

heavy discounts, while they charge monopoly prices at home.

Matches under a tariff have increased 50 per cent per gross.

A duty of 15 per cent was sufficient to build up the great Paper Bag Trust, yet the McKinley bill gave them a 25 per cent duty.

The Plate Glass Trust was protected by a duty of 100 per cent, and although the cost of manufacture steadily declined, the American consumer paid the trust \$10,000,000 in one year for plate glass more than it could have been purchased abroad for.

The great Starch and Dextrine Trust had its interests assured by the McKinley tariff, and after this advanced its price of lump starch \$20 per ton.

The tariff of 25 per cent on watches was retained and the American still pays 25 per cent more for a similar watch than a foreigner.

The tariff on wood screws allows the Wood Screw Trust to sell its wares at 30 per cent more to Americans than to foreigners.

These are but a few instances from many that might be cited. Practically every protected industry under the present high tariff laws has raised prices and is selling abroad at a far less price than is charged at home. It may be good politics, but it is bad patriotism that our republican friends are playing by refusing to revise the tariff.

WILLIS J. ABBOTT.

Letters From the People

P. B. West, pastor Congregational church, Magnolia, Ia.—I notice in last week's issue of your paper a reference to the American Bible society as a member of the Bible Trust. I think you are entirely mistaken as to the society, and also the London Bible society. The American Bible society is pledged to sell all its publications at cost of production. It is supported by the charitable contributions of all evangelical churches in this country and makes grants of books in over 100 different languages to the missionary societies of the different churches. Any of the Presbyterian or Congregational ministers in Lincoln can set you right on this matter. I hate trusts, but I love the old Bible society for what it has done. As an agent of that society when a young man I gave away several hundred dollars worth of Bibles to destitute people.

W. H. T. Wakefield, Mound City, Kans.—In your issue of March 8 on second page, under the title, "Muzzled," you ask by what authority Mr. Shallenberger muzzles postal clerks in reference to railroad accidents. If that staunch republican paper, the Chicago Tribune, told the truth in an editorial about two years ago Mr. Shallenberger does it by authority of the Pennsylvania railroad. The Tribune, in berating Mark Hanna for having sold most of the cabinet and other appointments in 1896 to corporations in return for large campaign contributions said: "The Pennsylvania railroad made a contribution of \$350,000 on condition that its vice president and general attorney, Mr. Shellenbarger be appointed second assistant postmaster general, the officer who has the letting of railway mail contracts."

The Tribune further intimated that Mr. S. had largely inflated the Pennsylvania road's contracts so that the road was soon re-couped for its contribution. On same page—next article—you accuse the republican party of claiming Lincoln as its patron saint, wherein you do it an injustice. It does claim Alexander Hamilton as its patron saint, which it has a right to do. Within the last few years I have heard at least three prominent republican orators so declare, but don't think I heard one mention Lincoln's name in the last ten years. The large number of republican organizations under the name of "Hamilton Club," notably the one in Chicago containing forty millionaires, and the absence of any of note entitled Lincoln Club seems to settle this. Hamilton was a monarchist, did not believe in "consent of the governed" idea, but did say that government was the business of the rich and well born, hence he is an ideal patron saint for the party.

Jacob B. Coates, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.—The time is ripe to come out squarely and sound the true democratic presidential campaign cry, Government Control of Banking System and Railroads. Without the entire control of the above in the hands of our representatives, it is useless to talk about the preservation of this nation as a republic, as money is sovereign, and there will be no lasting peace to our people until this be accomplished.

W. Irving Jayne, Edwall, Wash.—I send you an article written by J. J. Hill, relating to the car

shortage. I think it bears out the prevailing impression here that the present deplorable condition of the freight traffic is a deliberate act of retaliation on the people for asking relief from the railroad oppression. To the lay mind the Northern Pacific and Great Northern are not moving as much freight in a given time as they did a year ago; the big crop of 1905 was moved much faster than the small crop of 1906. Five months have passed and only a small fraction of the crop is moved; lots of wheat still piled on the platforms. It looks as if we would find part of last year's crop in the warehouses when wheat hauling comes again. The high price of railroad stock gives the lie to the argument that the investor is afraid of the government. Mr. Hill seems to be under the impression that if he starves and freezes some of the people to death the rest will be glad to keep quiet and mind their own business.

L. A. Haydock, Monrovia, Cal.—I for one do not have any faith in Mr. Roosevelt's promises. He is what ball players would call a grandstand player—playing for the third time and more if he can get the third term. It seems to me that the only relief the people can get is to follow somewhat the advice of Gov. Hoke Smith of Georgia in his speech at Atlanta. Let the people of the state build one and fight the railroad corporation with it. I am an orange grower in this county (Los Angeles), and if there is any one who feels the grip of the railroads the orange grower does.

D. B. Stewart, Ancher, Ill.—The crisis is fast approaching. The treasurer of the United States by laws of this republic loans the revenues without interest of the United States, said revenues extorted from the citizens of the United States to fostered banks of this republic on depreciating railroad bonds as securities, same moneys to be loaned by the banks, thereby enhancing their profits at exorbitant interest to prevent railroad securities held by the government from depreciating. It reminds one of the individual who endeavored to lift himself by the strops of his boots.

