companies have been given to the public by men who knew them to be false, and whose object was unquestionably to induce persons to invest in the securities. In one case a company was credited with \$500,000 which it did not have. As the statement of the company was certified by accountants to be correct the public had some reason to believe it could be trusted.

"Persons who have been deceived and defrauded by false prospectuses and reports and doctored accounts can begin civil suits for damages against those who have despoiled them, though their chances of recovering any-

thing are small, but why cannot the criminal law be invoked here as it has been in England to punish swindling promoters? If some American member of the fraternity could be visited with as severe a sentence as the one Whittaker Wright escaped only by suicide there would be fewer attempts to float fraudulent enterprises."

These are good suggestions and the Tribune might have directed the Roosevelt administration's attention to some instances in which it could make experiments along this line.

In Chicago, recently, two men, known as the Jager brothers, were arraigned before a federal commissioner on the charge of having sent through the mails certain circulars, in which circulars they misrepresented their mining properties. It was announced that the government would vigorously push the prosecution in these cases.

But it seems that the manipulators of the shipbuilding trust misrepresented their properties and frequently used the mails for the purposes of such misrepresentations. Yet, it does not seem to have occurred to anyone connected with the federal administration that the criminal law should be enforced against the men responsible for the shipbuilding trust scandals.

The Roosevelt administration has, in several instances, commenced civil proceedings against men who have violated the Sherman anti-trust law; but the chief feature of that law is the criminal provision and it does not seem to have occurred to anyone connected with the Roosevelt administration that the criminal clause was made to be enforced.

The Tribune might do a service to its party, as well as to the people generally, if it could persuade the republican administration to undertake the enforcement of the criminal law against the rich rascals of the country.

A Fair Sample.

The New York World prints a communication from "an old democrat" of Bradford, Conn.

THREE LITTLE KINGDOMS

(Copyright, 1904, by New York Journal.)

I shall treat in this article of my visit to three little kingdoms in the north of Europe—Denmark, Belgium and The Netherlands.

I passed through the edge of Sweden on my way from Berlin to Copenhagen and was at Malmoe a short time; but, as it was Christmas Day and early in the morning, few stores were open, and I did not have an opportunity to see many people. I had intended to visit Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, but a day's delay in Russia deprived me of that pleasure.

Copenhagen is not only the capital of Denmark, but its commercial metropolis as well. The city has the air of a seaport. The canal leading from the harbor up to the center of the town was crowded with boats which had taken up their winter quarters and the multitude of masts told of the numbers of those who live upon the ocean.

Denmark is a densely populated country composed of the Jutland peninsula and a number of islands. The land is for the most part level and not much above the sea, but the farmers of Denmark have distinguished themselves in several departments of agriculture especially in butter-making—Danish butter commanding the highest price in London and other large markets.

Copenhagen has some very substantial buildings and an art gallery in which the works of Thorwaldsen, the sculptor, occupy the chief place.

The people of Denmark, while living under an hereditary monarch, have a written constitution, and parliament is the controlling influence in the government. Until recently, the sovereign insisted upon selecting his cabinet ministers to suit himself; but, about three years ago, he yielded to the demand of parliament that the dominant party in that body be permitted to furnish the king's advisers. The change has proven so satisfactory that perfect harmony now exists between the royal family and the legislative body.

King Christian is advanced in years and is so beloved by his people that he goes among them without attendants or guards.

The heir to the throne of Denmark, Prince Frederick, upon whom, by the courtesy of the American minister, Mr. Swensen, I was able to call on Christmas afternoon, is very democratic in his manner, and very cordial in his friendship for America.

If marrying her daughters to crowned heads is a test, the late Queen of Sweden was a very successful mother. One of her daughters is mother of the present emperor of Russia, another is wife of the present king of England, and a third is married to one of the smaller kings of Germany. A son, it may be added, is king of Greece.

I had the pleasure of meeting the prime minister and also Professor Matzen, the president of the state university and Denmark's member of The Hague tribunal. He was one of the leading opponents of the transfer of the Danish islands to the United States.

