### The Commoner.

has been a confusing of the rights of the manmade corporation with the rights of the Godmade man. The corporation has only conferred rights while man has natural and inalienable rights. It is time to protect the Godmade man from the man-made giant.

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#### THE TURN IN THE LANE

"It is a long lane that has no turn," says the proverb. It looked for years as if the Standard Oil company was an exception to the rule; it violated every law, human and divine; it bankrupted rivals and impoverished producers; it extorted from the public; it coerced railroads into violations of state and federal statutes; it overawed courts and subsidized the churches, the colleges and the press. But the turn has come at last, and it is a short, sharp turn, too. Judge Landis gives the company the full limit of the law and expresses regret that imprisonemnt can not be added. The fine of \$29,240,000 is nearly thirty times the capital stock of the subordinate corporation through which the Standard acted, and is about equal to eight months' dividends of the big company. But the moral influence of the fine is still more important; other judges will take notice and the judge who shows leniency will have to explain why. It is the beginning of the end. The giant conspirator against law and morals has been brought to bay and the people breathe a sigh of relief. Judge Landis has earned a nation's gratitude.

Just as the fine is imposed the head of the bureau of corporations files a report denying in detail the arguments presented in defense of the Standard Oil's monopoly. It is shown that it has raised prices instead of lowering them and that it has prevented the people from getting the full benefit of improved processes of manufacture. Stripped of the deceptive arguments which it has spread broadcast it stands forth convicted of about every crime in the catalogue.

And the man whose cunning planned it all what a pitiful figure! The lesson his life teaches will not be lost on the country.

"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

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### AN APPEAL TO WALL STREET

The Wall Street Journal tells the magnates of that thoroughfare that "Wall Street must make up its mind that it can not for some time to come control the president of the United States."

"The most" says the Journal, "that it (Wall Street) can hope for, and this at least it ought to secure, is that the next president of the United States, while independent of Wall Street, will be fair toward Wall Street."

Then the Journal appeals to the men of Wall Street in behalf of Mr. Taft. The Journal says "while he (Taft) would in an ample measure continue the Roosevelt policy yet he would carry it out in his own way." The Journal assures the men of Wall Street that in the office of president Mr. Taft would display "the same judicial and diplomatic policies that have distinguished his public life heretofore."

Does the Journal really believe that in the year of 1908 the American people will be satisfied with a Wall Street candidate even though he is pledged to "carry out the Roosevelt policy?"

If the Journal succeeds in making Mr. Taft satisfactory to the Wall Street speculators he will not be available as the preferred candidate of the American people.

# THERE IS A LAW

The Philadelphia North American is indignant. Someone has told the American that the Standard Oil trust will make the people pay the \$29,240,000 fine. The North American says: "The American people dare Standard Oil to do this thing! There will be no increase in the price of oil to offset this fine, unless it be true that 'those whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.' Let one step toward that thievery be taken and there will be laws made swiftly, at Washington and in every state, that will be rude in their equity and harsh in their penalties, because they will voice the wrath of a whole people, whose patience has been tried too far."

The North American need not think it can frighten the oil trust by the threat that "laws will be made swiftly at Washington" that will give any material aid in the protection of public interests from Standard Oil greed. The Standard Oil trust has provided at least a portion of

the republican party's campaign fund and the man admittedly most influential in the United States senate is generally recognized as the representative of the oil trust.

But the North American need not wait for the enactment of effective laws; there remains on the statute books the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law, which clause provides for the imprisonment of men who violate antitrust laws. Let the North American devote its energies to the effort to persuade the men in power to enforce the criminal clause against John D. Rockefeller and his associates.

# REPUBLICANS AND THE TARIFF

The San Francisco Argonaut is a republican paper. Read the warning the Argonaut gives to its party: "The Argonaut, as everybody knows who knows anything about it, is a very earnest republican. It is so good a republican as to be grieved and shocked at the plight in which the party stands on the tariff issue. It is ashamed of the indecision, the weakness, the delay which has given us the mere echo of a promise where we ought to have performance. And now we say to the leaders of the republican party that unless they shall find a way to subordinate the influence of the protected trusts in the party councils, unless they shall find a way to keep faith with the people, the party will sooner or later go down to defeat. No political party which lacks the power to keep its word, which is not strong enough within itself to put down those who would use it to selfish ends, can permanently retain the respect of the country or command the allegiance of a majority of the people. This, perhaps, may be called very plain talk-and it is none the less deserving of respect because it is plain."

## DOES IT NEED SHELTER?

For the quarter just closed the net earnings of the steel trust amounted to \$45,503,705. After providing for all expenses and regular dividends on heavily watered capital stock the steel trust was able to set aside the sum of \$18,500,000. Referring to this showing the Boston Herald says: "The statement is hailed in some quarters as showing great prosperity in an industry that is called the barometer of trade. It shows more than that, however. It furnishes further evidence of the urgent necessity of a revision of the iron and steel schedules of our tariff law. The trust can easily afford it and still realize ample returns on its watered capital."