P. A. B., Owosso, Mich.—I have just read Governor Smith's Atlanta speech on the control of railroads in your issue of March 15. I wish this speech could be put in circular form and placed in the hands of every railroad employe in this country. When we stop to think of the thousands and hundreds of thousands of men in the employ of the different railroads slaving their lives out for just barely enough to keep soul and body together, one can't help but ask what is wrong with the head of a government which will allow such a condition of affairs to exist; \$6,500,000,000 over capitalized? Great Ceaser's Ghost! just think of it, and here we (I am one of them) are working our lives out to pay interest on this amount of money which does not exist and make it possible for a lot of neck-kneed, cigarette sucking dudes to while away their precious time in some foreign country giving \$30,000 suppers. I would suggest that every man in the railroad service write President Roosevelt a personal letter before he is ten hours older and ask him to insist on a strict invoice of all railroad properties and their bonded indebtedness reduced to their actual values and no more. Why should a railroad that costs one million dollars to build and equip be bonded for seven to ten million and then the employes of that road be forced to live on skimmed milk in order to pay interest on seven or eight million more than the road actually cost? This is the condition of affairs exactly, every railroad in this country is stocked or bonded any where for from five to ten times what it cost. Knock these fictitious values galley west, Mr. President, and you will have the backing of every honest citizen of these United States.

Oklahoma's Constitution

Alva, Okla.—To The Commoner.: The democracy of Oklahoma is again placed under obligations to The Commoner for its generous defense of the members of our constitutional convention contained in its issue of the 5th inst.

It is true that the convention was not made up of Platts, Depews, Aldriches or Roots, and that this class of gentry would unquestionably speak of the lawyers who guided the destiny of our state in the formation of the constitution as "cornfield lawyers," but it can be said with equal truthfulness, that no man anywhere, not even the partisan press of the territory, state or nation, has accused this convention of being dominated in the remotest degree by the trusts or railroad interests of this nation nor of any special interest within the two territories. In this age of universal graft

it is almost impossible to realize that it is really a fact that a body of one hundred and twelve men were called together to deal with the destinies of two millions of people, and with the interests and existence in the future of the commercial life of the state and nation, so far as it concerned Oklahoma, and that no taint of corruption attached to that body nor to any member of it. Yet this is the amazing fact.

The constitution will be a model for other states for years to come. Among the things which it provides for is a corporation commission with full visitatorial and inquisitorial powers over every corporation, foreign or domestic, doing business in the state. It makes the giving or the acceptance of a free pass or the contribution of money by a corporation for political purposes, criminal. It provides for a two-cent passenger rate without reference to the distance travelled, and every foreign or domestic corporation doing business in the state is required to agree that it will submit to the state board of arbitration any and all differences between itself and its laborers. Eight hours constitutes a legal day's work. Contracting of convict labor and the employment of children under the age of fifteen years are prohibited. The right of the state and every municipal corporation to engage in any business enterprise is reserved, thereby protecting the people from the rapacity of trusts, and relieving them of ever being placed in a position in which Kansas found herself when seeking to establish a state oil refinery. The legislature is authorized to establish a public printing plant with an elective state printer. All the officers of the state including the corporation commission and members of the different boards are made elective by the people, even to the clerk of the supreme court. Liberal exemptions are provided. The initiative and referendum was adopted, and it is mandatory upon the legislature to provide for mandatory primaries for the nomination of all state officers, and providing for the election of the United States senators by the direct vote of the people as soon as the federal laws will permit.

It is a modern, up-to-date constitution and carries out practically without an exception the pledges in the platforms on which the delegates were elected. It will be ratified overwhelmingly. The convention has provided two easy methods for the amendment of the constitution: first, by the legislature, and secondly, on the fifteen per cent initiatory petition. The convention was not afraid to trust the people. It was democratic. It was not written at the dictation of either the carpet-bagger, the grafter, or the monopolist, and of course, does not please these classes, but the honest farmer, tradesman and professional man in state and nation will read this document and recognize a modern declaration of independence.

This brief resume is written for the sole purpose of asking all to reserve judgment until they can read the document itself.

JESSE J. DUNN.

New York's Peace Conference

The following is from the Associated Press report:

The first convention of the national arbitration and peace conference ended after a three days' session with two large banquets, one at the Hotel Astor and the other at the Waldorf-Astoria. The event of greatest interest was the decoration of Andrew Carnegie with the cross of the legion of honor by the French government represented by Baron d'Estournelles de Constant in appreciation of his work for peace and his gift of the palace at The Hague. Mr. Carnegie, who is president of the congress, tonight, gave out a statement as to the results of the congress. Although not so designated by Mr. Carnegie, the statement constitutes a reply to some of the suggestions contained in the letter which President Roosevelt addressed to the congress on the opening day.

Mr. Carnegie quotes these statements as "objections," and answers them as follows:

"Our peace conference has brought objections clearly before us:

"First—Nations cannot submit all questions to arbitration.

"Answer—Six of them have recently done so—Denmark and the Netherlands, Chile and the Argentines, Norway and Sweden.

"Second—Justice is higher than peace.

"Answer—The first principle of natural justice forbids men to be judges when they are parties to the issue. All law rests upon this throughout the civilized world.

"Were a judge known to sit upon a case in which he was secretly interested he would be dishonored and expelled from his high office.

"Third—It is neither peace nor justice, but