The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

No. 50. Vol. 6.

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 28, 1906.

Whole Number 310.

CONTENTS

THE INCOME TAX A CHILD LABOR BILL ELECTION OF SENATORS. A GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP PLAN MR. ROOSEVELT'S PROGRESS MORE LIGHT ON ASSET CURRENCY BANKERS PUSH ASSET CURRENCY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON NEGRO TROOPS WASHINGTON NEWS COMMENT ON CURRENT TOFICS HOME DEPARTMENT WHETHER COMMON OR NOT NEWS OF THE WEEK

| | R. |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| | IN 1907 |
| | There's a wonderful work for the people |
| | to do |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | A work needing hands that are willing and true |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | The schemes of the grafters to speedily kill; |
| | To throttle the life from ship subsidy bill |
| | And keep looting hands out of Uncle Sam's till |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | There's need of strong men to stand forth from the ranks |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven, |
| | And head off the schemes of the overfed banks |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | There's a great need of men who are |
| | honest and square To head off the money schemes based on |
| | hot air, |
| 1 | And give to the people a deal that is |
| | square In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | |
| A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A | There's work to be done to insure the |
| | square deal In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | Like putting an end to the high tariff |
| | steal |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. The men who've waxed rich on a privilege |
| | bought |
| | Must make good the losses their great greed has wrought- |
| | And this is one war that will have to be |
| | fought |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | The people must rally their rights to maintain |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | We've got to get back to old landmarks again |
| | In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | The old year is dying; the new is at hand! There's work to be done in this God- |
| | favored land! |
| | For justice and right let all take a firm |
| | stand In Nineteen Hundred and Seven. |
| | |
| | R. R. R. R. S. S. S. S. S. S. |





MR. ROOSEVELT'S HERCULEAN TASK

THE INCOME TAX

The income tax which slept for some ten years after the adverse decision of the supreme court is again a subject for discussion. The president's recognition has brought out the fact that quite a change has gone on in public sentiment favorable to the tax, but it has also brought out the fact equally interesting that the republican leaders are not going to favor the tax. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, which can generally be relied upon to take the side of predatory wealth, calls a halt on the income tax. It is afraid that so much money would be raised by the income tax that no import duties would be necessary. This suggestion alone will bring all the beneficiaries of a high tariff into opposition. They have been collecting incomes through the tariff law, and out of pure gratitude ought to be willing to pay an income tax, but gratitude is not a prominent quality among those who enjoy special privileges. They come to regard them as vested rights. If the president undertakes to push the income tax, he will have to rely for his support upon the democrats and upon those republicans who are in a position to give expression to their sense of justice. The Globe-Democrat editorial may be accepted as evidence that there will be strong plutocratic opposition to the income tax.

The discussion, however, has brought out the fact that some of the rich men have come over to the side of those who believe in the justness of the income tax. Mr. M. E. Ingalls, former

president of the Big Four railroad and an active opponent of the democratic party in 1896, declares that he is in favor of an income tax, but he does not want a graded one. Mr. Perry Belmont is also in favor of an income tax, but does not want it levied upon punitive principles, but as a matter of revenue. Mr. Carnegie is opposed to the income tax, but is in favor of an inheritance tax. He believes that rich men ought to be compelled to turn over some of their surplus wealth at death. At the Civic Federation meeting in New York the other day he said: "Our country fails in its duty if it does not exact a share, a tremendous share of the estate of the enormously wealthy man upon his death. The money belongs to the community. Do not mistake me. I do not advocate the making of a man a pauper or the pauperizing of his children, but it is not the millionaire who made the wealth. He did not make the ore or the coal or the gold that he dug out of the ground. The Montana copper mine owner did not make his wealth; it belongs in the abstract to the people who use it and who produce the use which makes it valuable. I am with the president, then, to tax heavily by graduated taxation every man who dies leaving behind him his millions, for I think that excessive wealth left to a child is an injury to the child."

Mr. Carnegie might give other reasons in defense of an inheritance tax. Many of the large fortunes have been acquired by the monopolizing