

The Commoner.

"OTHER THINGS OF THAT SORT"

Rev. Dr. Robert Bagnell, pastor of a New York church, recently visited Sioux City, Ia., to deliver a commencement address. While in Sioux City the reverend gentleman submitted to an interview concerning the political situation in the Empire state, and after some rather severe strictures on what he calls Mr. Hearst's "socialistic record," said: "Hearst is playing to the galleries among the laboring classes, distributing coal and ice to the working people and doing other things of that sort. He does not find favor among conservative people."

Mr. Hearst should really stop doing that and "other things of that sort" if he wants to appeal to conservative people. He might, for instance, organize a big life insurance company and use the premiums to advance his own private fortunes. Or he might steal a few municipal franchises. Or he might gamble in the food products of the nation. Or he might organize a syndicate or two to hold for gambling purposes the stock in a lot of subsidiary corporations. But the idea of a man taking an interest in the laboring classes, and actually giving away coal and ice to those unable to buy such luxuries—that sort of thing is unbecoming to a man who wants to appeal to "conservative people." The working people should learn to get along without coal and ice and "other things of that sort," for the more of them they have the more discontented they are likely to become. We trust that Mr. Hearst will see the error of his way and refrain from lifting these working people out of the sphere which God intended they should occupy. Rev. Dr. Bagnell has performed a distinct service to the "conservative people" by showing Mr. Hearst wherein he errs.

HERE TOO!

Something more than a year ago, Andrew D. White, former American ambassador to Germany, wrote for the Century Magazine, an article describing the German emperor. Mr. White said it was a mistake to think of the German emperor as merely a military man. He said: "As a simple matter of fact, he recognizes the triumphs of German commercial enterprise, and sees in them a guarantee for the extension of German power and for a glory more permanent than any likely to be obtained by military operations in these lines."

Referring to the emperor's attitude toward capital and labor, Mr. White said:

"As an example of an utterance of his which to many might seem the result of a momentary impulse, but which reveals sober contemplation of problems looming large before the United States as well as Germany, I cite a remark made in 1903 to an American eminent in public affairs. The kaiser said: 'You in America may do what you please, but I will not suffer capitalists in Germany to suck the life out of the workingmen and fling them away like squeezed lemon skins into the gutter.'"

The sovereign people of America are displaying some of the same spirit these days.

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER

Mrs. John Burns, wife of the famous labor leader who is now a member of the British cabinet, seems to be a woman of wit as well as a woman of common sense. The political elevation of her husband has not spoiled her and, we are told, she is the same modest, economical, thrifty housewife she was when she maintained her little home on the meagre wages her husband drew as a dock laborer. Mr. and Mrs. Burns continue to live in the little house in Battersea, where they lived while the husband was a dock laborer. Since Mr. Burns became a member of the cabinet the "lion hunters" have been busy, and as a result the hitherto unknown and unappreciated Mrs. Burns is being courted by the society women of London. That she sees through their thin veneer of politeness is evidenced by a bit of correspondence between herself and Lady Haversham. Lady Haversham wanted to exhibit Mrs. Burns at one of her crowded "at homes," and extended an invitation in these words:

"Dear Mrs. Burns: I should be glad if you could come to my 'at home.' You will excuse my not calling on you, but I find Battersea is such a long way from Grosvenor Square."

Instead of being dazed by this sudden recognition from royalty, Mrs. Burns preserved her us-

ual mental balance. She replied to Lady Haversham's invitation in these words:

"Dear Lady Haversham: I have been studying the map and find that Grosvenor Square is exactly the same distance from Battersea that Battersea is from Grosvenor Square."

Mrs. Burn's reply may not be quite up to the standard of politeness supposed to be in vogue among the nobility, but it is quite up to the standard of English independence.

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PROTECTING THE BIRDS

New York has a law prohibiting the use of the plumage of birds for hat decoration. The state commissioner of fish and game recently raided several stores in a New York town, and seized some of the contraband feathered goods. One New York newspaper—The Rochester Post-Express—expresses doubts as to the right of the state to confiscate property and says: "Rochester merchants will not willingly lose their property in this matter, or become the victims of persecution."

But the state will not willingly lose its right to protect the birds. These little creatures not only delight the eye and ear, but they are valuable to the business interests of the country, because they kill the insects which would destroy the growing grain.

Merchants who deal in the plumage of birds are not made the victims of persecution when they are required to obey the law. In recent years it has become quite common that efforts to enforce the law and protect the public interests, are met with the plea that "business interests" are attacked. Newspapers should not give encouragement to this plea. They should demand that men comply with the law, rather than the authorities permit it to be violated.

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MR. ARMOUR'S COMPLAINT

J. Ogden Armour, the recognized spokesman of the packers, is just now engaged in making a plaintive appeal for a "square deal" for the packers. "Where is the American love of fair play?" he asks.

