

ment of the will of the people and the scrupulous enforcement of that will.

The Commoner will also furnish all the information that it can upon the questions which are before the public to the end that its readers may be prepared to render the maximum of assistance to every worthy cause.

Who will be the first to make this pledge? A record will be kept in The Commoner office of the name and address of each person who enters into this movement. Those who desire to be enrolled can either write approving the object of the organization, and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank which will be found upon another page.

The Commoner will be pleased to publish a limited number of brief letters on this subject. Mr. Bryan is encouraged by his correspondence to believe that there will be a prompt and hearty response to the above proposition.

Newspapers favoring the plan outlined are requested to reproduce this editorial together with the primary pledge as it appears on page 11 of this issue. They may request their readers to sign this pledge and forward the same either to The Commoner or to the office of their local democratic paper. In the latter event these pledges may be then forwarded in bulk to The Commoner office where they will be duly recorded.

There is a Law

The New York Press, a republican paper, does not take kindly to "investigation" of the trusts, and insists that something more radical than "talk" is necessary if the people are to be given relief. The Press says:

There is a law to punish the pickpocket who steals your purse. There is a law to punish the burglar who robs your house. There is a law to punish the starving man who grabs a loaf of bread. But there is no law to punish the trust criminal who robs you of your means of livelihood, who cuts your business out from under your feet, and who does it openly in the sight of men and laughs at you because you have no redress.

The Standard Oil prosecution by the department of justice will be worthless except to demonstrate that the penalty for trust criminality is inadequate and ineffectual, and that Standard Oil robbery can be stopped only by putting Standard Oil criminals in the same class as the law has put burglars and highway robbers.

But there is a law to punish the trust criminal. The first and second sections of the Sherman anti-trust law are as follows:

"Section 1. Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal. Every person who shall make any such contract or engage in any such combination or conspiracy, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments in the discretion of the court.

"Section 2. Every person who shall monopolize or attempt to monopolize, or combine or conspire with any other person or persons, to monopolize any part of the trade or commerce among the several states, or with foreign nations, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court."

Enforce the law.

George S. Boutwell

George S. Boutwell, who died recently at his home in Groton, Mass., had an eventful career. He served as governor of Massachusetts, and represented that state in the lower house, was chosen senator and served as secretary of the treasury under President Grant's administration. At the time of his death he was eighty-seven years of age. Until the last he was active in public affairs and, in fact, retired from the practice of law only two years ago.

Governor Boutwell was a man of strong convictions. He took a pronounced position against the republican administration's policy with respect to "our new possessions," and was one of

the active leaders among the anti-imperialists. Although a republican, he supported the democratic national ticket in 1900 because of the party's opposition to imperialism. Governor Boutwell served his country and while he lived to a ripe age and was given opportunity to do a great work, those who appreciated his ability and unfaltering purpose in the cause of righteousness, will keenly regret his death.

Where the Senate Scored

The United States senate is entitled to one large credit mark. The senate prevented the accomplishment of what is known as the "mileage grab."

The Second session of the Fifty-eighth congress met as soon as the First session had adjourned and it was physically impossible for the members of congress to have done anything to earn mileage for the Second session.

In spite of this fact the house, by a vote of 90 yeas to 80 nays, adopted an appropriation of \$190,000 for the purpose of paying this mileage.

Many members of the house fought the proposed steal and many others who did not have the courage to vote for it lacked, likewise, the honesty to vote against. But the senate's representatives on the conference committee refused to give their consent to the grab and the house was forced to yield.

In January, 1904, an attempt was made to put through this same grab. It was freely discussed in the house, but because election day was approaching, the members did not dare go on record in favor of the steal, knowing that they would be required to explain to their constituents. At that time no vote was registered in favor of the grab, while 167 votes were recorded against it.

The Chicago Tribune, a republican paper, recalling these facts says: "The men who were timid in January, 1904, were bold and brazen in March, 1905, after the election." But the senate struck out the appropriation and is entitled to the thanks of the people.

As the Tribune well says: "The raid on the treasury fails, and the members of the house gained disgrace but no money. The incident is disheartening. It shows how much more the chosen representatives of the people care for a little money than they do for the good opinion of the public. They are ready to dip their hands into the national treasury if they can do so without incurring the risk of being indicted."