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### THE GOVERNMENT OF DEPENDENCIES

Senator Beveridge adopts the idea that capacity for self-government is not natural, but cultivated. He takes the position that because we are capable of self-government we should furnish government as an exported article to those not capable. That was not the doctrine of the republican party when Abraham Lincoln was its leader. Lincoln expressly and emphatically denounced it, and Clay did before him. Kentucky's great commoner said that it would be a reflection upon the Almighty to assume that He made people incapable of self-government and left them to be the victims of kings and emperors. I might paraphrase what Clay said, and suggest that it would be a reflection upon the Almighty to say that He created the Filipinos incapable of self-government and left them helpless until Spain found them, ruled them with a rod of iron for three centuries, and then sold them to us at two and half dollars per head because of our superior capacity for government.

The senator attempts to use the negro in the south as a shield to ward off the attacks of democrats, but in so doing he betrays his lack of knowledge of the democratic position. The suffrage qualifications were imposed, not because the colored man is incapable of self-government, but because he is not sufficiently advanced to govern the white race. Where the two races are thrown together, the question is not whether the black man is capable of self-government, but whether he is capable of administering a government under which both must live. In such cases the more advanced race, as a matter of self-preservation, fixes suffrage qualifications in order to protect its civilization. But Senator Beveridge overlooks the fact that the democrats of the south show more consideration to the black man than the republicans show to the brown men of the Orient.

In the first place, the suffrage qualifications of the south raise a temporary barrier to suffrage and under all the amendments adopted some of

the colored men now vote, and new voters are added year after year, but under a colonial policy the Filipinos are permanently barred from the rights of citizenship. On this point the black man of the south has a distinct advantage over the Filipino.

Second, the colored people of the south are protected by the constitution of the United States and by the constitutions of the various states, while the Filipinos have no constitutional protection. In this respect also the black man of the south has an advantage over the brown man of the Orient.

Third, the colored people of the South live under laws which the white people make for themselves. The Filipinos live under laws which we make for them, and under which we would not ourselves be willing to live. This is the real evil of a colonial policy, the evil which outweighs all others, and which can not be eradicated while colonialism survives. In this respect the black man of the south has an immeasurable advantage over the Filipinos. Is it not astonishing that the republican party, which came into existence by championing the rights of the black man, should now be so indifferent to the rights of the brown man? And is it not strange that it should attempt to involve this government in the solution of a race question seven thousand miles away from home when the race question that we now have is so difficult of solution?

Senator Beveridge entirely ignores the fact that there is another element in human progress besides force. It is true that history is crimsoned by the blood which nations have shed in their attempts to administer governments over subject people, but for centuries there has been a growing protest against the old theory that governments rest upon brute force. Great progress has already been made in the dissemination of the doctrine that governments are just only in proportion as they give expression to the will of the people, and in the movement to substitute this doctrine for the doctrine of kings and despots our nation has taken the lead. The doctrine of imperialism, as stated so clearly and defended so eloquently by Senator Beveridge, is the doctrine of piracy on a large scale. In some respects it is worse than piracy. The pirate took what he could find, and left; the imperialist takes what he can find, and stays. The pirate was a temporary affliction; imperialism is an enduring calamity. Piracy has at last been driven from the seas by the joint action of the nations: it is not too much to hope that the day will come when imperialism will follow piracy into oblivion and when self-government will spread throughout the world. Our nation is the natural leader in this movement for the establishment of free government. No amount of commercial advantage could justify us in following at the tail end of Europe's procession, and it would not pay us to do so if we were willing to endure the political and moral humiliation of such a course.

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### FILIPINO LEGISLATURE

It is reported that the nationalists have won a sweeping victory and that the Filipino legislature will declare for independence, freedom to carry arms and trial by jury. The legislature has a reasonable duty to perform and it is to be hoped that the members will so conduct themselves as to strengthen public confidence in their capacity.

## "REVISION"

While contending that the tariff "can" be revised by the republican party, the Minneapolis Journal (republican) says: "The schedules which need revising are precisely the schedules which have the greatest strength in congress. This is what is called revising the tariff by the friends of the tariff but it looks more like revising it by the friends of its abuses, which is what the democrats claim."

### MY SOUL

My Soul stood bare to the sight of men, My Soul stood firm; it knew no fear, For the blame of man could not be just, The mind of man could not understand.

My Soul stood bare in the sight of a child, It stood condemned; for it stood perceived, For the blame of a child is the blame of Truth, Tho' the heart of a child may not understand.

My Soul stood bare in the sight of God;
And my Soul rejoiced in its helplessness,
For the blame of God was forgivenness,
The Mercy of God could understand.

—Edward P. Gilchrist in Harper's Weekly.