Mr. Armour's sudden interest in the "square deal" and "fair play" would be commendable were it not rendered so ridiculous by the facts surrounding the case at issue. The old saw to the effect that it "makes a difference whose ox is gored" has a peculiar application to the beef trust exposures.

Mr. Armour and his associates never paused to consider the matter of a "square deal" and "fair play" when they met every morning to decide how much they would pay for beef on the hoof. They never thought of those things when they were exacting rebates from complaisant railroad managers in order that they might crush out competition. They never gave those things a thought when they put in syndicate meat markets by the side of independent markets and sold beef below cost until the small competitors were bankrupt. When they were "doping" their products and endangering the health of the public in order to increase profits they did not care a rap about a "square deal" or "fair play." That was when they thought they had everything their own way. Now, when they are paying the penalty, their interest in a "square deal" and "fair play" suddenly becomes acute.

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ANARCHY!

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat in its issue of Thursday, June 28, says: "Government ownership of the coal fields would soon settle the fuel problem. It would also take one of the tangles out of the transportation problem."

If this Globe-Democrat editorial ever gets to the attention of the shades of "Billy" McKee and "Joe" McCullough, there will be "something doing" in the Globe-Democrat's sanctum sacerdotum.

Government ownership of the coal fields would soon settle the fuel problem and the transportation problem! And this from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat! Anarchy! Treason!

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PROTECTION AND PROTECTION

During the discussion on the sundry civil service bill the republican majority in congress calmly gave official sanction to the practice of the protected manufacturers who sell goods abroad cheaper than they do at home. Mr. Sullivan moved to recommit the bill with instructions to the committee to insert a provision that none of the money appropriated for the Panama canal should be expended in purchasing materials manu-

factured in the United States unless those materials were sold to the government at the export prices when the export prices were lower than the domestic prices. Mr. Tawney raised a point of order and the majority sustained him. The house then adopted the senate resolution that "all supplies for the Panama canal shall be of American manufacture and sale unless the president deems the bids extortionate or unreasonable." The action of the republican majority is not at all surprising. A congressional campaign is just opening and the republican campaign treasury is once more in need of funds. Hence the manufacturers who benefit by protection must again be "fried out" by a majority whose future existence depends in large measure upon the generosity of the contributions.

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WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

An English publication, referring to the industrial activity in America utters a warning concerning the extension of this country's foreign trade and the probable effect of American competition when our increasing manufacturing facilities shall produce a large surplus above the demands of our own people.

Referring to this warning, the Stockton (Cal.) Mail says: "Of course, we are not worrying over that phase of the subject, but such articles should cause us to inquire why it is that an industrial system that makes the world tremble should still require the aid of an immensely high tariff to insure its maintenance. If our manufacturers can compete successfully in the markets of the world, why should they be afraid that if they were not enabled by the tariff to overcharge their fellow citizens the manufacturers of other countries would put them out of business?"

The Mail has submitted a very pertinent question. Certainly the "standpatters" will have an answer ready.

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ONE AT LEAST

In his eloquent and touching "home coming" address at Louisville a few weeks ago, Henry Watterson asked: "What wanderer was ever loath to come home?"

The list is quite a long one, Mr. Watterson—quite too long to be given in a single issue. But if you want to know of one wanderer from the soil of "Ol' Kaintuck" just turn your eyes towards the north; just gaze across the turbulent and agitated waters of the Ohio river into the land of your Hoosier neighbors, and somewhere in the region round about Indianapolis you will see a man looking longingly towards Kentucky but extremely loath to return to the "dark and bloody ground."

The man in question is Mr. Taylor, who once occupied the governor's chair.

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EASY!

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat (republican) says: "Mr. Bryan says the democratic party is against the trusts. He says this off in Norway, however, where Belmont, McCarren, Sheehan and the other trust magnates who are booming him will not hear it. Mr. Bryan ought to be asked to explain why it is that the democratic party, when in power under Cleveland, refused to do anything to curb the trusts."

That's easy! In fact it requires no explanation. The Cleveland administration was under obligations to the same influences to which the republican party sold its soul in 1896 and for which it has been the faithful slave ever since.

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LET HIM ACT NOW

Some one has proposed that democrats in the state of New York nominate for governor William Travers Jerome, now district attorney for New York. Mr. Jerome's friends would better advise him to make a serious effort to enforce law in the office he now holds before he aspires to a more conspicuous, if not more important, place. Mr. Jerome has been a great disappointment to thousands of men in all sections of the country who, relying upon his promises, believed that as district attorney he could be depended upon to enforce the law against all evil doers.

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USELESS ADVICE

Representative J. Adam Bede of Minnesota has lately been giving some advice to the public, the value of which is discernable at a glance. He advises the public "not to ask too much of congress." That sort of advice is worth nothing at all. Now, if Mr. Bede had advised the public not to expect much of congress he would have been doing them a service.