Heiress Repents in Time

Miss Elizabeth Howe, described as one of the richest heiresses in Pennsylvania, yielding to the strange delusion which has been the undoing of so many money-spoiled American girls, engaged herself to an Italian count who sports the name DeCini. Just before the wedding day, which was set for last fall, the count demanded a "settlement," rumored to be \$50,000 cash and enough more to pay his debts, and an annuity of \$10,000. In return for this pecuniary consideration he was willing to endow her with his name and title and also to stipulate to be "good" for two years. After sober second thought Miss Howe decided that he was not worth that much to her and she has just married a young Pittsburg lawyer, who was a school-day lover. Lucky Miss Howe, to repent before marriage to the titled adventurer! A great many American girls have awakened to their mistake after marriage. There is no more dangerous symptom of decaying patriotism among the purseproud element of our country than the willingness of American heiresses to purchase titles which are barred by our constitution. A healthy public sentiment would lead marriageable young ladies to prefer a poor young man with good education, good habits and high ideals to a bankrupt nobleman or even to a degenerate American millionaire.

A Land-Mark in Danger

Mr. Bryan recently had an opportunity to visit the old block house, built before the revolution, at the point where the Allegheny and the Monongahela unite to form the Ohio. It is an historic spot and was of great strategic value to the colonists in the struggle for the possession of what was then called the west. Washington's first military reputation was won near there, he recognizing it as the key to the country beyond the Alleghenies. The block house is all that is left to

mark the place, and this with a piece of land about one hundred feet square is now owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution, the gift of Mrs. Mary E. Schenley, but the Pennsylvania railroad is now buying land around it and unless rescued it will soon be surrounded by freight houses. The triangle formed by the two rivers and a line drawn east of the block house is not large and the city of Pittsburg could well afford to buy or condemn the ground and make it a public park—a perpetual breathing space for, and an inspiration to, the people. Unless the city council has been grossly slandered it has been very generous in giving streets and river fronts to the Pennsylvania railroad. Why not some generosity in preserving this historic ground for the benefit of future generations? The street car companies have probably received enough in franchises to justify them in buying the plat and presenting it to the public for a park, and there are many Pittsburg millionaires—not to speak of Mr. Carnegie—who could buy it out of their annual income without missing the expenditure. If the city council will not do it and the millionaires refuse, the Pittsburg papers might assist the Daughters to purchase it by popular subscription. There ought to be enough patriotic spirit in Pittsburg to save this spot from the encroachments of commercialism.

"Investigate" the Paper Trust

Every republican newspaper has condemned the paper trust, yet some republican papers are greatly impressed with Mr. Garfield's report on the so-called beef trust and are inclined to agree with the commissioner of corporations that there is no such thing as a beef trust.

It would be well if Mr. Garfield could "investigate" the paper trust.

A great many people would be interested in the editorials which would be printed in republican papers in the event that after "rigid investigation," Mr. Garfield concluded that there is no such thing as a paper trust, that the paper factories have been losing money and that newspaper editors have been complaining of purely imaginary evils.

It may not be doubted that a report from Mr. Garfield on the paper trust similar to the one he made on the beef trust would be condemned by all large newspapers. The attitude of some republican newspapers on the Garfield beef trust report is no criterion; for do we not know that many republican newspapers that insisted upon "standing pat" on the tariff question, so far as products generally are concerned, and denounced the proposition that the shelter which the trusts find in the tariff should be destroyed, were very ready to demand that the advantage which the paper trust obtains in the tariff be removed?

If Mr. Garfield has really discovered that there is no beef trust, it is very likely that through a similar "investigation" he would be able to discover that there is no paper trust. It would be interesting to observe the effect of such a declaration upon the publishers of republican newspapers.

A Few Rockefellerisms

The following incidents will serve to throw a side-light upon John D. Rockefeller and his business methods:

One who was for years an intimate business associate thus described Mr. Rockefeller in the early days of the Standard Oil company: "When a rival came in Mr. Rockefeller would put on a long face and complain that business was bad and getting worse. He would finally suggest to the visitor that he, the visitor, was fortunate in being able to sell out while the Standard company was unfortunate in having so much property that it could not close up its business. After getting favorable terms he would 'reluctantly' (?) buy the rival's plant and then, when the rival had departed, would lock the door and dance around the office laughing and exclaiming, 'We've got another one, we've got another one.'"

One day when one of his associates asked for information in regard to the company's business, Mr. Rockefeller drew three circles, one within another. Pointing to the largest zone he said that several members of the company were in there; in the second zone he put others, among them the one to whom he was talking. Pointing to the space enclosed within the smallest circle he said, "Only John D. is in here." Mr. Rockefeller tells with evident enjoyment how he went into the smoking compartment of a car and "smoked out"