

four thousand years kept the body of the builder concealed from the sight of man, and when we came out, half crawling and half climbing, each assisted by two Arabs, our muscles as well as our memories testified that we had seen all of this stupendous pile.

At the foot of these two pyramids stands the silent Sphinx, and near it a granite temple almost as old. The Sphinx itself is a little disappointing because photographs often show it in the foreground and the pyramids behind it, and it thus appears relatively larger than it really is. It represents the body of an animal with a human head and is cut from a huge stone that juts out into the valley. It was a grand conception of the brain of one long ago forgotten and is the oldest product of the chisel of man. It has outlived unnumbered generations and seems to mock at time. Its position by the pyramids is a fitting one, and looking upon it and them one is awed by the sense of their antiquity and recognizes the appropriateness of the lines of the lecturer, Stoddard:

Eternal Sphinx;

The pyramids are thine;

Their giant summits guard thee night and day;
On thee they look when stars in splendor shine,

Or while around their crests the sunbeams play;
Thine own coevals, who with thee remain
Colossal geni of the boundless plain.

Eternal Sphinx!

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THE COMMONER AND "FIRST VOTERS"

A Lexington, Ky., reader wrote to The Commoner as follows:

"I notice that the American Protective Tariff league is sending out circulars which read: 'Kindly give us the name and address, etc., of one person who will cast his first vote in the congressional election of 1906. We wish to forward literature on the subject of protection. Ask your neighbors to co-operate in this work.'

"Now, I suggest that every Commoner reader make it his duty to send to The Commoner office the name of one person who, at the next election, will cast his first vote, then a sample copy of The Commoner could be sent to that person.

"I also suggest that every Commoner reader make it his duty to secure at least one of these 'first voters' as a yearly subscriber to The Commoner. If we can get these young men to read The Commoner regularly we need not fear for their political future."

The Commoner hopes that this suggestion will be acted upon by Commoner readers generally. It is important that the "first voters" be impressed with the value of democratic principles in popular government.

In order to encourage the campaign among "first voters," The Commoner will be sent for sixty cents to any one who is to cast his first vote at the congressional elections of 1906 and whose name, accompanied by the subscription price, reaches The Commoner office prior to election day in November, 1906.

Any one desiring to avail himself of this opportunity must state in his letter that the one in whose name the subscription is forwarded will cast his first vote at the 1906 elections, and is therefore entitled to this rate.

What Will The Verdict Be?

What will the verdict be concerning the work of congress at the session recently adjourned? Do the things done and the things left undone warrant the claim made by some republican editors that the republican congress has justified its party's claim to the proud title of "the party of the people?"

Nothing is to be gained by captious criticism nor on the other hand by hysterical compliment. The simple truth is that this republican congress, like its predecessors, was under the control of the special interests and went just as far as it dared to go in protecting the schemes of powerful men who habitually and liberally contribute to republican campaign funds. The truth is that whatever was done by way of responding to the popular demand for relief from corporate oppression was at the behest of the president who on his own part faltered at critical moments and compromised on vital features of reform measures.

This is not saying that progress was not made by the adoption of certain of the measures passed by this congress with all the glaring defects of those measures. The credit for whatever has been accomplished, belongs, so far as republicans are concerned, to Mr. Roosevelt, while it must not be forgotten that Mr. Roosevelt's efforts would have been impotent had it not been for the intelligent and patriotic activities of democrats in senate and in house, not forgetting, also, the splendid work of Senator LaFollette whom we can hardly class as a republican since he has so often been read out of his party by men in authority.

It is well that congress passed the railway rate bill. It would have been better had Mr. Roosevelt not yielded on the vital point in that reform. The passage of the railway rate measure recognized the extensiveness and the correctness of the demands on that line. And to that extent—although it may not give the public the necessary relief—the efforts of the champions of railway reform have not been in vain. The progress made may encourage the people to demand a measure which will regulate the rates and require justice for the shipper and the public at the hands of the public's agent, otherwise known as the railroad corporation.

It is well that a bill providing for meat inspection was passed. It would have been better had congress required the packers to bear the cost of that inspection and also required the use of labels showing the date of the packing house product.

The republican members will find it somewhat difficult to explain to their constituents why they failed to enact a law prohibiting corporations and national banks from making campaign contributions and requiring publicity with respect to all campaign funds collected and expended in connection with the election of federal officials. It will not be overlooked that Mr. Roosevelt failed to give to this particular measure that attention which the people had a right to expect at his hands, judging from the serious manner in which he treated the corporation contribution question in his message to congress.