I learned while in Denmark that one of the chief reasons for the opposition to the sale of the Danish islands to the United States was the fact that the United States did not guarantee full citizenship to the inhabitants of those islands. The nation's conduct elsewhere prevented this. Our refusal to give the Porto Ricans and the Philippines the protection of the constitution, is largely to blame for the loss of the Danish islands to our country.

The Danish officials whom I met were deeply interested in the United States, and naturally so, for, like Sweden and Norway, Denmark has sent many sons and daughters to the United States; and these, as have the Swedes and Norwegians, have deported themselves so well as to establish close ties between the mother countries and their adopted land.

BELGIUM.

Belgium is a busy hive. Its people are crowded together and are very industrious. The farmers and truck gardeners have reduced agriculture to a fine art and the lace workers are famous for their skill.

Nowhere did I see man's faithful friend, the dog, utilized as in Belgium. He helps to haul the carts along the streets, and his services are so highly prized that large dogs are untaxed, while the small house dog, being an idler, has to contribute his annual quota to the expenses of the government.

The elegance of some of the public buildings and the beauty of the streets of Brussels surprise one if he has allowed himself to judge Belgium by her dimensions on the map. Historical interest, however, is centered, not in Brussels, but in the battlefield of Waterloo, some miles

The World explains that this is "a try for Mr. Bryan's \$100." The letter follows:

To the Editor of The World:

Whereas, Under republican control the government of the United States is conducted with an utter lack of common sense; therefore be it resolved:

First—That hereafter common sense shall be applied to government.

Second—That no candidate shall be nominated for any position under the government who is lacking in common sense.

Third—That common sense and common honesty are alone requisite for a stable government.

Fourth—That no other so-called planks are required in any party platform.

N. B.—Col. Bryan will please send \$100 to AN OLD DEMOCRAT.

Bradford, Conn., Feb. 21.

This is, indeed, a good reorganization platform. Substitute the word "democrat" for the word "republican" in the first paragraph and it could be used quite as conveniently by the republican party.

Attention is once more directed to The Commoner's special subscription offer. Every Commoner reader is invited to co-operate in this effort to widen its sphere of influence. This subscription offer is similar to the lots of five plan adopted last year. 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.

These cards may be paid for when ordered or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold.

A coupon is printed on page 7 for the convenience of those who are willing to assist in the coming contest.

away. In the summer time thousands of tourists (among whom, according to the guides are but few Frenchmen) turn their steps toward this field which witnessed the overthrow of the greatest military genius of his generation, if not of all time.

The scene of carnage is now marked by an enormous artificial mound 130 feet in height and surmounted by an immense stone lion—the Lion of Waterloo. The animal looks toward the point from which Napoleon made his last charge and seems to be watching lest the attack may be renewed. Wellington, upon visiting the battle-field after the erection of this mound, is said to have complained that they had ruined the battle-field to secure dirt for this stupendous pile; and it is true that the surface of the earth in that vicinity has been very much altered. In leveling the knolls they have destroyed one of the most interesting land-marks of the battle-field—the sunken road in which so many of the French soldiers lost their lives. As the guide tells it, Napoleon asked a Belgian peasant if there was any ravine to be crossed between him and the enemy's lines, and the peasant replied in the negative; but when the French rushed over this knoll, they came suddenly and unexpectedly upon a narrow road in a cut about twenty feet deep, and, falling in, filled up the cut until succeeding ranks crossed over on their dead bodies.

The field as a whole might be described as a rolling prairie although the visitor is told of groves no longer standing. At the Hugomond farm, the walls of the house bear evidence of the conflict that raged nearly a century ago, and one is shown the ruins of an old well in which, it is said, the bodies of 300 English soldiers were buried. This portion of the battle-field reminds one somewhat of that portion of the battle-field of Gettysburg which was made famous by Pickett's charge, although there are but few monuments at Waterloo to mark the places occupied by the various brigades and divisions.

At a restaurant near the mound one is shown the chair in which, according to tradition, Wellington sat when he was laying his plans for the last day's battle, and you can, for a franc each, secure bullets warranted to have been found upon the field. It is rumored, however, that some of

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