

OBSERVATIONS

And "Uncle Russell" Sage couldn't take his money with him.

Was the republican party ignorant of the wrong doing of the insurance companies' managers, at the same time that its national committee was accepting the money of the policyholders?

The recent congress refused to pass a bill forbidding corporations to contribute to political campaign funds. What in the world would become of a republican campaign fund without the contributions of the corporations that the high tariff is maintained to benefit? In such an event it would only be a case of "me tickle you," without any compensating alternative.

Virtuous Aemilius Paulus said, when he sought to again stand for the consulship: "I should rather choose to be exposed to the weapons of Hannibal, than once more to the suffrages of my countrymen." And yet, no more worthy, upright, honorable, capable man than he lived in all Rome. He had a very exact estimate of the uncertainty of a people in their recognition of merit. Then, as now, men were easily led; and as easily by bad men as good. Then, as now, virtue was superior to vice, but evil had lost much of its grossness in its too prevalent and potent recognition in the attainment of success.

Has it ever occurred to President Roosevelt that if an inexperienced, poor, unimportant young man like Upton Sinclair could make a personal investigation into and truthful report upon the facts relative to the methods of the beef packers, sufficient to prompt the government to activity, that he—the president—has had very inefficient departments of justice or agriculture, or both, headed by very indifferent attorney generals and secretaries—has it ever occurred to the president?

When you come to think of it, is it not a very strange situation in our affairs when our national legislature must actually be threatened before it will enact laws preventing the poisoning of the peoples' food?

Senator LaFollette has been taken to task for saying that the railroad rate bill is practically worthless; and he was also severely censured for saying it in Senator Hemenway's old district, at Evansville, Ind., because the latter had opposed all proposed amendments to make the law effective. Senator LaFollette is doing good work in telling the people the truth, but he ought to know that the people in the west have got through laughing at the rate bill; they began to laugh when the president left in the lurch Senator Tillman, and, of course, they quit laughing when congress adjourned because then all the "funny business" ceased.

By the way the people of the west are beginning to sate that prince of "smug-muckers," your dear old "Uncle Joe." When he "sent up a holler" at being caught with his foot on the poor food bill he let all the world know that he was playing a trick and had prepared a bluff if caught.

The pessimists spend so much time in pointing out the sore spots on the body politic, that they take no time to look for remedies. It is a duty to point out the defects in government, but a more imperative duty is to seek proper relief from such ills. And as for the people, there never arose, in all the history of the world, the necessity of a peoples' action to accomplish a purpose that such people did not rise equal to the emergency. It would seem that Lincoln's homely phrase was literally, universally true—"that the people always managed to wobble right." On this head, the situation in Russia is in point. The bureaucracy was certain that the douma would end with a week and dynamite. Instead, men who never had the least experience in conducting political policies or governmental affairs are adjusting themselves in the harness and are doing their work. It is now only the fear that the bureaucracy itself may invent some devilry or the douma will accomplish what was thought to be beyond them and hopelessly out of their reach. But it is always so; give a people the chance—or they'll take it!—and they will work out their salvation in the way best suited to them. Restrain them in the exercise of their God-given rights and time only means terror, until they win.

Indianapolis, Ind.

W. S. RYAN.

SOME GOOD EXAMPLES

A. H. Johns, Starke, Fla.—Inclosed I hand you New York draft for \$19.20 in payment for inclosed list of 32 names as subscribers to The Commoner for one year.

F. M. Miller, Sarahsville, Ohio.—I am prompted to further endeavor to increase The Commoner's circulation. It is without doubt the strongest factor in placing democracy in the position it claims by birth—in a position where it will carry out the principles of equal rights to all, and special privileges to none; doing the greatest good to the greatest number.

John A. Connolly, Monroeville, Ind., writes: "I think the congressional committee should place The Commoner at the disposal of every democratic candidate for congress. Then the county committees should offer The Commoner at an exceptionally low rate for six months or a year. I have been a reader of The Commoner from its first issue, and I am sure the people of the United States (except those who have an axe to grind) if they had all been reading The Commoner would all be with us this year, next year and in 1908."