The republican party and all of its conspicuous representatives—whatever the differences of these representatives may be on some questions—occupy an unenviable position with respect to corporation contributions to campaign funds. Several hundred thousand dollars belonging to insurance policyholders and embezzled from them were traced to the republican party's national committee's treasury. A member of the president's cabinet is chairman of that committee. Although from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the lakes to the gulf, editors and educators, preachers and laymen, merchants and professional men, farmers and laborers and good citizens generally have vigorously condemned the insurance officials for misappropriating these funds, men in authority in the councils of the republican party have been strangely silent with respect to the conduct of the republican politicians into whose hands that stolen money was traced. Explanation has been demanded of the insurance officials and the people have insisted that they be prosecuted. But no explanation has been required of the republican postmaster general who, as chairman of the republican national committee, must have had a guilty knowledge of the acceptance by the republican committee of this stolen money. The McCallis and McCurdys must restore the money they misappropriated for their purposes, but it does not seem to have occurred to the republican editors, nor to those high in au-

thority in the councils of the republican party, to see to it that the party itself make restitution of the hundreds of thousands of dollars which were embezzled for its use and benefit.

These things have not escaped the attention of the American people although republican editors seek to avoid the issue; nor have the people overlooked the fact that, although in his message last December, President Roosevelt told congress that it was important that corporations be prohibited from contributing to campaign funds and that publicity should be had with respect to these funds, reform measures on this line were permitted to die in congress. The people will not forget that the republican party had full power to pass them, and that the attention of the party leaders was repeatedly called to these measures by democratic members and democratic editors. Nor will it be forgotten that Mr. Roosevelt failed to back his words with deeds when the time came for him to lend a helping hand to campaign fund contribution measures.

It was proved repeatedly in the house and senate that American manufacturers were selling goods abroad cheaper than at home and that the high protective tariff provides shelter to the trusts while they prey upon the people. But the republican congress refused to give the people relief on the tariff question although the demand for tariff revision comes as strongly from a considerable portion of the rank and file of the republican party as it does from members of other parties. Promising in its platforms and through its stump speakers that the tariff would be "revised by its friends," the republican party through its congress insisted upon "standing pat," which phrase was coined by representatives of the trust system and being interpreted means that the republican party will be faithful to the men who provide it with campaign funds.

Attention is invited to the comments upon the work of congress made by the New York Press, a republican paper. Some of the extracts from the Press editorial appear in another column of this issue. The conclusions of this republican paper are worthy of special mention.

While agreeing that "so far as is known up to date" Mr. Roosevelt is right that "not a single measure which the closest scrutiny would warrant us in calling of doubtful propriety has been enacted," the Press says that this is due to the fact that there were "too many watchmen on guard both in congress and the White House and elsewhere, and public vigilance was never so wide awake."

But, according to this republican paper, influence was at work against public interests and to the advantage of special interests; and, in the view of this republican paper, that influence prevailed with respect to nearly all the corporation measures.

Admitting that congress has done more for the public good than in many years this republican paper says that this is by no means a tribute as "for years congress has done nothing whatever to stop railroad extortion, and for nearly a decade has encouraged the corrupt alliance between railroads and trusts for the robbery of the people." Then this republican paper concludes: "There is more difference between what congress has done and what the people wanted it to do than there is between what congress has done and what it had hitherto not done. And no cause is served, save the unworthy cause of political expediency, by emphasizing the things congress has done and remaining silent about the larger things congress has failed to do. Glowing words of praise for house and senate may help in the approaching campaign, and are of course calculated for their effect on the election. They will not help to bring about the right settlement of the questions which a corrupt house and senate have refused to settle right, and which they have not—most certainly have not, if Mr. Roosevelt will pardon us—considered with 'disinterested highmindedness.' Nor will these questions be settled right until the men who have had the largest share in postponing their adjustment are driven from public life."

Who will say that this is not a fair estimate of the work of the republican congress?

If Mr. Armour, who is interested in transportation lines, is not satisfied with the court review provision in the rate bill, he is cordially invited to give attention to the lack of a court review provision in the meat inspection bill. Mr. Armour certainly is hard to please if he can not get some satisfaction out of one or the other.