J. E. Downing, Dayton, O.—I have read many plans proposed by anxious and enthusiastic democrats for the already large and growing circulation of The Commoner, among all reading, thinking, loyal liberty-loving Americans, and they are all good. If some one has not already preceded me I would suggest a plan that will set a very large percent of the wide-awake and live workers in our party to securing subscribers at the club rates by the wholesale. To begin with, I take it for granted, that every district, county, township, city, town, village, precinct and ward is blessed with a thoroughly organized democratic club, under some loyal name, like Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Thurman, Folk, Pattison, Johnson, etc., thus forging the links (I hope void of any flaws, defects, open breaks or scales) that is to form the great chain of strength with our anchorage of hope, which is to hold firmly in place our grand old democratic ship of state, in unison our great national club which is the sure redemption of our country and salvation of a suffering people in 1908. Thus there is no plausible excuse why every member of these clubs should not be a willing worker, a solicitor for The Commoner and get busy at once, and while securing primary pledges, also subscribe for himself, and pledge themselves each to get at least one subscriber from the outside and as many more as possible. I learn through Judge Baggett and Harry Miller, members of our (Dayton) Thurman club, there are over three hundred members now in the club. They will take up this proposition and plan at their next meeting and with properly organized understanding under the greatly increasing stimulation of democracy this one club alone should send in a subscription list of at least five or six hundred by September 1, and if this kind of good work is taken up and vigorously pushed by all the democratic clubs in all the states, we would knock a tremendously big hole in the scow of the g. o. p.

Commoner readers have sent yearly subscriptions in number as follows: Anna L. Jack, Vicksburg, Miss., 48; L. H. Vore, Havana, Kan., 20; John S. Knott, Indianola, I. T., 15; Jern R. Dugeon, Chamols, Mo., 15; William H. Sult, Wytheville, Va., 14; W. S. Evans, Princeton, Ill., 12; W. H. Pelton, Canton, S. D., 11; Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Hartford, S. D., 10; D. F. Clark, Mulberry, Ind., 10; S. D. Ely, Vandalia, Mo., 10; Alfred Brown, East Rush, N. Y., 7; J. Hoge Tyler, East Radford, Va., S. D., 10; D. F. Clark, Mul-Mo., 6; W. R. Turvey, New Richmond, Ind., 7; John H. Hendrick, Jamestown, Tenn., 6; Isaac McClary, Huntington, W. Va., 6; J. A. Graves, Palmyra, Neb., 6; W. S. Spindler, Grabill, Ind., 8; J. A. Payne, Cortland, N. Y., 6; W. A. Palmer, Speers Ferry, Va., 7; S. S. McClendon, Tyler, Tex., 8; M. P. Funk, Ludlow, Ill., 6; W. J. Selby, Maysville, Ark., 6; George U. Geysler, La Fontaine, Ind., 7; A. Kress, Tomah, Wis., 6; R. M. Roddie, Ada, I. T., 16; Carl Schoonover, Mackay, Idaho, 6; Wm. Flatley, Middletown, Ohio, 8; W. S. Spindler, Grabill, Ind., 7; E. A. Gaston, Roanoke, W. Va., 9; R. B. Goff, Woodville, I. T., 7; Charles Edminster, St. Augustine, Fla., 10; G. H. Eberle, Kingfisher, Okla., 8; A. H. Johns, Starke, Fla., 32; J. L. Friend, Belleville, Ill., 7; Perry Craig, Pleasant Hill, Mo., 254; J. M. Hale, Farmersville, Tex., 6; D. R. Brock, London, Ky., 7; Alfred Ritter, Frederick, Md., 12; David Schwiger, Watertown, Wis., 8; F. J. Mangleburg, Clinton, Tenn., 8; Jesse T. Weller, Westboro, Ohio, 8; Thomas Smithwickm, New Albany, Ind., 9; W. H. Lincoln, Plattsberg, N. Y., 9; A. M. Aiken, Danville, Va.,

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